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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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While the season slowly passes away, our thoughts are turned to better solutions for next year to try and improve on this year's problems; new combinations of fungicides to combat that persistent dollar spot; the wetness of August reminded us of those fairways that must be drained; budget more dollars for the increasing insect problems, etc. Now is the time to emphasize these problems to our greens committees while they are still visible and fresh in everybody's mind.

This year has proven to many supers just how little the golfing members know about the complexities of turf management. Most do not realize that turf grasses can have severe diseases that can become immune to treatment and that we must play "Doctor" and prescribe a new treatment; that cutting grass at low heights and thousands of rounds of golf place the planteunder extreme stress conditions; that insects of different varieties can destroy large areas of turf; that those beautiful, hot, breezy days can wipe out a variety of grass overnight. No, they compare our golf courses to their tiny lawns.

The "education" of our members is placed totally in the super's hands and he must rise to the occasion. One suggestion which I think is excellent is that our Association should publish a letter or bulletin and mail to member clubs, explaining our problems in trying to give them good golfing conditions. This letter, posted in a prominent location in the pro shop or club house, would, perhaps, give more credibility to the things that a super is trying to tell his members. Perhaps then golfers might say "hey, this business of managing a golf course is more than just cutting the grass" or "I guess our greenskeeper knows what he's talking about after all!"

> Alan Beeney, President, O.G.S.A.

MEETING DATES

OCT 2.7 19/7 October 2 – McLumpha Tournament Kawartha Golf Club, Peterborough IIGAN STATE UNIVERSIDE October 22 – Brampton Golf O.G.S.A.

December 2 – Christmas Party St. George's Golf and Country Club

March 6, 7, 8, 1978 – C.G.S.A. 29th Annual Canadian Turf Grass Show Hotel Toronto, Toronto, Ontario

O.G.S.A. EDITORIAL

Well, we are just about over the hump, and what a testing year.

In the Toronto area we have had our fair share of problems this year, winter injury just didn't recover. We aerified, overseeded and were still suffering through July – a constant battle in the pursuit of excellence.

It has been a year to shake the confidence of many fine Superintendents among us.

Hey Super! What's wrong with the golf course, all this winter kill, or summer wilt, or the silly ass who drove a golf cart through the wet area in front of the green. Hey Super! How come the course is so lousy when the course up the road is looking great.

The whole damn summer shot - blood, sweat and tears and the embarrassed glances of the golf member friends of yesterday. Some sympathy though, we've had this problem before Super, who needs it.

Tough job, humiliating, lonely; never mind, next year will be great Super.

You've got to like it.

The Peter Jackson Ladies Classic will be held at St. George's Golf and Country Club in 1978.

ONTARIO GOLF SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION TURF EQUIPMENT DEMONSTRATION – CAMBRIDGE RESEARCH STATION, UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

On Thursday, September 8th, a turf equipment show was held at the turf plots at the Cambridge Research Station. This gave the industry an opportunity to see the various equipment that is now on the market and also an opportunity to run this equipment. We are indeed grateful to the various suppliers listed below for their participation in the worthwhile event, although we were disappointed in the showing of Golf Superintendents. Those that were there found the afternoon quite worthwhile. We believe that this is the first time that such a venture has been done and we trust that it may be continued. We are indebted to the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, and Department of Horticultural Science, University of Guelph for use of their facilities. At the end of the demonstration Chinese food was served in the main building at the Research Station.

A secondary purpose for this equipment demonstration was to raise funds, through donations from the various suppliers, to support Turf Research at the University of Guelph.

- The various suppliers that participated in this Show-
- 1) Skyway Turf Equipment
- 2) Duke Lawn Equipment Ltd. (Ryon & Ransons)
- 3) Turf Care Products Ltd. (Toro)
- 4) Spramotor Limited (Jacobsen)
- 5) Brower Turf Equipment Limited
- 6) CIL Golf Course Products
- 7) Fairway Irrigation Limited (1977)
- 8) OTEC Ontario Turf Equipment Company

A special vote of thanks to the organizing committee: Stu Mills, Chairman; Paul Scenna, Paul Dermott, Allen Beeney and Norman McCollum.

SOME FACTORS AFFECTING THATCH DEVELOPMENT IN TURF

By A. J. Turgeon

A contemporary turf is a dense community of mowingtolerant plants, principally grasses, which exist in intimate association with their environment. Both the turfgrass community and the environment are dynamic. Changes in one invariably elicit some response from the other. Hence, the total ecosystem—plants plus environment—is continually striving toward a state of equilibrium in which all factors are in balance. The existence of a thatch problem in a turf may be indicative of a serious imbalance in the ecosystem. Understanding the causes of thatch necessitates an analysis of: the turfgrass community, the various components of the environment, and the patterns of intersection between environmental factors and the turfgrass community.

TURFGRASS COMMUNITY

The growth and development of turfgrasses vary depending upon plant species. Stoloniferous grasses, such as creeping bentgrass (Agrostis palustris Huds.), develop above-ground lateral stems that may form a tightly intermingled network of organic debris (thatch) that can eventually reduce the utility and visual quality of the turf. Rhizomatous grasses, such as Kentucky bluegrass (Poa pratensis L.), have below-ground lateral stems but may be observed with virtually all rhizomes and most of the roots growing within a layer of thatch. New shoots arising from tillering and rhizome emergence have their crowns located at the surface of the thatch so that adventitious root growth occurs initially in the thatch. Rooting into the underlying soil is apparently inhibited by the existence of an interface between the organic medium (thatch) and the mineral medium (soil) below. Hence, the turf may appear to be growing on top of the soil rather than in it. This phenomenon is frequently observed in well developed turfs of annual bluegrass (Poa annua L.), a predominately bunch-type grass. A vigorous grass under close mowing, high fertility and abundant moisture, annual bluegrass may develop a considerable thatch depth when conditions favor

its growth, and survival during stress periods.

Within each species, variations in thatching tendency are frequently attributed to the growth aggressiveness in response to fertilization or to the chemical composition of the plant material as it affects ressistance to decay.

ENVIRONMENT

The environment refers to all external factors affecting the turfgrass community. It is arbitrarily divided into three components: climatic, edaphic and biotic.

The climatic factors include temperature, moisture, light and air quality and movement. These affect the adaptation, persistence and competitive ability of turfgrasses.

Edaphic factors are the physical, chemical and biological properties of the soil. Physical properties include soil aeration, moisture retention, temperature and resiliency. Fertility and soil reaction are included in the soil's chemical properties while biological properties deal with the living community of macro- and microorganisms that are part of the soil environment.

Decomposition of organic material is dependent upon the presence and activity of these soil organisms. In their absence the accumulation of organic debris from plant growth would proceed unchecked and with disastrous results. Yet, the development of thatch in turf is the result of an imbalance between growth and decomposition. When conditions are unfavourable for a level of soil organism activity that is sufficient to degrade organic residues in a turf, thatch develops. This has been attributed to: poor aeration associated with soil compaction, high acidity in the soil or in the thatch, inadequate thatch moisture, too much or too little available nitrogen, and other factors.

Biotic factors include the spectrum of cultural practices such as mowing, fertilization, irrigation, cultivation and pest control. In addition the activities of man and other animals on the turf are also considered. Obviously, some of these factors significantly affect or alter the previously discussed climatic and edaphic components of the environment. For example, traffic on turf may increase soil compaction, especially when the soil is fine textured and high in moisture. This, in turn, may affect the suitability of the soil environment for various organisms important as decomposers of organic material.

An especially important biotic factor is the array of pesticides that are commonly used for turf. Experiments at the University of Illinois have shown that repeated applications of chlordane, dieldrin, bandane or calcium arsenate are associated with thatch development in Kentucky bluegrass turf. The thatch incidence is associated with reduced earthworm activity suggesting that these pesticides cause an imbalance in the turfgrass ecosystem by inhibiting one or more of the soil organisms important in organic material decomposition. Intelligent turfgrass culture dictates that these pesticides should not be used on a repeated basis, or that their use should be balanced by a cultivation program or other means designed to reduce their concentration in the upper turf-soil profile.

DISEASES, IRRIGATION, INSECTS, AND WORMS AS THEY AFFECT THATCH & THATCH BREAKDOW By Malcolm C. Shurtleff

Thatch develops when the accumulation rate of plant debris from an actively growing turf exceeds the rate of decomposition by soil bacteria, fungi, insects, and earthworms. Thatch accumulation increases the disease susceptibility of turfgrasses; reduces tolerance to heat, low temperatures, and drought; slows down or restricts the normal movement of air, water, fertilizer, and pesticides into the soil; makes iron more unavailable to the turf; reduces the capacity of grass shoots and roots for vigorous growth; increases proneness to scalping and foot printing; and may result in localized dry spots that require hand watering.

The build-up of thatch is encouraged by a vigorously growing grass, heavy fertilization (especially of N) and irrigation, a strongly acid soil, poor soil aeration and drainage, infrequent or high cutting, the use of persistent insecticides, and to a minor extent by returning clippings to the turf.

DISEASES

By holding moisture like a sponge, an excessive thatch layer provides an ideal microenvironment for the development of most disease-causing fungi. Some of these include Rhizoctonia brown patch, Sclerotinia dollar spot, Pythium blight, a wide range of Helminthosporium leaf spot and melting-out fungi, the snow molds (Typhula blight and Fusarium patch, other leafspotting fungi, Corticium red thread, Fusarium blight, and leaf smuts (Stripe and Flag).

Helminthosporium species produce tremendous numbers of spores while growing vigorously on plant debris. Other fungi, such as those causing Typhula blight, Fusarium patch, Fusarium blight, Rhizoctonia brown patch, Sclerotinia dollar spot, Pythium blight, and Corticium red thread survive in the thatch by means of dormant structures resistant to changes in temperature or moisture and fungicides.

Practically the only disease-causing fungi that are **not** increased by a layer of plant debris are powdery mildew and rusts. This is because these fungi are obligate parasites and require **living** grass plants on which to feed, grow and multiply.

Thatch not only encourages the growth of practically all of the 100 disease-causing fungi but it makes their control, through the use of fungicides, much more difficult. The layer of plant debris "ties up" or absorbs the active ingredients of fungicides so they become less effective. Unless much higher rates are used you get poor control that is short-lived at best. High rates of fungicides applied to a thick layer of plant debris also kill or inhibit large numbers of beneficial soil bacteria and fungi that break down the thatch into useful elements and simple chemicals that can be utilized directly by growing grass plants.

BENEFICIAL MICROORGANISMS

A slightly acid to neutral soil (pH6.0 to 7.0), a moist environment, and a temperature of 60° to 85°F., favours the activity of most beneficial soil bacteria and fungi involved in thatch decomposition. Periodic topdressing enhances the activity of these beneficial bacteria and fungi, thus stimulating thatch breakdown. When the numbers and growth of these beneficial organisms is increased, the activity of disease-causing fungi is decreased. Many beneficial fungi are even parasitic on diseasecausing types. A good example is the common soil fungus Trichoderma. It rapidly breaks down organic matter in the soil, even the hard-to-digest lignin and cellulose fractions, while being parasitic on the Rhizoctonia brown patch fungus. It has been known for many years that Sclerotinia dollar spot and Corticium red thread are "kept in check" by antagonistic fungi and bacteria in the soil. The delicate balance between beneficial and disease-causing organisms in the soil is sometimes destroyed by overlapping fungicides: or upsetting the nutrition of the turfwhere the nutrient level is too high or too low. Sewage sludgetype fertilizers also help keep diseases like Sclerotinia dollar spot in check by encouraging the growth of antagonistic fungi and bacteria.

IRRIGATION

A thatched turf presents special irrigation problems. Water needs to be applied more frequently and lightly. This practice may lead directly to more disease since all disease-producing fungi, except the powdery mildews, require free water on grass plant surfaces for spore germination and penetration into grass tissue.

A short pre-sprinkling assists in moistening the thatch layer. Here the use of wetting agents is often suggested. The use of these products, however, isn't the whole answer since increased thatch accumulation occurs where wetting agents are used continually. This is commonly believed to be due to a drier thatch condition that reduces decomposition by beneficial soil bacteria and fungi.

It is best to irrigate on a rising temperature when the evaporation rate is most rapid. Most turfgrass managers, however, are forced to irrigate in late afternoon or evening. This permits free water droplets to remain on leaf surfaces for long periods of time and increases the activity of disease fungi.

All turfgrass specialists suggest irrigating **before** there is a real water stress. It has recently been shown by California plant pathologists that water stress increases the attack of species of Helminthosporium causing leaf spots and melting-out, since these fungi produce practically all of their spores on dead plant debris.

INSECTS

Certain insects are distinctly beneficial, others are highly injurious to turf, while some are considered primarily a nuisance to human activities. The beneficial effects of turf insects include: 1) burrowing insects that cultivate the soil and enhance air and water movement; 2) the same insects also feed on and decompose plant debris and incorporate this into the soil; and 3) predator or parasitic insects that control certain weed and insect pests.

Insect injury to turf makes the grass less tolerant to environmental stresses and diseases. Insect-damaged grass plants have a reduced shoot growth, leaves and shoots are chewed away, and the root system may be almost non-existent.

More and more entomologists are turning away from the persistent, chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticides, such as chlordane and dieldrin, because: 1) many insects predators and parasites are killed in addition to the injurious species; 2) thatch builds up where chlordane or dieldrin have been applied, as will be discussed under earthworms; and 3) certain grubs and other insects have developed resistance to these insecticides. A better solution to insect turf problems is to apply non-persistent insecticides, such as carbaryl (Sevin) or diazonon, to trouble spots as insect numbers or their injury start to develop.

EARTHWORMS

The activity of these animals is restricted in turf: 1) when the soil is strongly acid (below pH 4.5) or alkaline; 2) in sandy soils with a reduced organic content that quickly become droughty; and 3) where persistent, chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticides, such as chlordane and dieldrin, have been applied routinely over a period of years.

Earthworms need a moist environment to actively burrow through the soil and feed on a mixture of decaying plant debris and soil. Large earthworm populations are usually associated with soils having a higher organic matter content or in undisturbed soils having a permanent soil cover. Where earthworms have been introduced by man, and not present before, the surface mat of plant debris disappears.

Earthworms move to the surface to feed on dead leaves and stems as well as through the soil where they feed on dead roots. Most earthworm activity is concentrated within 12 inches of the soil surface where moisture and temperature is usually most favourable.

Drs. Randell, Butler, and Hughes, at the University of Illinois, have published their results on the effects of pesticides on thatch accumulation and earthworm populations in 'Kentucky' bluegrass turf. In brief, the dieldrin plots had a thatch depth layer of 14.3 mm two years after establishment and 20.7 mm a year later. The thatch layer in the chlordane-treated plots was similar: 13.3 mm after two years and 20.3 mm a year later. There was no thatch in the control plots that received no insecticide. The average earthworm counts in these same plots were as follows: dieldrin, 16 worms after two years and only 2 after three years; chlordane, 11 earthworms after two years and 3 after three years; no pesticide, 105 worms after two years and 245 worms after three years. No large earthworms were found in the plots treated with chlordane or dieldrin. It is interesting to note that where carbaryl, a non-persistent insecticide was applied, the thatch layer after two years was 1.3 mm and a year later only 0.3 mm. Earthworm counts in the carbaryl plots were 96 after two years and 115 in the third year. The authors summarize their findings by stating that, "Earthworm potential for organic matter decomposition should be considered when selecting pesticides for use on turf."

Earthworms, often a nuisance, are beneficial to turf in several ways, they: 1) enhance decomposition of the plant debris; 2) feed on the thatch and movement up and down provides mixing of the soil; 3) dead earthworms contribute to the soil organic matter content; and 4) the tunneling improves soil porosity, aeration (5% of the soil volume may be earthworm tunnels), and percolation of water.

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

There are a number of cultural practices that speed up the rate of thatch decomposition. These practices also help control the rate of turfgrass shoot growth, maintain desirable density, colour, ability and of the grass to "bounce back" from disease, ball marks, insect attack, scalping, and other injuries. The combined practices that are effective in keeping thatch in check include controlled nitrogen nutrition and irrigation, topdressing, liming, cultivation (coring, vertical mowing, grooving, slicing, or spiking), proper cutting, good soil drainage, and the use of relatively non-persistent insecticides such as carbaryl or diazinon.

Thatch and/or compaction problems on fairways? Obviously, you can't rip up the turf through the busy play months of June, July and August. A 2nd or 3rd greens aerifier might be the answer, verticut the plugs and dragmat without severely disrupting play conditions.

Due to ever expanding golf cart fleets - from 7 to 45 in 15 years at St. George's - we have to decide on one of two choices:

- 1. Keep carts off fairways build paths tee to green.
- 2. Constantly aerify throughout the playing season on critical, high-traffic areas.

The record rainfall in August has many Superintendents in the Toronto area leaning towards keeping carts off fairways.

The man who gets ahead is the one who does more than is necessary - and keeps on doing it.

9th ANNUAL FIELD DAY - UNIVERSITY OF **GUELPH TURF PLOTS AND GALT COUNTRY** CLUB – JUNE 9th, 1977

Host: Paul Scenna - Report by Bill Bowen

Ninety-one gentlemen teed off and played at Galt on 9th, June. Everything combined for a wonderful day with a full house for a Surf & Turf dinner. Thanks to Paul for a fine conditioned golf course and to President Brian Webber and the members of Galt for the use of their facilities, and also many thanks to Albert Southgate and Doug, the Assistant, for their much needed support in making the day a success.

Following is a list of winners for the day: Superintendents -

1st gross 2nd gross 3rd gross 4th gross	George Garner 76 Oakville G.C. Bill Bowen 76 Peterborough G.C. Bob Heron 77 Markland Wood G.C. Bill Glasham 81 Niagara Falls G.C.				
1st net	Harry Guertan 65 Chinguacousy G.C.				
2nd net	Paul White 66 Glendale G.C.				
3rd net	Doug Hoskins 69 Summit G.C.				
4th net	Paul Dodson 70 Mississauga G.C.				
Assistant Superintendents -					
1st gross	Ron Wilcyznski 85 Weston G.C.				
1st net	Doug Rothwell 68 Ancaster G.C.				
Suppliers and Guests -					
1st gross	Doug Heron 78 O.M. Scott & Sons				
2nd gross	Rod Hermitage 79 Green Cross				
3rd gross	Jack Fairhurst 82 Halifax, N.S.				
1st net	Larry Melia Bayview G.C.				
2nd net	Dennis McCracken				
3rd net	Peter Spencer University of Guelph				

4th ANNUAL – PRESIDENT, GREENS CHAIRMAN, SUPERINTENDENT GOLF **TOURNAMENT – ISLINGTON GOLF CLUB** 8th JULY, 1977

Host Superintendent: Tom Charters

Forty teams representing golf clubs from around the Province were in attendance.

Host, Tom Charters, like many of us in the Toronto area, had his problems with winter kill earlier on plus heavy rains, but made a good recovery by tournament time.

Winners of this event with 119 points were:

- 1st Bayview Country Club Superintendent Ed Ortleib
- 2nd Aurora Highlands Superintendent Whitey Jones
- 3rd Glen Eagle Golf Club Superintendent Bill Calhoun
- 4th Glen Abbey Golf Club - Superintendent Dennis Pellrene
- 5th Dalewood Golf Club - Superintendent Hugh Kirkpatrick

PRO/SUPER GOLF DAY - YORK DOWNS GOLF **CLUB – AUGUST 8, 1977**

Host: Kimmo Salonen

The Golf Superintendents were the only ones smiling when heavy rain delayed play for an hour during this championship. Quote from TEE OFF MAGAZINE -

"A propitious omen for Ontario golf courses is the interest that course superintendents are showing in playing the game. Time was the greenie was a former farmer with a penchant for growing grass. Now they are starting to play, they're discovering they have to cut it, too, to improve their lie." Winners of the event:

- 1. Markland Wood G.C. Bob Heron 86
 - 156 Ken Duggan 70

2.	Conestoga G.C Bruce Vollet	157
	Ron Silver	157
3.	Glen Shield G.C Bernie Endicott	159
	Fergus Gallagher	150
	Superintendent Scores:	
Gross Bill Bowen - Peterborough		
	Bruce Vollet - Conestoga	80
	Hugh Kirkpatrick - Dalewood	80
	Steve Miller - Burlington	80
	Charlie Szturm - Burlington Springs	81
Ne	et Doug Hoskins - Summit	69
	Dennis Pellrene - Glen Abbey	70
	Art Dodson - Maple Downs	70
	Steve Miller - Burlington	70
	Bob Brewster - Weston	70

MONTHLY MEETING – AUGUST 25th, 1977 WYLDEWOOD GOLF CLUB

Host: John Smith

Attendance 46.

Dr. Fushtie and Norm McCollum were in attendance from The University of Guelph.

The main subject discussed being Nematodes affecting Rusty Workman's course.

It has been a tough year judging by comments generally, and it is becoming apparent that as golf carts and play increases to saturation point, so the Superintendent has to intensify his maintenance programme to meet this demand. This is likely to create conflict between the Superintendent and the golfer.

A suggestion was made that the O.G.S.A. send out a circular to golf clubs advising of the maintenance requirements necessary during the peak play months. This service was previously supplied by the O.G.A.

The meeting closed after 11/2 hours to break for lunch.

This was followed by a golf game, played on a well-conditioned golf course, on a beautiful day. Played with Bob Brewster, who hit the ball a mile consistently, and stroked the ball in the hole from all angles. 5 over on the last two holes spoilt an otherwise good round.

Winners:

1st gross	Bill Bowen 74	1st net Blake	McMaster
2nd gross	Hugh Kirkpatrick	78 2nd net	Doug Hoskins
3rd gross	Steve Miller 80	3rd net	Paul Dermott

O.G.S.A. MONTHLY MEETING -

CHINGUACOUSY GOLF CLUB – SEPT. 15, 1977 Host: Henry Guertin

Its always pleasant to play this scenic golf course set in the Caledon Hills and host superintendent had the course in good condition.

47 Superintendents and Associates were in attendance for the golf event. Bill Bowen, golf chairman, decided on two ball foursomes and this created a great deal of interest and gave everyone a chance to be in on the action.

The 1st nine saw several contestants at 5 under par. The 2nd half was somewhat tougher, however, and the best score of 6 under par was accomplished by two teams, forcing a play-off. The team of Blake McMaster and Scotty Orr winning easily with natural par on the 1st play-off hole.

The winners were:

1. Blake McMaster - Brampton Scotty Orr, Kleinburg 65 net

- 2. Bob Heron Markland Wood
 - Gord Putney Sunset 65 net
- 3. Bob Brewster Weston
 - Ed Ortleib Bayview 66 net

An excellent meal and good fellowship followed to complete a fine day.

MR. ELWOOD McARTHUR

It is with deep regret we announce the passing of Elwood McArthur, who died suddenly June 19th, 1977 after a brief illness, he was 64 years of age.

Elwood was Golf Superintendent at the Scarborough Golf Club, Toronto from the period 1956 - 1977, and before that at the Glendale Golf Club, Hamilton.

Elwood was a pillar of the O.G.S.A. He will be sadly missed by his friends and associates.

THOUGHTS FROM ONE SUPERINTENDENT'S WIFE – TO ANOTHER

By Caroline C. Twombly

I have been talking about executive's wives for 35 years. Now that I am to put these thoughts on paper, I am not at all sure it is a good idea, but I am sure that every executive's wife reading this will be certain it does not apply to her.

I have worked in electricity and electronics for 30 years while my husband worked in another profession. Through the years I met many executive's wives from all areas of the business world. I met far too few who really understood or wanted to understand what their husband's job was, what abilities he had to have to stay in that position, what is required of him or how it affected him mentally or physically. The greatest percentage of women were mainly interested in the social level his salary permitted. What he did interested them only to the point of how many days off he could take and when he would have his next vacation.

Princip prober curring, good soil drainage, and the use of

Caroline Twombly is the wife of executive, Ardyce Twombly. Mr. Twombly is Superintendent at the famous Bel Air CC in Los Angeles, site of the recent '76 Amateur USGA Championship.

I've been married to the same man for 49 years. Thirty-eight of those years he has been a golf course superintendent. This is why I am interested in the wives of golf course superintendents. There are some who think that, because their husband is a golf course superintendent, they are not an executive's wife? They are are very wrong!

Webster's dictionary defines "executive" as any person or body charged with administrative or executive work. Your husband and mine are executives, but the calibre of the executive is up to you and him. Club members, other superintendents, officials from other areas of the golf world, club managers, golf professionals, salesmen and even his own workers look at the things he does and listen to what he says and judge the type of executive he is. If he is assured and self-confident, dedicated to his club and the personnel, they then know he has an understanding wife. His willingness to stay for an unexpected meeting or to deal with a sudden problem; his always-on-time record; his ability to return to the club in the evening or on a day off to straighten out some major problem; all of these show your love and concern for him, your understanding, your ability to adjust your life to the demands of his job.

If he is anything but assured and self-confident, chances are his wife is not understanding and he is torn between two loves. He is never sure how his wife is going to accept the demands of his position, neither is he sure how the club is going to accept the demands his wife makes on him. He tries to balance the two but rarely succeeds.

It is to this group of wives I address myself. Fortunately, they are in the minority.

When he shows an unwillingness to stay for any unexpected problem or meeting or, if he does stay, has anxiety to leave as soon as possible, he demonstrates a lack of understanding at home. His tendency to call on one of his men to take care of a problem that you lack concern for what happens to the club, its property or its equipment. Acres of very valuable land and thousands of dollars worth of equipment are entrusted to his care, not to one of the workers on the course.

He does love his work. If he did not, he would be doing something else. He loves you and wants to make the best living he can for you. You say he has competent help and he does, but if any one of those men were as competent as he, he would be superintendent, not your husband.

A wife must remember that chinch bugs, beetles and worms have no respect for what you might want to do. The insects are hungry and their one object is to eat as much as they can before they are discovered. Disease strikes any time conditions are right and it has no regard for what you have planned. Of course the summer rains are needed, but your husband didn't ask for them to come down in torrents to wash out sand bunkers, stand in puddles all over his golf course and, when the sun comes out, cook his grass like spinach. Summer downpours have also been known to wash out newly seeded areas and destroy important construction work he has started. Plans must often be changed.

Our men, the superintendents, are almost in the genius class. They are doctors who identify and cure diseases of the grass; entomologists who identify and destroy the insects and worms, part-time lawyers who know the legal codes of the town, city, county, state and federal governments regarding electricity, gas, gasoline and noise levels. They must know what, how much and how often different chemicals can be used, labour laws and building codes. They are engineers, for they must rebuild or construct greens, tees, fairways, bridges, cart paths and in some cases building. They are diplomats maintaining good relations with their members, club officials, their employees, other superintendents, salesmen and various groups within their professional sphere.

Our men are great people but to be at their best, they need our understanding and our cooperation. Your man may need to release tension by talking to you. He isn't really asking for advice, just for the one he loves to listen to him. Often problems resolve themselves just by talking about them. He needs to know you love him and that you understand that he loves you. You may not understand his problems and be able to give advice, but if you don't listen, you never will understand that it is his self-respect, his integrity and his desire to make the best living he can for **you** that keeps him on the job when **you** want him home.

Reprinted from USGA Green Section Record May '77

THATCH CONTROL IN PENNCROSS CREEPING BENT GRASS

J. L. Eggens - N. E. McCollum, 1977 **Factors Usually Considered to Promote Thatch Development** 1. Poor drainage, poor aeration

- 2. Overwatering
- 3. Acidic conditions
- 4. Infrequent or excessively high cut
- 5. Vigorous growing turf
- 6. Excessively high nitrogen program
- 7. Use of persistent pesticides
- 8. Compaction

Practices Usually Considered to Decrease Thatch Accumulation

- Good drainage, soil aeration, encouragement of soil microorganism
- 2. Careful control of irrigation and nitrogen fertility levels
- 3. Top dressing
- 4. Mechanical removal
- 5. Low mowing
- 6. pH in the 6 7 range

The boss called the new stenographer into his office. "Miss Allen," he said, "you are the prettiest girl we ever had working here."

A pleased look came over the girl's face.

"You dress well," the boss went on, "you have a nice voice, you make a good impression on the public, and your deportment is fine."

"Oh, thank you," she said. "Your compliments are appreciated."

"That's fine," the boss continued. "Enjoy them. For we are now going to discuss your spelling, your punctuation, and your typing."

-Temple Topics

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

The art of management lies in making difficult things simple, not simple things difficult. Nowhere is this more apparent than in writing.

Many managers and executives, unfortunately, try to write a different language from the one they speak. The result is stilted language, muddy thought, confusion. The clearest, most effective way to express an idea is in simple, conversational language.

Successful leaders write, not to impress people, but to get things done. They get to the point directly, make clear what they want to say, then stop. They use the simplest sort of language and don't fog the situation by needless explanations and beating around the bush.

A common error of the younger manager is the tendency to write to try to impress people rather than to communicate ideas. This could be avoided by keeping the following steps in mind when writing . . .

Don't write anything until the message is absolutely clear in your own mind.

Imagine the person you are writing to is sitting directly across your desk. Read the message to that person aloud. Does it sound natural? Is that the way you would talk to that person?

Avoid introductory material - get to the point quickly, immediately if possible.

When you've made your point, STOP.

Keep sentences and paragraphs short. Break long, complex sentences into simpler, multiple sentences.

When writing a longer report, always summarize your conclusions or recommendations on the first page.

Imagination, Experimentation Are Keys To Creative Thinking, Problem Solving

When you have a problem to solve, you can easily attack it in the same old ways and come up with the same old solutions that sort of work or that once worked, but are you missing some new and unique solutions because you aren't thinking creatively?

The next time you're faced with a problem of any sort, serious or minor, routine or unusual, try one or more of these mental exercises in creativity:

1. Reverse the way you look at the problem. Turn it upside down, take a completely different approach to it. Don't be afraid to be absurd in your thoughts once in a while — the fanciful can lead to some very practical solutions. How would Moon Maid solve it?

2. Tear it apart. Then analyze the relationships among the pieces. How are they the same? How do they differ? What if you change one link in a chain — what effect would it have on the whole? Try altering the color, shape, timing or size of one or more parts.

3. Change the order of the parts. Sort things, massage them, jiggle them, line them up in different ways. New ways of seeing the problem will begin to emerge.

4. Find an analogy. What is this problem like? Is it like a little kid pushing an apple up a hill and every time he gets halfway up someone rolls an orange down on him? Find an analogy and you'll see the problem more clearly.

5. Challenge your assumptions. This isn't easy, but ask yourself absurd questions like, Who says it has to be like this? Why should I believe that organizational structures need a boss? Challenge every assumption you can identify. It will strengthen your understanding of the problem itself.

6. Let your thoughts run wild. Fantasize. Play a crazy game of ".... What if?" What would I do if there were no more water available for a year? What would I do about this if I were three years old? Where would I start to build this system if I were the only survivor after a nuclear holocaust?

7. Cash in on the bonus of your own odd thoughts. Carry a notebook, and keep one by the bed at night. When an idea strikes you — silly or not — write it down. When you have a brilliant idea as you are falling asleep or waking up write it down. Then periodically go through your book of thoughts and toss out the trash — there will be more wisdom there than you might have thought, and it will all be information and ideas you might otherwise have forgotten or not noticed.

These seven steps are parts of a process called creative thinking. People who come up with good ideas use creative thinking. They aren't afraid of some silly ideas, because they know that even in the silliest, there might be a grain of wisdom to use to their advantage. Try it, you'll like it.

Improve Your Decision-Making Process

The golf course superintendent makes decisions every day in every area of his work. Most are good decisions, or he wouldn't be where he is. But some aren't so good, and then the superintendent should review his decision-making process. Here are four suggestions for making good decisions.

First, ask others for their opinions. Incorporate worthy ones into your thinking but don't base your decisions solely on someone else's opinions.

Second, approach decision-making

with creativity, as explained above. Don't assume that what worked in the past will still work today — check it out.

Third, use your intuition and play your hunches, but temper them with facts. Legitimate hunches can be easily confirmed by seeking out relevant information.

Fourth, attack the problem. Don't procrastinate, hoping it will go away or solve itself. Fight problems with action, not inaction.



Educating a Crew and Sharing Information Are Superintendent's Job

If the golf course superintendent is to do a quick and efficient job, he must be able to educate his crew regularly and in depth. It isn't easy to find time in a hectic day during the golf season to tend to the basics that don't affect the golfers directly, but it is essential to do it anyway. Following are some ideas to help the superintendent see to the effective education of his crew:

First, share information with them first thing in the morning, when they are fresh and not yet busy all over the course. Tell them in as few words as possible what you need them to know. Don't let your thoughts stray or the conversation wander from the subject.

Share praise promptly with all crew members. It doesn't always have to be in group meetings, but when you see a good job being done, stop and say so. Occasionally mention some especially well done work in your group meetings it builds morale. But be very careful to criticize discreetly and in private. Always try to work in a little encouragement or helpful suggestion with the criticism so it isn't just negative words. This will help build trust and confidence that will spill over into all areas of your crew's work.

Focus whenever possible on what a topic means personally to the crew. A well-kept green can be a reflection of their personal pride and abilities. "What's in it for me?" is a key point of view that's guaranteed to get their attention.

Keep your presentations short — don't kill the subject with words. Break it into segments you can handle in short sessions several days running if it takes more than 15 or 20 minutes. Try to allow as much time for questions as you do for your own talking.

Follow up your teaching sessions with on-the-job information. You might explain how a new nine-gang mower works in the shop and then have the operator run it in your presence for a while, for instance.

Communication is part of the turfgrass manager's job, both with the crew and also with golfers. Remember, you'll also have to communicate with the green committee and club officials, so get in practice and learn to relay information efficiently and comfortably. It will pay off. Presidant ALAN BEENEY Georgetown, Ontario Phone 877-2642

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CANADIAN OPEN July 21 - 24, 1977 GLEN ABBEY GOLF CLUB

Congratulations to Superintendent Dennis Pellrene in his fine work in preparing the spectacular, beautiful and challenging championship course. Glen Abbey is now the permanent home of the Canadian Open.

Dennis received the "Citation of Performance" award during the closing ceremonies from C.G.S.A.A. President, Ted Woehrle.

As Dennis says, "I just happened to be in the right place at the right time", joining the staff of Glen Abbey in 1971 he supervised a complete remodelling of the course and it looked just great for the "Open".

Before coming to Glen Abbey, Dennis was Superintendent at Erie Downs Golf & Country Club for 3½ years, and prior to that, Assistant to John Piccolo at St. Catharines Golf Club.

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