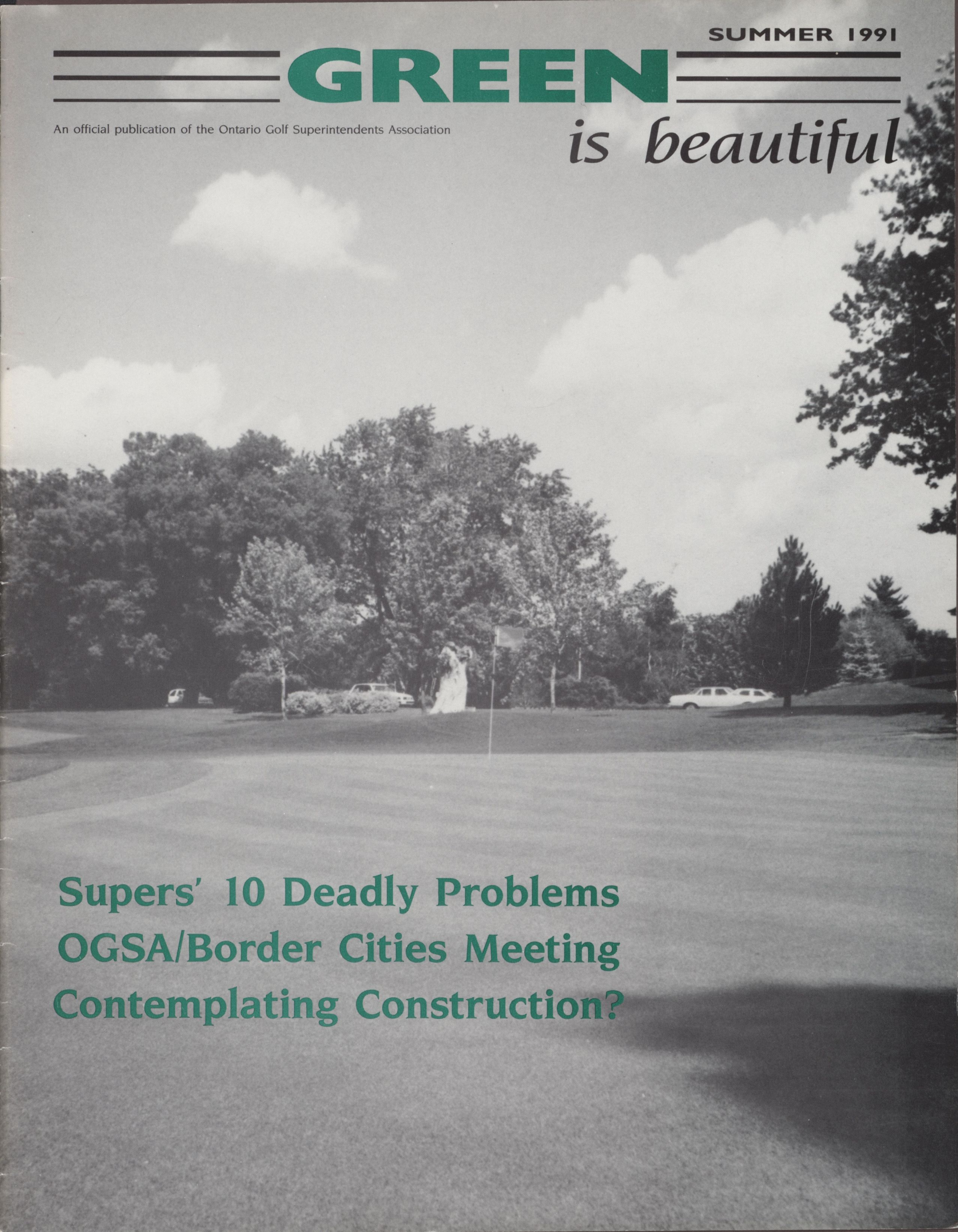


SUMMER 1991

# GREEN

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**Supers' 10 Deadly Problems  
OGSA/Border Cities Meeting  
Contemplating Construction?**

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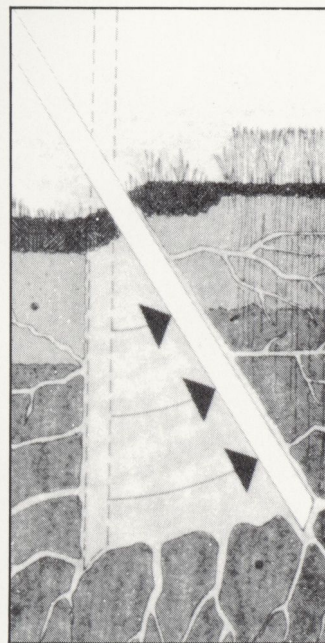
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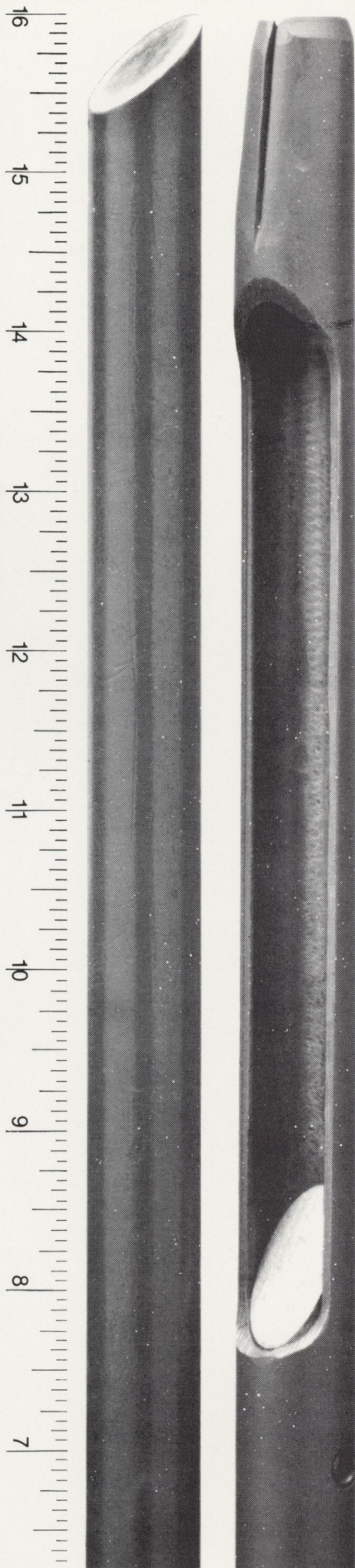
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to another hectic golfing season. It seems like just yesterday I was contemplating equipment purchases at the CGSA Conference in Montreal. Spring came and went very quickly. Already in May, Pythium and Dollar Spot have shown up around the province. Many irrigation systems have been pushed into extra duty as well. Summer has definitely arrived with a vengeance.

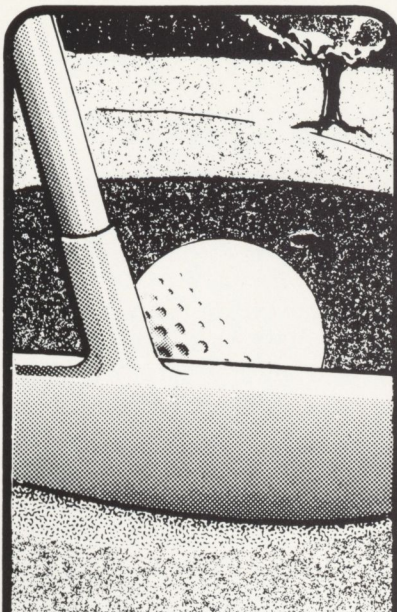
Recently I had the opportunity to visit the new CGSA office in Toronto. Our profession and our Associations have taken major steps in the past few years that we all can be proud of. The OGSA as well has made advancements. Details of the new format of the OGSA-University of Guelph Annual January Symposium will be sent to our members shortly.

On a sadder note, the sudden passing of John Bennett of the London Hunt Club, has shocked many of us in the industry. A long-time member of the OGSA, and a man dedicated to his profession, John will be missed by all his friends. This sad occasion brought to mind an old Sanskrit phrase:

"Look well to this one day, to this one hour, to this one moment, for it and it alone is your life. In the brief course of this one day lie all the varieties and realities of your existence; the pride of growth, the glory of action and the splendor of beauty. Yesterday is but a dream, tomorrow is only a vision. Yet each day, each hour, each moment well and fully lived makes every yesterday a dream of happiness and each tomorrow a vision of hope. Look well therefore to this one hour, to this one moment, for it and it alone is your life."

Take that time to enjoy life and admire what you are doing. I am sure many of your members look around your course every day and enjoy the little things of beauty you have provided them.

Mark Hagen  
President, OGSA



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## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to another hot, dry Ontario summer. Is our weather changing? Will we be playing golf another 10 months a year soon?

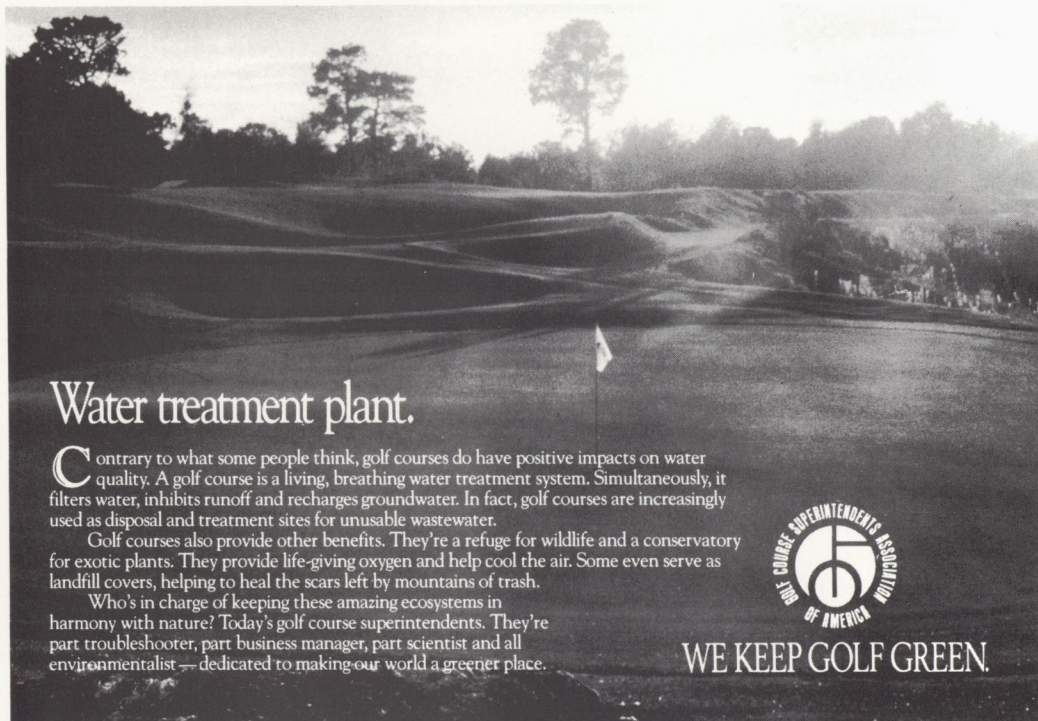
This spring found most courses in fine shape and the fine weather has been very co-operative to anyone doing any special projects or construction. Our jobs seem to be more demanding all the time, stress is always out there to test us: we all have to learn to manage stress in any way we can.

Communication continues to be a leading problem in our industry. We have to always be aware of communication skills when dealing with members, staff and suppliers.

This newsletter is a way of communicating with each other, it is your newsletter — take some time, perhaps, to prepare an article that we might all find interesting or controversial. We would like to hear from you.

Have a great summer

Simon George  
Editor



## Water treatment plant.

Contrary to what some people think, golf courses do have positive impacts on water quality. A golf course is a living, breathing water treatment system. Simultaneously, it filters water, inhibits runoff and recharges groundwater. In fact, golf courses are increasingly used as disposal and treatment sites for unusable wastewater.

Golf courses also provide other benefits. They're a refuge for wildlife and a conservatory for exotic plants. They provide life-giving oxygen and help cool the air. Some even serve as landfill covers, helping to heal the scars left by mountains of trash.

Who's in charge of keeping these amazing ecosystems in harmony with nature? Today's golf course superintendents. They're part troubleshooter, part business manager, part scientist and all environmentalist — dedicated to making our world a greener place.



WE KEEP GOLF GREEN.

On Wednesday, June 5th, 1991 the O.G.S.A. Annual Spring Field Day was held at the appropriately named Springfield Golf & Country Club.

The weather was great, the golf course was great – too bad my golf game wasn't great.

Our thanks go out to our host Ray Duke and his staff and to all the Clubhouse and Pro Shop staff for their efforts.

After golf and lunch the large group moved to the university playing fields for an interesting equipment display and demonstration, again thanks to all involved.

**WINNERS FOR THE DAY**

- 1st Low Gross – Gord Sommerville
- 2nd Low Gross – Hugh Kirkpatrick
- 3rd Low Gross – Jerry Richard

**ASSTS.**

- 1 – Keith Stein
- 2 – Mark Hinton

The Bannerman Trophy was won by Pelino (Sandbagger) Scenna and Mark Piccolo, Burlington Golf & Country Club.

# Spring Field Day at Springfield





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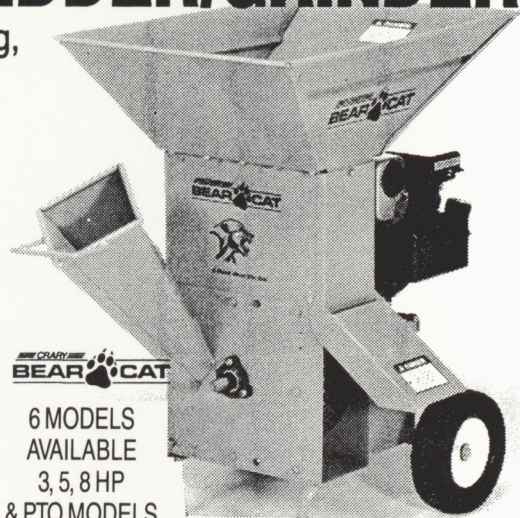
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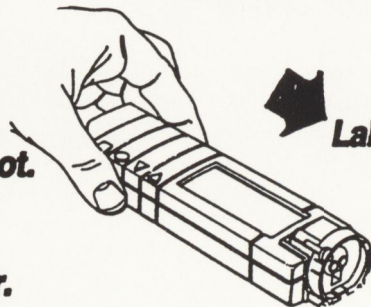
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# Putting on the Edge of Disaster

*This article appeared in the January 1991 issue of Golf Digest. It contains some good common sense information.*

When old Bill Fownes wanted to check the green speed at Oakmont, he would walk out to the second hole and carefully drop a ball on the back of the putting surface. If it didn't roll down the slope, off the front of the green and into the fairway, he would tell the grounds crew to cut and roll the green again.

At least that is according to Oakmont lore. For most of this century, Oakmont has set the standard against which all other top clubs measure their green speeds. Now comes new evidence from architect Pete Dye that green speed in the old days may be wildly exaggerated.

Dye has had motion pictures of the 1962 U.S. Open at Oakmont studied by mathematical experts. Analyzing the time lapse of putts rolling across the greens, they have concluded that Oakmont's speeds back then were "about 8 on the Stimpmeter," what today is considered relatively slow.

If true, Dye's discovery is important because it might curb the chase for faster greens, golf's costly equivalent of the arms race. "The USGA is trying to raise \$10 million to find harder turf," says Dye. "All they've got to raise is the mowers, 1/16 of an inch."

But golfers persist in the mistaken belief that faster is better. And just as mistakenly, club members argue that their greens were faster back in the '50's and '60's. Most agronomists agree that this is not possible, and USGA Green Section National Director cites four

innovations that have greatly added speed in recent times:

- It's only been in the last 16 years that clubs cut greens seven days a week; they used to cut every other day, a big change.
- Cutting greens at 3/16ths was considered very close and 1/4th of an inch was common until the 1970s; the introduction of thinner bedknives (against which the rotary blades of mowers cut) allowed greens to be scalped below 1/8th of an inch.
- Clubs used to top-dress greens once or twice a year; now they do it lightly every three weeks.
- And until the 1970s, we didn't have verticutters and groomers, new machinery that takes the excess top growth off the leaves of grass.

But the real culprit is a yard-long metal rod known as the Stimpmeter, which was developed to quantify green speed. When it was introduced in the mid-'70s, the USGA surveyed more than 1,500 greens in 36 states and found that the average roll was 6 feet 6 inches on the Stimpmeter. "It's crept up over the years until the average is closer to 8 today, and 9 feels slow to some people," says Snow.

The result has been higher expenses for maintenance of weaker turf that's more susceptible to disease. Several years ago in the Midwest, dozens of country clubs noticed that their bentgrass greens were dying of bacteria known as C15 Decline, while the greens at neighboring daily-fee and municipal courses were unaffected. Turf-types began calling it "Rich Man's Disease," because it only hit the wealthy

courses like Muirfield Village and Butler National where the greens were cut too low.

"Trying to maintain consistently fast greens means always living on the edge of disaster," says Snow.

Some classic, old courses have now increased their speeds to the point that severely undulating greens are unputtable. Then members argue the greens have "settled" over time and now need to be rebuilt. Of course, all they need to do is play the greens at the speed they were designed for.


Now some courses are starting to post their green speeds on locker-room bulletin boards. This only encourages idiotic competition among clubs for the fastest greens in town and leads macho golfers to demand higher numbers or the super's job.

Longtime turf authority Al Radko says good putting begins at 7 feet 6 inches. And for everyday play, it should not get above 9.

The PGA Tour aims to have its greens at around 10 feet, and the U.S. Open shoots for 10 to 11-1/2 feet. But those are once-a-year occasions, with the host club's maintenance program targeted for tournament week.

SPEED KILLS, we've learned. If not your superintendent, you greens.

*Thanks to Rod Trainor, Hamilton Golf & Country Club, for finding this interesting article.*



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# OGSA Border Cities Meeting

April 29 saw 132 golfers from both sides of the bridge tee it up at the Grosse Ile Golf & Country Club in Detroit, Michigan. There were 37 Canadians and 95 Americans present. The weatherman cooperated with a sunny and mild day.

The meeting started at 10:00 a.m. with Dr. Bruce Branham of Michigan State University discussing recent developments in weed control and several new products on the market. Greg Patchen, MSU Extension Specialist also gave a talk that covered Weed Control in Ornamental.

After a sumptuous buffet lunch we tackled the links. Ed Hock, our host

superintendent, had the course in terrific shape. Our compliments to Ed. We reconvened in the clubhouse after golf for a short informal prize presentation. The Yanks beat us this year for the first time in many years for the Team Prize. This prize is awarded to the side with the best four low gross scores. The aggregate scores were: U.S. Team 320, Canadian Team 322. We'll get them next year!

The other winners were:

Low Gross Supt. – Carey Mitchelson, C.C. of Detroit – 78

Low Net Supt. – Frank Bartlett, Selfridge ANG Golf Course – 67

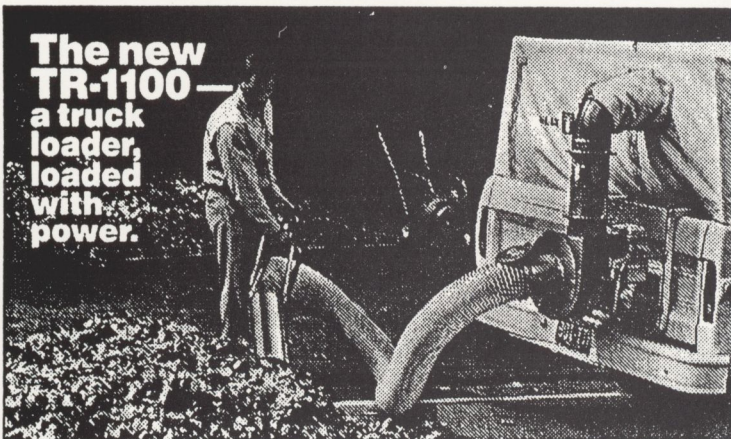
Low Gross Vendor – Dick Osburn, Osburn Industries – 81

Low Net Vendor – Nigel Rennie, Multitines Ltd. – 68

This was the first time that we have had this meeting on the U.S. side of the bridge and it was a great success. We plan on alternating across the border in years to come. Next year's meeting will be held in the Windsor area. Plan now on attending!

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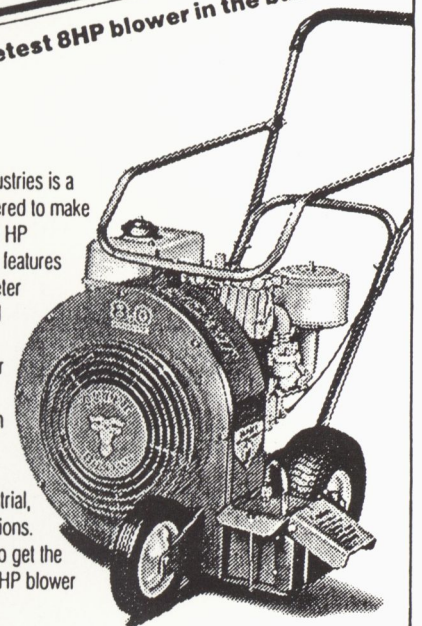
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# Contemplating Construction?

by Rick Serrao, Rockway Glen Golf Club

With the recent boom in the golf industry, more and more of us are getting the opportunity to be involved in golf course construction. This can be an exciting and self-fulfilling time, especially when things progress on schedule and go according to plan. The ability to turn a corn field or densely wooded area into a magnificent golf hole brings out the best in us and our abilities.

Patience and perseverance are a virtue during the construction period, particularly when problems arise. This is where the challenge must be met head on, especially when you join the fray in midstream. Such was the case for me upon accepting the position of Turf Manager at Rockway Glen Golf and Country Club.

Many problems have arisen in the past season due to the lack of qualified installers in all phases of the project. Our biggest and most challenging problem was to get the irrigation system (Toro VTII hydraulic) operational. Our automatic pump station was a godsend during this time. When breaks appeared, as they did in great numbers, the station did what it was supposed to do. At times my crew and I felt that perforated drainage tile had been installed in place of the PVC class 160 pipe. The irrigation crew, which numbered four, worked ten

hours per day, six days per week, from April 15 to June 30 in order to correct all the problems resulting from poor installation. All 6" tees on the initial main line were replaced because no thrust blocking was done. It was here that we began the process of rebuilding a brand new system. Many joints were replaced because of poor solvent welds made during installation. Also, there were numerous sprinkler heads that had to be re-installed with new elbows and swing joints. This can be the most frustrating aspect. In all we replaced or repaired some 100 fittings to get the system operational. At this time the escarpment winds made it clear that our single row fairway system would not permit the proper germination on fairways and rough, therefore we converted to double row. As the crew had tackled many more difficult problems, the challenge to do this conversion was met with great enthusiasm and determination to complete the task on time and with minimal set backs. Not only did they complete the conversion ahead of schedule, but they were absolutely flawless in their installation and hook-up. We now have virtually full coverage on each hole from tree line to tree line. This will produce optimum conditions for our members.

Once we had redone the surface contouring of greens into mound environs, we were able to seed and bring these areas on quickly. The same is true for the trees. Releveling and shaping had to be redone in order to seed and bring on turf.

An additional 10,000 feet of drainage and some half dozen catch basins were also installed to handle the run off from the escarpment.

As much as most people may think that this must have been a nightmare, it was. However, there are many positives that have come from this. I don't suggest this as the way all courses should have to come on stream, but the people that have worked through this and persevered have become a close knit unit. You grow up fast and learn the business quickly.

All of our staff was new to golf course construction and maintenance. Although not all will return this season, I thank them for their sweat and effort. They will be missed.

At present we stand ready to open this Spring and continue to manicure and condition the course for our members.

In closing, let me say that to enter a construction project with "everything done" and "ready to go" requires proceeding with great care. Be prepared for many pitfalls. Keep your spirits up. I can't say that the same fate awaits when construction is done by a golf course construction crew. Whichever method of construction (contractors or self), the best bet is to be there at the start. The mistakes that can be headed off and eliminated will keep delays in opening to a minimum, in this case a good six to nine months was lost.

Again, I thank my assistant, Mike Hoekstra, and all of the staff for all they have done in the construction of Niagara's newest golf club. Without their support my job would have been immeasurably more difficult.

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# Consultants: Private Advice for a Fee

*While the obligation of government to provide farmers with free technical advice is a topic of some debate, farmers themselves are beginning to pay for the services of private consultants. In eastern Canada and other areas where high levels of crop inputs are commonly used, farm consulting is expected to grow.*

by Marilyn Crabbe

If you are willing to use vets when animals are sick, mechanics for equipment repairs, and accountants to balance the books, then it makes sense to call in the crop experts when fields just aren't producing those desired yields.

Some are surprised to learn that farmers are now willing to pay a crop consultant, even when government representatives are available for free. Apparently some ag reps are so busy these days with financial management that they have little time to walk the fields and answer farmers' cropping questions, some of which are detailed and complex.

As Ontario government crop specialist John Schleihauf has discovered,

"farmers want service and today they're willing to pay for it." Schleihauf believes, too, that farmers who get paid advice do a better job.

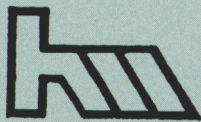
He doesn't feel threatened by the growing number of private consultants advising farmers about field crops. "I enjoy working with the consultants," he says. "We all have the same goal - keeping farmers afloat."

Though private consultants admit they sometimes rely on such people as Schleihauf for information and help, Schleihauf says he doesn't mind that either. "I run into a whole slew of problems myself and I enjoy using the consultants as much as they use me."

This congenial atmosphere developing between private consultants and government specialists could be a plus for farmers. Ideas are being passed back and forth and discussions are taking place about traditional cropping practices especially where soil analysis is involved.

Frustrated with the results they get from government soil laboratories, some farmers are turning to consultants in hopes of getting more exact readings. One such farmer is Gerald Spruyt, who cash crops near Forest, Ontario. He used consultants from 1981 to 1984, and though he had some criticisms, was pleased with their advice on soil fertility.

*cont'd next page*



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After walking Spruyt's fields, the consulting firm sent soil samples to a U.S. laboratory and then prepared detailed recommendations based on the tests. The outcome was that Spruyt started applying more potash, and subsequent crop yields have tended to support this move. He no longer uses the consultants. Though the firm initially provided lots of service, after a few years the visits weren't as frequent and he felt competent to continue on his own again.

Pat Lynch, formerly a provincial crop specialist, is now a farm consultant with Cyanamid. Lynch uses 3 labs when he takes soil samples because "there are errors . . . we do a lot of duplicate sampling." Lynch also notes that taking soil samples can be complicated; you have to be sure to get the proper depth and have a good variety of soils from the farm.

Proper soil sampling does take time and know-how, so it's reasonable that some farmers are deciding to let experts do it while they use their skills elsewhere.

Not only are the consultants trying to improve the quality of soil samples, but they also spend time talking about the importance of balancing soil nutrients.

Keith McKell of London, Ontario, operates his own consulting business, Soil Smith Ltd. Recently one farmer hired McKell to help convert 100 acres of corn to alfalfa.

#### **Fine-tuned Fertility**

McKell first mapped out the fields and then took detailed soil samples for analysis. Based on the results, he tailored potash and lime applications to the specific requirements of the various soil types. One treatment was limited to just 8 acres. Most farmers, he notes, would have gone in and broadcast a single treatment over the entire 100 acres. Not only did the client in this case save fertilizer dollars, but he invested money where it would do most good and, as a result, should get a better yield response.

McKell is a member of the Brookside Farms Laboratory Association Inc., which is located in the U.S. The association consists of professional consultants who, besides relying on the Brookside lab for analysis, hold information seminars and provide a training course for new members. When someone joins the Brookside association, he or she works with

another member for about a year. A follow-up session is held about a year later.

McKell figures he spends about \$30,000 to \$35,000 annually on lab fees and currently has consulting jobs involving about 10,000 acres. He charges \$6-\$7 per acre for cash crops and \$25 per acre for tobacco land because getting a proper nutrition balance on sandy soils can be more difficult.

Taralan Corporation is another consulting firm that started in the U.S., but began doing business in Canada about 10 years ago. Its fees range from \$6 to \$11 for cash crops, depending on what services each client wants, and \$25 for horticultural crops. Taralan likes to sign up clients for 3 years because the company believes one year is too little to spot trends or demonstrate the effects of its consultants' recommendations.

MacAllum King, vice president of the company's technical services, explains that Taralan uses a total of 25 factors when recommending fertilizer requirements. Soil samples are sent to A&L labs in Fort Wayne, Indiana. When the report comes back, Taralan personnel sit down with the results and use the 25 guidelines to establish a proper nutritional balance.

The goal is to reduce a farmer's production costs per tonne and, as King says, the way to do that is usually to improve yields. "Before you talk markets, you have to talk soil and crops." King also likes to quote U.S. studies that show a farmer can make more money from raising corn yields by 10 bushels per acre than by getting 10¢ more per bushel.

Though some may question the need to know about and use the more specialized aspects of soil chemistry, Ontario crop specialist Schleihau says, "the worst mistake you can make in farming is to have a closed mind."

Schleihau admits he wonders about some of the recommendations private consultants are making. He

adds, however, that there are many things we don't know . . . and I feel uncomfortable with some of the information we have traditionally used."

Harold Vander Glas is an agronomist with the farm consulting department of Canadian Agra Inc. Vander Glas says that besides working with soil fertility, consultants can help eliminate "gaps in information transfer." As most farmers will agree, just keeping up with the latest research and technology discoveries can be a full-time job. Vander Glas suggests consultants are more able to sift through reports and pull out information their farm clients can use.

Along with their soil work, some consulting firms also regularly scout fields to monitor insects and diseases. Taralan's vice president King predicts that as biotechnology developments move from the experimental labs to the farm, farmers may find consultants helpful in putting the new practices to use. As King notes, "Top farmers are expressing a need for good, objective information which will give them sound profits."



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## More Mileage From Lab Reports

Growing continuous corn for over 30 years requires careful soil management. No one is more aware of that than cash cropper Doug Miller. Though he's been able to maintain yield averages at around 105 bushels per acre, he would like to push for more.

Many would tell Miller if he wants higher corn yields, he should rotate into another crop such as soybeans. That suggestion doesn't appeal to Miller because he would have to invest in more machinery and, besides, "you can't make any more money with soybeans." He farms about 700 acres, all corn, near Lynden, Ontario.

Along with wanting to push his yield average up, Miller also became concerned about some of his sandy soils

where corn plants during the early summer were pale yellow instead of a healthy green. He suspected a soil nutrient problem, but was unable to confirm that from the results of soil tests performed at the Ontario ag. ministry's labs in Guelph. It was time, he decided, to get help from a specialist who knew how to interpret lab data.

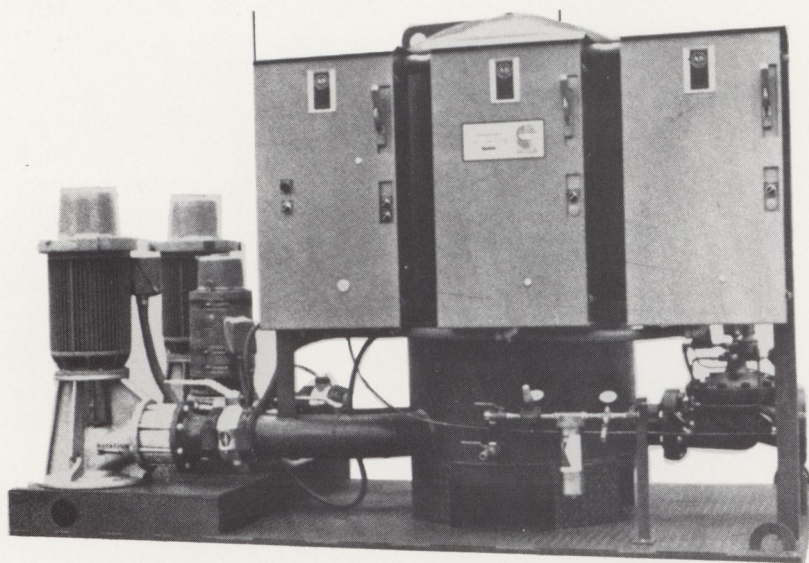
After a few tries, he found someone he was comfortable with – agrologist Corrie Almack of Carlisle, Ontario.

Miller likes Almack because "he doesn't have any fancy service and he's down-to-earth." Besides the favorable working relationship, Miller is pleased with Almack's advice.

In 1984 Almack spent one full day walking the 100 acres where most of the pale corn was growing. He mapped out the fields and took a variety of soil

samples. The samples were sent off to a U.S. lab which provides detailed analyses for its members who are professional consultants. A fairly complex nutritional deficiency problem was identified. Following Almack's advice, Miller is working on a solution.

Miller plans to wait a few years before making a precise cost/benefit assessment of the advice he gets from his consultant. Meantime, he's not concerned that he might be wasting his money. "All I need is an extra 2 or 3 bushels per acre," he points out, "and I've covered his fee."



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# Supers' 10 Deadly Problems

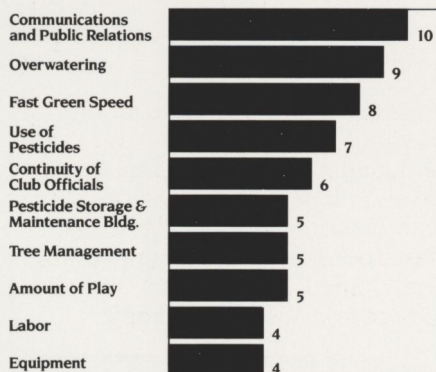
by Peter Blais

Inability to communicate is the major sin committed by those involved in golf course maintenance, according to United States Golf Association agronomists.

Agronomist James Connolly of Willimantic, Conn., gave a talk entitled The Top 10 Sins of Golf Course Maintenance during the recent Maine Golf Turfgrass Conference and Show in Portland.

The Top 10 list resulted from a survey of USGA agronomists conducted last year at the request of a group of golf course owners. Twelve of the 14 USGA Green Section agronomists responded.

## 10 Worst Maintenance Problems



The 10 worst problems are listed according to the times they were mentioned by 12 of the agronomists with the United States Golf Association Green Section. Communications was listed the most times – 10 – and labor and equipment the least – 4.

Architectural comments were eliminated from the survey. But Connolly conceded architectural shortcomings – both outright architectural errors and outdated features like too-small greens or tees – were among the major problems superintendents face daily. Architectural errors would have ranked somewhere in the middle if they had been included.

The responses were regional. Western agronomists sometimes saw problems where their Eastern counterparts said none existed, and vice-versa.

Just three of the top 10 sins were agronomic. Of the remaining seven, some are within the superintendent's control and others are not.

Following are the Top 10 Sins with the number of votes each received in parentheses.

1. Communications and public relations (10). "Poor communications is probably the No. 1 fault in every industry," Connolly said.

For the superintendent it involves daily communication with staff, newsletters, playing golf with members, personal image, keeping informed on issues, handling the media and attending meetings.

It also involves communication by others, for instance club officials who may have trouble communicating their wishes to the superintendent.

"You have to listen," Connolly said. "Too often, we're thinking about what we're going to ask next rather than listening to the other person."

2. Overwatering (9). Overwatering can result from a poor irrigation system, insufficient drainage, lack of knowledge, outdated equipment and pressure problems.

Compaction, impeded root growth, moss and algae, oxygen reductions, disease erosion, maintenance changes, lost revenue, green speed and course closures are among the problems that can result.

"When you pump and have the diesel engine fired up, you want to put out as much water as you can. So I can understand some of the problems in the past, but not today," said Connolly, adding that new systems help eliminate the water-while-you-can philosophy.

3. Fast green speeds (8). "Some of you immediately think USGA, USGA, Stimpmeter," Connolly said. "You're right. The USGA did promote use of the Stimpmeter. Whether or not it was used properly depended on whose hands it fell into.

"The philosophy behind the Stimpmeter is sound. But we all know we all got a little crazy trying to deliver 10-1/2" or 11-foot green speeds because of the perception that all courses had to be like those we saw on television. I can tell you that we (USGA) are more interested in environmental issues and maintaining healthy turfgrass than maintaining fast green speeds."

With environmental issues and the problems of maintaining healthy turfgrass looming, "That means only one thing, higher cutting heights," Connolly said.

The Stimpmeter was invented to check green speeds and keep them consistent throughout a course, the USGA agronomist said. The USGA recommends it be used only by the superintendent. Green chairmen shouldn't be allowed to use one without the superintendent's supervision, he said.

When the Stimpmeter was first invented in 1976, the fastest green speeds were 7-1/2 feet, with an average range of 6 to 7-1/2. Competition among courses and conditions at major tournament sites have fueled the engine for faster green speeds.

New equipment allows cutting heights of 1/8" and lower for faster green speeds. Lower fertilizer rates also lend added zip to putts.

Cutting heights are coming back up to 5/32 and even 3/16 of an inch, Connolly said. USGA agronomists don't recommend mowing heights below 5/16 of an inch.

"Here's my recommendation. We change to metric and just confuse the hell out of everyone," Connolly cracked.

4. Pesticide use (7). A regional response. Eastern agronomists didn't see it as a problem. Westerners and Midwesterners did.

"That's a great example of how superintendents on the East Coast are

more aware of the pesticide issue," Connolly said. "They take more precautions when applying pesticides and are more educated in the application of these products."

Misidentifying a disease and then applying pesticides on a panic basis was one of the concerns mentioned. Also listed were haphazard and broad-spectrum application without regard for integrated pest management as well as over-managing with too much product to achieve superior conditions.

"I know several guys who left their jobs because they disagreed when applying pesticides at seven-day intervals regardless of what was out there. I commend those superintendents for taking a stand like that. And they've gone on to other excellent jobs," Connolly said.

5. Continuity of club officials (6). This included everything from being ignorant of maintenance techniques to being a constant headache.

"I know of a course where an official visited the superintendent every morning at 6 a.m. He would even come to the superintendent's house and sit there while his family was eating dinner," Connolly said.

He recommended officials spend at least three straight years on the board. Three years can be a long time with a difficult board member, the agronomist conceded. But perhaps he or she can be educated.

"It's an advantage in the long run to have people involved with what you're doing for more than one season. It's chaotic and self-destructive to have a quick changeover in these people," he said.

Only one agronomist said all club departments should be controlled by a general manager.

"There are very few qualified general managers who know your business and view their job as the monitoring of expenses. There are some clubs where the general manager is excellent. The Country Club of Brookline (Mass.) is an excellent example," Connolly said.

6. Pesticide storage and maintenance building (5). "Improper storage facilities are a big problem," Connolly said. "I've visited courses that have had pesticides stored in a wooden building by a stream. I said to the superintendent, 'you've got to do something about this.' He told me

club officials told him to just wait until we get caught and then we'll do something. "The mentality is just ridiculous. If you don't do something you could be facing a stiff fine, and besides, it's just good stewardship."

7. Tree management (5). "Not cutting down enough trees is one of my main complaints," Connolly said.

Proper thinning, air movement and keeping roots from competing with the turfgrass for space, nutrients and water were also noted.

All five tree management votes came from Eastern agronomists. It wasn't listed at all by those in the Midwest or West.

"They don't have as many (trees), I guess," Connolly said. "Although in the Northwest I know they have a tremendous amount."

Trees left in the wrong place, memorial trees planted here and there and trees located in the middle of a fairway affecting maintenance and playability were also mentioned.

8. Amount of play (5). This primarily involved too much play. Tee times from dawn to dusk simply leaves too little time for maintenance, Connolly said.

Other complaints included play beginning too early in the day, continuing during inclement weather or lasting too late into the season. Holding too many outings for the course to handle was another concern.

9. Labor (4). Labor problems included too little help, lack of quality workers and management decisions to spend money elsewhere, even when the money for labor was available.

"A couple of years ago in the New York-New Jersey area you just couldn't get labor. First, we weren't offering enough money, and second, you couldn't find people who wanted to work on the golf course," Connolly remembered.

10. Equipment (4). This is frequently out of the superintendent's control. Some said they saw courses without enough equipment. At others the equipment was outdated. Still others had insufficient capital budgets for new equipment and lack of knowledge regarding the use or availability of new equipment.

"Of all the industries out there, golf course maintenance has to have some of the most innovative people for making do with what they have. Some of these guys take the junkiest piece of equipment and make it work. It's a compliment to the industry," Connolly said.

Sins coming up just short of the vote needed to make the Top 10 list included superintendents not spending enough time on activities other than course maintenance; inability to read soil tests; poor record keeping; inappropriately timed maintenance; and taking advice from the wrong people.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

August 9 – Blue Jay Game, Jays vs Boston

August 12 – O.T.R.F.

Fundraising Tournament, Woodbridge

August 22 – C.T.I. Research Day, Cambridge

September 30 – Taylor Barnes Trophy, Whirlpool C.C.



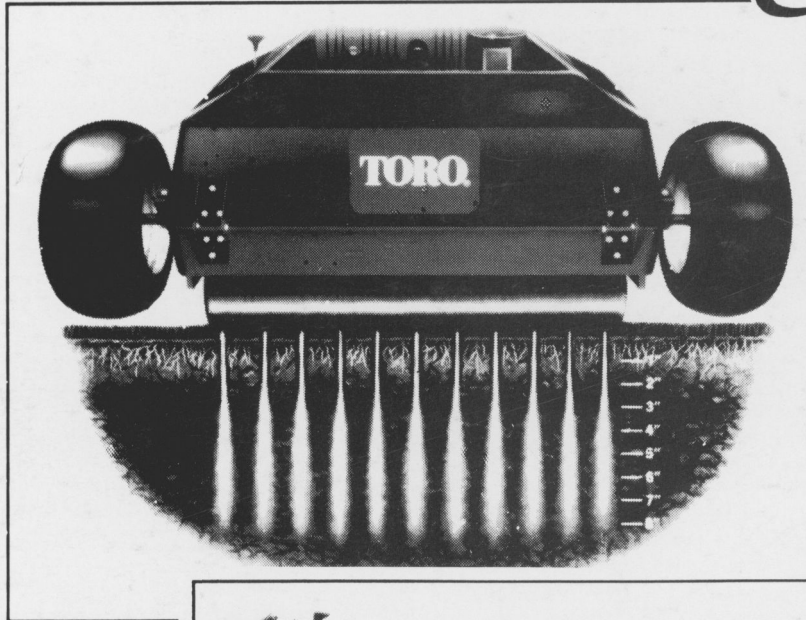
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