

Northwest TURFGRASS TOPICS

Vol. 16 — No. 3 PUYALLUP, WASHINGTON December, 1973

The President's Corner



By Milt Bauman

We are looking forward to a new year in the Northwest Turfgrass Association. Before we look ahead, we should look back at this past year and look at the progress that has been made.

The screening of bentgrass varieties on the Westside was completed and the bents that looked the most promising were moved to Farm 5 for further study in respect to agronomic qualities and a further look at disease resistance.

Thanks to the members in the Inland Empire and especially to Bud Ashworth for their efforts in taking many of the bentgrasses from Dr. Gould's selection to Hangman Valley Golf Course for evaluation and study under conditions on the Eastside of the Mountains.

I feel we had one of our better turfgrass conferences this fall at Harrison Hot Springs. Not only was the quality of the conference good, but it was the largest in numbers ever held in the Northwest. It was a joint conference with the Western Canada Turf Association and our own Northwest group. We from the Northwest Turfgrass Association would again like to thank our Canadian friends for their help and hospitality in making this turfgrass conference a success.

Our turfgrass conference in 1974 will be held at the convention center in Sun River, Oregon, September 24 through September 27. Sun River is just out of Bend, Oregon. Make your plans now, and I hope to see all of you there.

The major goal our association faces this year is to find means of financing the much needed research position at the Western Washington Research and Extension Center at Puyallup to work on agronomic and other research. You will be hearing soon of ways you can help support this program. Let's get behind this fine program we have going and make it even better in 1974.

Pest Management Shortcourse

If you feel that the EPA is breathing down your neck in regards to application of pesticides, this is your chance to beat them to the punch by attending the Pest Management Shortcourse which will be conducted beginning January 30 at 8:30 a.m. at the Sherwood Motor Inn at 400 N.E. 35th Street, Seattle, Washington. The shortcourse will be conducted from 8:30 until 5:00 on January 30 and 31 and from 9:00 until 10:00 on February 1, and the rest of the day will be spent in taking the State Examination for Pesticide Application.

The examination for Pesticide Application will be administered by the Washington State Department of Agriculture and will qualify those who pass for pesticide application.

This shortcourse is being aimed specifically for golf course superintendents, but persons working in areas such as parks will find the course practical and useful. It will include pesticide chemistry, formulations, pesticide safety, entomology, major insect pests, plant diseases, weed control and state laws and regulations.

Typhula—Fusarium Snow Mold Trials

Thirty-two different fungicides or combinations of fungicides in six replications were applied to putting green turf at Hangman Valley Golf Course in Spokane, Hayden Lake Golf and Country Club, Hayden Lake, Idaho, Elks Golf Course, Moscow, Idaho, University Golf Course, Moscow, Idaho, and McCall Idaho Golf Course. These locations were picked due to slightly different climatic conditions and snow covers.

The first fungicide applications made in early fall were to attempt to control Fusarium Patch attacks which may occur in areas east of the Cascade Mountains in early fall until the weather turns colder. The second application of fungicides was made in early November which included principally the treatments for Typhula Snow Mold. This is the second year for these tests and should provide enough information to terminate any major efforts for at least a few years. No doubt additional new fungicides will appear on the market and testing of some of these can be continued with the eastern Washington cooperators.

This project is being headed up by Chuck Gould with Roy Goss, Al Law and Ron Ensign cooperating. In addition to the research staff just mentioned, other cooperators include Bud Ashworth, Vern Harvey and Superintendents at Moscow and McCall, Idaho. Bud Ashworth and Vern Harvey report differences in the plots at this time, so we should obtain some good information from this year's effort. It appears to be an entirely different year from 1972-73, and hopefully, we will have greater snow cover to determine broad differences between fungicides. More will be provided to the readers of Turf Topics in future issues regarding the results of these trials.

The Thatch Patch



Jim Chapman

I heard from Bruce Jackman, Clarkston Golf and Country Club superintendent, the other day. His renovation project involves raising parts of 14 fairways up to 4 feet to get the course above water. The corps of army engineers has built a dam on the Snake River just below the golf course. A half million cubic yards of fill will be needed. Somehow, I can't visualize that.

Across the river in Lewiston, Idaho, two new golf courses are moving right along. Dennis Morgan, Superintendent at Sage Hills Golf Course at Warden, moves to the Lewiston Golf and Country Club position. So far as I know, the city golf course hasn't hired yet.

On the Westside, Joe Williamson has moved from Gold Mountain in Bremerton to Holmes Harbor Golf and Yacht Club on Whidbey Island. Choice Dalton, recent turf graduate from Cal-Poly, took over superintendent at Meadowmeer Golf Club on Bainbridge Island.

Looks like another family name is on the rise in golf. Ed Jennings is well-known and respected as superintendent at Snohomish Golf Course and teacher of equipment maintenance. His son, Dick, is now superintendent at Riverside Golf Course, Chehalis, Washington. Ed Rogers tells me the best hamburger in the world comes off the grill at Riverside when Bob Marlow's wife is cook.

I think it is hard to beat Tony Pillo's Tony Burger at Cascade Golf Course at North Bend, Washington.

This golf course business is certainly tough on superintendents. Walter Norly, Forest Hills Country Club in Reedsport, Oregon, is home now recuperating from a heart attack. Knowing Walt, he'll be back on the job soon.

Bob Hope has his Oakway Golf Course, Eugene, rebuilt now and ready to open. John Zoller was design consultant. Dave Naessens is the superintendent. Now Eugene has a public 18 hole executive course.

Well, by now you heard the news about fertilizer, feed and gas. If I don't get around quite as often and seem out of breath when I get there, remember that it has been a long time since I rode a bicycle to work.

Thought for the day—How are your push hand mowers? You may be using them more this year.

See you next trip—or at the Scott's Turf Seminar—or at Anaheim for the NGCSAA meeting.

Turfgrass Field Day

The annual Turfgrass Field Day will be held at the Western Washington Research and Extension Center on Thursday, May 16, 1974. The field day will begin at 10:00 a.m. and conclude at approximately 3:00 p.m. This is your opportunity to see the ongoing research and to bring any questions you may have regarding turfgrass research and management.

Research Committee Report

By John Monson, Chairman Research Committee

The Research Committee of the Northwest Turfgrass Association met at the Western Washington Research and Extension Center on December 19 at 8:30 a.m. Bud Ashworth and Rich Schwabauer are the committeemen working on this committee for the year. Other members of the board of directors were also in attendance at this Research Committee meeting.

John Monson called on Al Blair, Chairman of the Finances Committee to obtain funds for a research associate to give his report. Al Blair reported a little over \$9,000 in the treasury at this time, but we are way short of our needs to fill this position. Different methods of generating income for this effort were discussed. Since other efforts of generating money through golf tournaments with the aid of the golf professionals had not developed, the committee felt the only resource was to go directly to the golf clubs for assistance. In general, the group felt that one of the best means of obtaining support was to follow the example set by the Inland Empire Golf Courses in charging a \$1.00 green fee at all pro-am tournaments on the West Coast (Washington and Oregon). This would not result in a cost to any of the golf clubs and would generate a considerable amount of income for the Turfgrass Association for purposes of financing additional research. More will be said about this action at a somewhat later date.

Action has been initiated in developing a turf product and equipment directory. The Northwest Turfgrass Association will sponsor this directory and try to list all companies who have products or equipment for sale in the turfgrass industry. It has not been decided whether or not the companies will be asked to pay a small fee to be listed since final arrangements have not been made in this direction. It is anticipated that different association members in various geographic areas will be asked to come up with a list of major turfgrass suppliers to be used in this directory. After we obtain a list of the suppliers, a questionnaire will be sent to the suppliers to fill out in regard to the specific materials and equipment that they handle. These will be listed and referenced in the directory. It is anticipated that the directory will be a supplement in one issue of the Turfgrass Topics, hopefully in the spring issue.

Drs. Roy Goss and Chuck Gould presented research reports which included the following points: Nutritional Investigations on Putting Green Turf, Progress on Sulfur Research and Laboratory Analyses, Preemergence Control of Poa annua, and the Need for Expanded Research in this Area, Advanced Management Studies on Bentgrass Varieties, the Establishment of 135 Bentgrass Varieties at Hangman Valley Golf Course, Typhula Snow Mold Investigations at 5 Locations in Eastern Washington and Idaho, and Fusarium Patch Control Studies at the Puyallup Station. Other items of research and projected plans were also discussed before the adjournment of the Research Committee.

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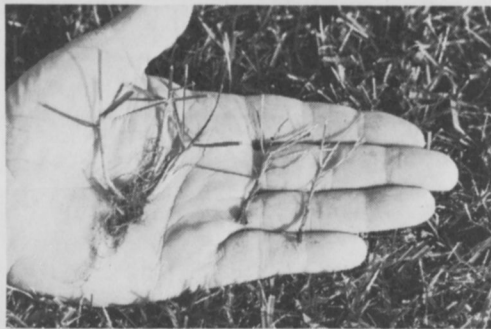
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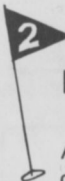
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Northwest Turfgrass Association Directors Met In December

President Milt Bauman called a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Northwest Turfgrass Association on December 19 to discuss pertinent items of business and plans for 1974. In order to save the most time and obtain the most efficiency from the members and committees, Milt suggested that the Research Committee meet at the same time. Prior to the regular board meeting the Research Committee met for about 2-1/2 hours, and the committee report is included in this issue of Turf Topics.

Under the regular items of business the most important topic was planning for the 1974 Northwest Turfgrass Conference. Since the location had previously been approved for Sun River, Oregon, Milt had appointed Rich Schwabauer to obtain information regarding space, accommodations, meeting rooms, and display areas. Rich reported that everything was in good order with ample meeting rooms and a large commercial display area. He reported that single accommodation rooms were projected at \$18 per night and doubles at \$22. Food service is available on the premises and would not necessitate driving away for this purpose. June Schwabauer will serve as chairman for the ladies program and was given the authority to go ahead and set up a program that would be interesting and attractive for the wives while attending this conference.

The next item on the agenda was the Conference Program. Dick Fluter, previously appointed as program chairman, sent a list of program ideas and suggested speakers since he was not able to attend in person. These items and a number of other interesting subject matter areas were suggested for the Conference. The Executive Secretary is to coordinate the program with Dick Fluter and others interested. If any member of the Northwest Turfgrass Association has any suggestions for program items, they should send them as soon as possible to Dick Fluter at Oswego Lake Golf and Country Club, Lake Oswego, Oregon, or to Roy L. Goss, Executive Secretary. We like to have the program shaped up by early spring, and our first contacts made with good speakers to fill these positions.

Milt Bauman reported on the meeting that he, John Zoller and Roy Goss attended in Eugene, Ore. recently in regard to seed labelling. In general many of the group who met for this occasion at the Oregon Seed League Meeting felt that some additional information should be provided to the consumer of turfgrass seed, particularly to define what seeds are included under the designation "crop". Dick Haskell reported that the Northwest Turfgrass Association treasury books had been audited by the IRS and that everything was in order and that we still exist as a non-profit corporation. This means that donations or contributions can be made to the association as a tax-free contribution from the donor. Any of you who might know of someone who would like to contribute to the programs of the Northwest Turfgrass Association, please solicit their help.

Milt Bauman asked the membership committee to start moving in high gear to bring in new members for the Association. Everyone felt that we had not really tapped the potential sources for new members and much progress can be expected from this area.

The board of directors reviewed membership, fee structure, and conference registrations and came up with a revised schedule: Northwest Turfgrass Association membership will still remain at \$30 per year. This includes the Conference Proceedings, Turfgrass Topics, other mailings and reduced registration fees. All non-members will pay \$25 for registra-

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tion fee for the Conference and Proceedings only. All additional attendees from member organizations will be charged \$10.00 for Conference registration which entitles them also to the Proceedings.

The additional \$10.00 registration fee for member organizations was agreed upon to help defray conference expenses. There has been no increase in membership dues for conference registration in several years although costs of producing a good Conference have risen. The Northwest Turfgrass Association aims to continue with a high quality educational conference, and your support will help keep it this way.

1974 Turfgrass Conference

The 1974 Turfgrass Conference will be held at Sun River, Oregon on September 25 through September 28. Conference participants can arrive on Tuesday, September 25 and play golf in the golf tournament, relax or browse through the equipment and product displays. Registration for the Conference will open on Wednesday morning, September 26 and continue throughout the Conference. The Conference will begin promptly at 1:15 p.m. and further details regarding the Conference will be published in forthcoming issues of Turfgrass Topics.

Sun River, Oregon is very close to the city of Bend, Oregon. The arrangements committee guarantees excellent weather and a real change in scenery for everyone who comes. Make your plans now to attend this Conference and to participate in a very excellent educational program.

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Dr. Felix V. Juska Dies

Many of us today profit from the work accomplished by Dr. Felix Juska who died at the age of 59 from a heart attack in October. Most of you who may have known him recognize his name as associated with the Turfgrass Research Program at the United States Department of Agriculture Station at Beltsville, Maryland.

After completing his education at Michigan State University, Felix joined the Beltsville Station in 1953. Felix was author or co-author of some 85 technical publications on turfgrass management, culture and improvement. He also was responsible for publishing a number of leaflets on the care of home lawns. He served as co-editor of "TURFGRASS SCIENCE" a monograph published by the American Society of Agronomy in 1969.

He spoke at many turfgrass conferences and appeared at regional programs sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association. He also organized a biennial field day at Beltsville to acquaint specialists with research progress.

Dr. Juska received an outstanding performance award from the Department of Agriculture in 1955 and was named Man of the Year in Turfgrass Research for 1966 by the Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendent's Association. He took an active part in the affairs of the American Society of Agronomy, The Crop Science Society of America and the Weed Science Society of America.

In 1966, he was named a "Fellow" in the American Society of Agronomy for accomplishments in Turfgrass Research. He received the Borden Dairy and Phi Kappa Phi Awards at Michigan State University.

Felix was a very practical man in the field of turfgrass research and his findings, advice and friendship will be remembered for a long time.

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1973 Turf Conference

The 1973 Annual Turfgrass Conference was a grand success. Those of you who attended know that this was a joint conference arrangements made by Heinz Knoedler, Bob Bailey and their committees. Mrs. Isa Taylor conducted an excellent ladies program and was highly complimented by all the ladies attending for such an interesting program.

Everyone felt that the Conference was well-conducted, and of course, the attendance was larger than either association had ever experienced singly before. One interesting point is that the Conference Room was always full which indicates that the Conference attendance was interested in turfgrass education.

The displays were well-attended and outstanding in nature, and of course, helped to defray Conference Expenses.

The Proceedings are late in arriving in your hands this year since it was requested that we include various pictures of speakers and other information that could not be provided until after the Conference was held. By the time you receive this issue of Turfgrass Topics, you should have received your copy of the Conference Proceedings. If for some reason you did not obtain a copy and you are a member of the Northwest Turfgrass Association or Western Canada Turfgrass Association or attended the Conference, please let us know and we shall provide you with a copy of the Proceedings.



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Bentgrass Management Trials

Fourteen outstanding bentgrass varieties and cultivars were selected out of 135 bentgrass entries in the previous screening trial conducted by C.J. Gould. Roy Goss, Chuck Gould and Stan Brauen selected the best of the entries to be carried through management studies. These plots were established in September, 1973, and treatments will be initiated in the spring of 1974. The plots will be mowed at 1/4 inch and will be subjected to high and low nitrogen treatments and to fungicides and no fungicides. Most of these varieties showed good disease resistance in the screening trials, however, most of them did break down with some Fusarium infection during the fall, winter or early spring. Although they are superior to the standard varieties on the market today, they are not completely resistant, hence, the need for testing with fungicides as well. These varieties demonstrated excellent agronomic characteristics of texture, color and density and additional information is needed to determine their performance under strict management conditions. These plots should be in excellent condition for viewing by Field Day of 1974.

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Goat Power

The following article was borrowed from the Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendent's Association and was previously borrowed by them from Louis E. Miller, Editor Kentuckiana Clippings. In the face of the energy crisis and possible fuel shortages for 1974, this article can be very meaningful on the lighter side-ED.

"The loss of the Toro Line, the gasoline shortage and the concern about the environment has brought a whole new concept in turf maintenance by Winfrey Bunton III. It seems he has been working on this project night and day in the company's rear warehouse and as of this printing has a prototype in the field and from all indications should be on the market by mid-summer. This new concept in maintenance will not be for sale, but will be on a lease basis only.

"This new product is named 'Rent a Goat'. It has now been made possible to rent a herd of specially trained Swiss goats that will eat the turf to a uniform height in groups from five to fifty, which are controlled by a muzzle gauge, having three settings for tees, fairways, and roughs. So far he has not been able to perfect a setting for greens.

"As the goats consume the grass they also manufacture a by product of organic fertilizer which is of uniform size and has a guaranteed analysis of 8-2-3 and is spread by the swishing tails of the goats as they proceed on line down the fairway. Win III does admit that at this time he is having trouble in getting just the areas fertilized that the superintendent wants, but promises to have this remedied very shortly.

"Before each customer orders the goats he has to specify what type of turf that they will be working on. The reason behind this is that the goats come with three different sets of hoof boots that have a choice of three sets of aerifier tines and spike blades, plus three sets of verticut blades for either bermuda, bluegrass, or bent.

"An added feature Win points out is that it is no longer necessary to clean up paper cups and beer cans, as the goats will consume these quite readily and trace elements of aluminum sulfate are added to the organic fertilizer.

"It is recommended that all tee mowing be done before any play is out on the course as anyone who bends over to tee up the ball is fair game. Presently this isn't too great a concern, but if it persists OSHA will more than likely require some sort of bumper for the horns.

"A shepard is optional but is also recommended in that very few people know how to herd goats in this day and time."

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Turfgrass Variety Trials at Puyallup

Nearly 400 varieties and cultivars of Kentucky bluegrass, fine-leaved fescues and ryegrasses were established in plots during the summer of 1973. This project is headed up by Dr. Stan Brauen in cooperation with Roy Goss and Chuck Gould. These plots are being evaluated for establishment, color, density, texture, stand persistence and disease susceptibility. Several ratings have been made on the plots at this time and will continue throughout the next one or two years.

The plots should be in excellent condition for viewing during the spring and summer of 1974. Plot plans are available at the Agronomy office at the Western Washington Research and Extension Center at Puyallup for anyone who wishes to have a self-guided tour to examine the varieties at any time they wish.

The results of this testing work should reveal varietal characteristics to help the buyer decide what varieties will do best in Western Washington. Plan on stopping by or put the date, May 16, on your calendar now to come look at the research that is in progress.

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