

Northwest TURFGRASS TOPICS

Vol. 23 No. 2

PUYALLUP, WASHINGTON

August 1980

PROGRAM

NORTHWEST TURFGRASS CONFERENCE

Sunriver Lodge, Sunriver, Oregon
September 22-25, 1980

MONDAY, September 22

Golf Tournament
Registration Desk will open from 3 to 5 p.m. for all pre-registrants and others

TUESDAY, September 23

SESSION CHAIRMAN: Tom Wolff

8:00 a.m. Registration at the Lobby of the Conference Room

8:30-8:45 Welcome - Mr. Earl Morgan, President, Northwest Turfgrass Association, Similk Beach Golf Course, Anacortes, WA

8:45-9:30 "Turfgrass Nutrition and Environmental Stress" - Dr. R.C. Shearman, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NB.

9:30-10:10 "Problems, Progress, and Planning" - Mr. Donald D. Hoos, Western Director, USGA Green Section, Tustin, CA.

10:10-10:30 Break

10:30-11:10 Research Reports

11:10-11:50 "Air Pollution and the Green Industry" - Dr. W.J. Johnston, Washington State University, Pullman, WA.

11:50-12:30 "Low Maintenance and Quality Turfgrasses" - Dr. C.R. Skogley, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI.

12:30-1:00 Questions and Answers for the morning speakers.

1:00 p.m. Free Time

WEDNESDAY, September 24

SESSION CHAIRMAN: Jim Pittman

8:30-9:15 Research Reports

9:15-10:05 "Turfgrass Soils" - Dr. Jim Barnes, O.M. Scott Co., Marysville, OH.

10:05-10:25 Break

10:25-11:00 "Surfactants and Quality Turf" - Mr. Robert A. Moore, Aquatrols Corp. of America, Pennsauken, NJ.

11:00-11:40 "Industry Hills - A New Concept in Golf" - Mr. Bill Bengeyfield, City of Industry, CA.

11:40-12:15 "Maintaining Superior Quality *Poa annua* Turf" - Dr. Roy L. Goss, Western Washington Research and Extension Center (WSU), Puyallup, WA.

12:15-12:30 Questions and Answers for the morning speakers.

12:30-1:00 Northwest Turfgrass Association General Meeting.

6:00 p.m. No Host Cocktails

7:00 p.m. Banquet

THURSDAY, September 25

MORNING SESSION: Norm Whitworth

8:30-9:15 "Turfgrass Management in New Zealand" - Dr. Roy L. Goss, Western Washington Research and Extension Center (WSU), Puyallup, WA.

9:15-9:35 "Oregon State University Turfgrass Programs" - Mr. Tom Cook, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR.

9:35-10:00 "A Quarter Century of Greens. Topdressing Studies" - Dr. C.R. Skogley, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI.

10:00-10:20 Break

10:20-11:00 "Turf Management in the '80's" - Dr. R.C. Shearman, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NB.

11:00-11:45 "Volcanic Ash Deposits and Problems on Turfgrasses" - Panel Discussion Mark Higgs, Superintendent, Moses Lake Golf and Country Club, Moses Lake, WA.

Dr. W.J. Johnston, Washington State University, Pullman, WA.

Dr. Roy L. Goss, Western Washington Research and Extension Center (WSU), Puyallup, WA.

Moderator: Dr. Roy L. Goss

11:45-12:00 Questions and Answers for the morning speakers.

12:00 Noon Adjournment.

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE POSITION FILLED

Tentatively, the research associate position at the Western Washington Research and Extension Center, formerly held by Tom Cook and John Roberts, has been accepted by John T. Law. John expects to complete his requirements for his Ph.D. degree in plant sciences at the University of Rhode Island at Kingston, RI, at the end of August. He should be on board in early September to begin work.

John carries an extremely strong background in plant physiology and laboratory methods for analyzing plant metabolism. We feel that John will give us a great deal of strength in this area and will be invaluable in analyzing certain important areas of our present investigations.

We look forward to having John with us and hope that all of you will be able to meet him within the next few months.

GOLF TEES FOR SALE AT SUNRIVER

Each year the golf course that hosts the Northwest Turfgrass Association sells tees to private individuals or commercial companies for advertising purposes during the golf tournament. This year the tees are again for sale for the golf tournament on Monday, September 22. The proceeds from the sale of these tees go to the Northwest Turfgrass Association Research Fund.

The tees are being sold for \$50 each. Those of you who purchase the tees have the option of doing what you want with the tee. That is, serve refreshments, have contests, prizes, give golf balls, advertising, or whatever you would like to do on the tee. At a small additional cost Charles Harger will have a sign with your company's name, etc., or whatever you would like placed on the sign on the tee that you purchase. Tees will be sold on a first-come, first-choice of tee basis. Charlie needs two weeks lead time for the signs. The deadline for purchase will be September 5.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Earl Morgan

The annual Turfgrass Field Day was held at Puyallup, WA, on June 17, 1980. It's at these field days that the results of our N.T.A. efforts are observed. No one can doubt that we do get our money's worth. In addition to turfgrass industry people of Washington State, Mr. Norm Whitworth, a NTA board member, arranged to have a bus bring a sizable group up from Oregon. After the field day, lunch and golf were enjoyed at the Hi-Cedars Golf Course for a very enlightening and enjoyable day.

On June 18, a NTA board meeting was held at the station. It was good to have Dr. Goss back with us after an extended stay in New Zealand. We also had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Bill Johnston, who has accepted a position at WSU, at Pullman. NTA projects for both sides of the mountains were discussed. The program and activities for the upcoming 34th Annual Conference were finalized. Mr. Jim Pittman, our program chairman, has arranged for an outstanding group of professionals in the turf related industry to attend, thus insuring our conference of another successful meeting.

We look forward to seeing you at Sunriver on September 22. Be sure and make your reservations early; plan on attending all the activities. Only your participation makes the efforts of the committee worthwhile.

NORTHWEST TURFGRASS CONFERENCE

September 21-25, 1980

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SUNRIVER — 1980 GENERAL INFORMATION

Editor's Note: The following information was provided by Charles Harger, Golf Course Superintendent at Sunriver, to provide you with some ideas about your stay at that facility at the 1980 Northwest Turfgrass Conference.

Camping: Camping facilities information is available by writing and/or at the registration desk. Write to: Charles Harger, Superintendent, Golf Maintenance Bldg. No. 1, Sunriver, OR 97701.

Bicycles: Sunriver has 25 miles of bike paths and rental bikes are available. However, it is recommended that you bring your own bicycles if possible.

By this time all members of the Northwest Turfgrass Association have received information about Sunriver and all of the facilities available and the activities. This material is only supplemental to what you have already received.



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11. The nursing attributes of Florence Nightingale.
12. The eternal youth of Debbie Boone.
13. The understanding of Ann Landers.
14. The guts of Barbara Walters.
15. The social expertise of Pearl Mesta.
16. The physical stamina of the Bionic Woman.
17. And last, but not least, the awareness, intellect, and vigor of Price-Waterhouse, Inc. and Merrill-Lynch-Pierce-Fenner and Smith.

Credit: Hudson Valley Foreground.

TURFGRASS AND EQUIPMENT SHOW

A Turfgrass Equipment Show and Display will be held at the Puyallup, Washington, Fairgrounds on November 12-13, 1980. Participants in this show will be made up of all major turfgrass equipment dealers in Washington and will feature the latest in turfgrass equipment progress.

This will be an excellent opportunity for all of you to view the latest in equipment, meet your dealers, and discuss your equipment needs.

The equipment show in 1979 at the Puyallup fairgrounds was a great success and is a centralized location for all of you in western Washington to come see that latest. Remember the dates - November 12 and 13, 1980.



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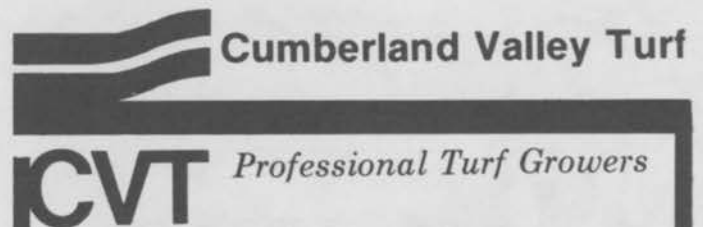


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BANNING OF LINDANE

It hasn't happened yet, but EPA is whetting its scythe to execute the last remaining chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticide, lindane. Dr. Terry L. Burkoth, director of Product Development with Zoecon Corporation at Palo Alto, CA, was to have been a speaker at our Turfgrass Conference in September but has had to cancel because of lindane. Dr. Burkoth states, "It is perhaps ironic that Zoecon, a company founded to develop new insect control measures with little or no impact on the environment, has through its acquisition of Hooker Chemical Company, inherited responsibility for one of the earlier chlorinated hydrocarbons, Lindane. I should add that lindane has many attributes which make it not at all a typical member of the persistent group of chlorinated hydrocarbons which the regulators are so energetically seeking to eliminate from use. Zoecon feels that for certain uses the risks from lindane are nil and the benefits are appreciable. We are, therefore, undertaking a very costly and time-consuming defense. The Procedure will draw heavily on all of Zoecon product and development resources, and particularly on my own time from now through most of September."

The world would benefit by EPA keeping its crummy paws of lindane and allowing talented people such as Dr. Burkoth to participate in our Conference. But, "Get rid of pesticides" is the game to play today.

The Environmental Protection Agency does propose to ban most uses of lindane and wants your comments. Lindane is used in shelf paper, floor waxes, household spray, and smoke fumigation devices, flea collars, pet shampoos, and flea dust, seed treatments including barley, corn and peas, Christmas trees, home application on ornamental plants, avocados, pecans and other fruits and vegetables, forestry, hardwood logs, lumber, and in structures. The EPA says it has been found to cause cancer, fetal damage, and nerve damage to test animals. Its only U.S. manufacturer is the Hooker Chemical Company of Niagara Falls, NY, which stopped making lindane in 1976, but imports it for resale. To comment on the proposed ban, send your opinion to the Document Control Office (TS-793), Room E-447, Office of Pesticide and Toxic Substances, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street S.W., Washington, DC 20560.

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HERBS AS INSECTICIDES

We hear so much about eliminating pesticides from the environment, restricting their use and all of the bad things about chemicals. We also hear a great deal from organic enthusiasts about the virtues of the use of natural plants that will control pests. I thought you might be interested in the following short article which was taken from *Horticultural Science*, Vol. 14(6):December, 1979

"Organic gardeners delight in expounding on the virtues of inter-planting various herbs which purportedly repel vegetable insect pests. However, few scientific tests of this companion planting theory have been performed. A recent paper published in the July issue (1979) of the *Canadian Entomologist* (30(7):853-864) reports a study in which 6 companionate plants (marigold, nasturtium, pennyroyal, peppermint, sage, and thyme) were each grown in a perimeter surrounding plots of cabbage. The cabbage was sampled weekly for eggs and larvae of the imported cabbage worm, cabbage looper, and the diamondback moth. The results? There was not statistically significant reduction in egg or larval numbers between any of the treatments and the control. In fact, some treatments had higher numbers than the control. The authors concluded that companion planting may improve the aesthetics of gardens but will do little to repel *Lepidopterous* pests of cole crops. This is not to say that all companion plants are ineffective, but more scientific tests, not 'testimonials' by enthusiasts are needed to confirm or refute this practice."



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VOLCANIC ASH AND TURFGRASSES

by Roy L. Goss

Volcanos and volcanic ash deposits are certainly not new to our readership here in the Pacific Northwest. The May 18 eruption of Mount St. Helens deposited from trace amounts up to 4 inches of volcanic ash over large areas of eastern Washington. After this ash was settled by rainfall and/or irrigation, it consolidated to varying depths up to 1½ to 1¾ inches. Obviously, turfgrasses that are being mowed at heights of less than 1 inch were in severe trouble. The physical aspects of the ash presented the most serious threat to turfgrasses and turfgrass managers alike. The chemical properties of the ash, although extremely variable, were not and are not deemed toxic to the turfgrasses. There are several good chemical properties that will be useful to the turfgrass manager such as sulfur and iron and there are reasonable amounts of phosphate and potassium in the ash as well. We can do without the chlorides, but the ash was fairly high in chlorides as well. We shouldn't be too alarmed over this however, since we annually apply fairly large amounts of chlorides from various sources such as muriate of potash.

Since the physical aspects represent the most serious threat, some of the turfgrass managers, like golf superintendent Mark Higgs at Moses Lake Golf and Country Club, went to work immediately to remove as much ash as possible. On Monday following the eruption, they removed all of the ash from the putting greens with tractor-mounted scrapers and then started work on tees and fairways. On Monday, June 2, I visited the Moses Lake-Ritzville area to attempt to assess the exact nature of the ash problem and to offer any suggestions that we may have in rectifying the problems and also to learn from these practicing superintendents who were already deep into the problem.

It appeared that all fairways that were scraped within one to two weeks following the ash fall so that no more than ¼ to ½ inch ash remained mixed into the thatch would survive in good condition. Those turfgrass areas that had not been scraped after two weeks showed signs of deterioration and extreme yellowing. Fortunately, at the time of the ash fall and for the next 3 to 4 weeks following, temperatures remained somewhat low and the respiration rate of the turfgrasses was, likewise, reduced. Had the weather been hot, turfgrass losses would have been much more severe. Ritzville Golf Course did not have the capabilities of total ash removal on fairways immediately and attempted to rotary hoe the ash to break it up and attempt to make grass blades grow through the hole. This was only partially effective and the fairways essentially looked like summer-fallowed wheat fields. Although I have not made further observations at this point, I understand that the fairways have been scraped and there is a near total loss of grasses on their fairways. At Ritzville they, likewise, scraped the greens and they have survived very well. It appears, then, that the best recommendations following ash fall is to remove it immediately, in total, if possible. otherwise, attempts at reseeding into the ash will have to be made. There is no question that grasses will germinate in the ash and that turf can be re-established.

The worst physical characteristics of the ash are that the material is structureless, fine in texture, and transmits water very slowly. This will, of course affect root growth and movement of applied water to the root zone.

During August we will be conducting tests at both Moses Lake and Ritzville to determine aftermath of the ash fall with respect to turfgrass quality, infiltration rates of water and problems encountered in managing turf at this time.

There is no question that newly seeded grasses will survive in ash. Ash samples collected at Moses Lake were potted in the greenhouse and were planted individually to bluegrasses, ryegrasses, fescues, and bentgrass; at this time they are surviving beautifully without any added fertilizer and the roots have penetrated to the bottom of the pots.

(Continued on Page 8)



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LOW MAINTENANCE OF TURFGRASSES

(Continued from Page 7)

by Roy L. Goss

The energy situation, spiraling inflation, and escalating labor costs are taking their toll in the turfgrass industry. There is no question but what fertilizer materials, particularly those derived from petroleum products, will cost more money if not become short in supply during our working span of years. It may be closer than we think. It will be very important for each geographic area to know the minimum efforts that must be expended to maintain reasonably high quality turfgrasses. For these reasons, we have oriented our major project for the next five years into investigating the lowest practical maintenance programs for turfgrasses.

Blocks of turf type perennial ryegrasses, fine leaved fescues, Kentucky bluegrasses, and bentgrasses are being established during August for the initiation of these studies. Attempts will be made to maintain pure culture through the use of presently known effective pre and post emergent chemicals and minimum levels of nitrogen nutrition. These plots will also be maintained at lowest levels of irrigation and zero or minimum fungicide programs. Quality assessments will be made periodically to rate acceptability of the program. More emphasis will be placed on judicious timing of fertilizer applications with special emphasis on at least one winter application. The initial treatments should be ready for viewing at the Turfgrass Field Day in June, 1981.

Although the water moves through the pots rather slowly, excess water drains through the bottom of the pot within a few hours.

In the Yakima region the ash deposits were of an entirely different physical nature. Most of this material could be classed in the medium to fine sand range for particle size and in most respects, constituted a topdressing on turfgrass areas. This certainly is not the case in the Moses Lake, Ritzville, Colfax, and Pullman areas and areas farther to the east.

More will be said about ash as information becomes available.

NORTHWEST TURFGRASS CONFERENCE September 21-25, 1980

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Communications concerning content of this paper should be directed to Dr. Roy Goss, Editor, Western Washington Research and Extension Center, Puyallup, Washington 98371.

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