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A Patch of Green

Official Publication of the
Michigan & Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association

6th ANNUAL **GOLF DAY**

Friday, Sept. 17

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**Entry blanks may be found in all Pro Shops - Make up a team
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HARSENS ISLAND, AUGUST 4th

Our early August meeting was held at the Mid-Channel Golf and Country Club, Harsens Island, Mich. It was quite an experience crossing the channel to the island on a ferry; Did you ever try steering the ferry with your car's steering wheel? What a surprise when you start driving off the ferry and your wheels are turned in the wrong direction.



JON MANOS, SUPT. MID-CHANNEL GOLF & CC WITH HIS BROTHER THE CHEF.

Host Superintendent, Jon Manos had the course in superb condition and his brother, the chef, served a delicious meal.

Golf Chairman, Bob Prieskom, reported twenty golfers entered the Kickers Tournament and he passed out prizes to eighteen players. Bob was the Low Gross winner with a 74.



TAKING THE FERRY BOAT TO HARSENS ISLAND TO ATTEND AUGUST MEETING.

CECIL KERR, AUGUST MEETING SPEAKER

Cecil Kerr spoke to us about his favorite subject - *Poa annua control with arsenicals (Chip Cal)*. His main subject was "Agriculture and the Environment." Did you know there are 10,000 kinds of insects found on golf courses and some 1,500 different diseases.

People are our biggest problem. Man is the endangered species. What would we do without pesticides? About half of our population couldn't survive without the use of pesticides to protect our farm crops.

Arsenicals and Phosphates (two chemicals being blamed for serious pollution) are similar in their properties, they are both tied up in soil. There is no movement in the soil therefore no movement into the drainage waters entering streams.

Food costs would be come prohibited without crop protectants.



CECIL KERR,
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AUGUST
SPEAKER

It takes 2½ to 12 million dollars to test new products and get them approved for market. The time necessary may vary from three to eight years before label approval is obtained.

NEXT MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 1971
DAVISON COUNTRY CLUB
Bob Minto, Host Superintendent

With our severe drought continuing we are all watering more and enjoying it less. The more we water the greater our chances are of creating problems with water impurities commonly found in irrigation water. Ed.

FROM A PAMPHLET ENTITLED **THE WATER IS IN YOUR HANDS**

By Arch Smith

Irrigation water, whether it comes from streams, ponds, lakes or reservoirs, contains dissolved minerals and gases that are detrimental to plant growth.

Boil a pan of water on your stove - notice the residue left in the pan - look at the flower pots, see the white chalky ring that is left after the water has evaporated. Even the tap water from your home faucet that appears crystal clear contains these minerals.

The percentage and type of these harmful minerals varies from well to well and stream to stream, but they all contain harmful minerals and soluble salts to some extent. Rain water in surface drainage to streams and ponds or in deep penetration for well supplies, dissolves and absorbs the soil minerals. Rain water itself contains carbon dioxide gases which form bi carbonate compounds of the soils contacted. Every State and Federal Geological Water Survey report gives the prediction that "All Irrigated Soils Will in Time Have a Soluble Salts Problem." Bi carbonate mineral forms are strongly absorbed on soil particles and since growing grass plants cannot absorb them for growth, each irrigation season adds to the previous year's accumulation in the soil.

Sewerage, detergents and industrial wastes dumped into the streams further reduces the quality and purity of the water. Stream travel of five miles, at one time considered ample

to oxidize sewerage is no longer sufficient due to the chemical wastes and detergents. Pollution of this type is practiced in every section of the country according to the United States Department of the Interior.

Well waters too, have deteriorated due to higher mineral content. Water tables that should be maintained by rainfall against the amount withdrawn to keep lowest mineral content, have been lowered by increased use of water in almost all areas. Mineral bi carbonates in many cases have doubled in the past 10 years.

Hydrology Survey findings show that the water tables have lowered to the extent that much of the water being used in the Middle West today is 100 years old.

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THE PROBLEM OF CONTAMINATED WATER

By V. J. Zolman, Supt. of South Shore CC, Chicago, Illinois

Experts in turf-grass maintenance frequently mention the role of irrigation water in establishing a healthy turf. However, the usual emphasis is on water as a solvent for chemical compounds in the soil, or as a transporter of nutrients within plants or as a prerequisite for metabolism and normal growth of grasses. Seldom considered are ingredients and chemical compounds applied to lawns in irrigation water. Yet, these compounds, having once reached a certain degree of concentration in the soil, may critically influence the general soil environment and the growth of grasses.

Turf-grass facilities are usually located around big cities. Golf courses, for example, are often established on small running waters or near artificial lakes to provide a variety of playing conditions, pretty scenery - and irrigation water. Very often overlooked is the fact that newly developed housing and industrial plants in the area may cause the water used for irrigation to become polluted with wastes, salts and detergent residues. Repeated application of such water may lead to accumulation of harmful chemicals in the soil. Thus, in many instances, the turf problems of a golf course around a big city may be intimately associated with irrigation water. Lake Michigan water for instance has the content of Epsom Salt close to the minimum acceptable standard.

Potentially harmful effects of irrigation water have been acknowledged by several scientists and research stations. It has been pointed out that if soil and climatic conditions (such as high temperature, soil moisture and humidity) are favorable, then "...The fungi known to be most damaging to grasses subsist in dead organic matter such as mat and thatch

as well as on live grass plants. They are constantly present, and may become actively parasitic on a grass plant, if the plants lose vigor. If irrigation waters contain ingredients such as chemical waste, salts or other chemical compounds which are toxic even to minor degree to a grass plant, the plant may be damaged to the point that it loses disease resistance and is thus subject to attack by the constantly present fungi. Once the balance between plant resistance and susceptibility is tilted in favor of the fungus, disease conditions can reach critical proportions. If at any time there is evidence that the supply of water is damaging to existing turf such water should be tested immediately."

MSU FIELD DAY

Our fall Field Day at the MSU campus, East Lansing, Michigan will be held September 9.

Let's all attend and see some of the fine work being done by the staff members in turf. Much of the research is made possible by our support. *Take advantage of it!*

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OVERWATERING CAUSES GRASS WILT

from **GROUNDS MAINTENANCE**, March 1969

Too much water and too much fertilizer often cause grass wilt, says Harry Meusel of Yale University.

Speaking at the first Delaware Turfgrass Conference, Meusel explained that wilt occurs when grasses lose more moisture than they absorb. Since heavily watered grass has about twice as many surface pores as lightly watered grass, it loses moisture faster and wilts sooner in hot weather.

Temperature and light intensity also affect wilting, he said. At temperatures below 70 degrees F., very little wilting occurs. While above 70 degrees F., wilt increases rapidly, especially in heavily watered grass. Light intensity, which affects size of surface pores, also influences wilting. Grasses in shaded areas wilt more slowly than those in bright sunny sites.

Because more water evaporates from plants after fertilization, fertilizer applications should be avoided during the wilting season, Meusel pointed out.

The best safeguard against wilting is a strong root system. Here again, heavily watered grass can be a problem since root systems are usually short and stubby when moisture is readily available near the soil sur-

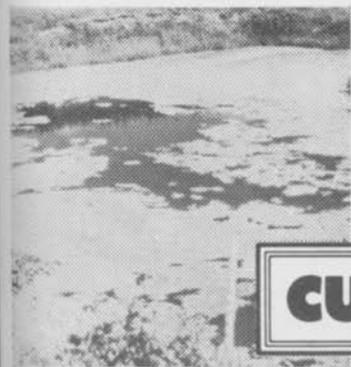
face. Lightly watered grass has long, thin roots that reach deep into the soil making it less susceptible to wilting.

Application of a phenol mercuric acetate solution will also help protect grass from wilting by closing the leaf pores, Meusel added.

MBCGCSA PICNIC

The annual picnic was held on July 31st at Burroughs Farm. It was a great day for a picnic as the eighty people, including 37 children, who attended can attest. We are grateful for the planning and arrangements made by George Prieskorn, host Superintendent and Chairman, Clem Wolfrom and his helpers who handled the kid's games, namely Gordie Lafontaine and his wife Eilene. The annual picnic seems to be picking up interest. Each year it gets better than the last.

When another day has arrived, we will find that we have consumed our yesterday's tomorrow; another morrow will urge on our years, and still be a little beyond us. - *Persius*



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WATERING AND MOWING PRACTICES ARE RELATED

As summarized by Dr. James Watson, Director of Agronomy, Toro Mfg. Co.

Watering practices are related to clipping height and frequency because of the influence of clipping on root development.

Mowing is not a simple operation to be regarded merely as a means of removing excess growth. Mowing is a management practice essential to a satisfactory playing surface. Mowing practices are related to the species and strain of turfgrass being grown. The inherent characteristics of the plant determine the height to which it may be cut. Mowing is the most time consuming of all management practices and has far reaching effects on the longevity of any turfgrass area.

To use water properly requires an understanding of the fundamental role water plays in plant growth; of the

effects climate and weather have on growth rates; how they influence water use rates and choice of grass. Good watering practices demand a knowledge of the basic physical and chemical soil properties, how they effect water absorption, storage and drainage as well as the frequency, rate and manner in which water must be applied.

Further, proper use of water means correlating such basic information with the requirements for play, for mowing and other management practices and programming a watering schedule to fit the existing irrigation facilities, so as to make the most efficient use of them and the available labor force.

Can You Remember When?

You're old enough to remember the real America if you can remember when you never dreamed your country could lose.

- *When you left your front door open.*
- *When you went to church and the preacher preached from the Bible.*
- *When a girl was a girl - when a boy was a boy - and you could tell them apart.*
- *When even the word 'Socialism' was a dirty word.*
- *When the poor were too proud to take charity.*
- *When a nickel was worth five cents.*
- *When you bragged about your hometown - your state - and your nation.*
- *When the flag was a sacred symbol.*
- *When this Government stood up for Americans.*
- *When a man who went wrong was blamed - not his mother's nursing habits or his father's income.*
- *When everyone knew right from wrong.*
- *When things were not perfect and you didn't expect them to be.*
- *When people still had the capacity for indignation.*
- *When sick meant that you were not feeling well.*
- *When people expected less and valued what they had more.*
- *When everyone was not entitled to an annual wage whether he worked or not.*
- *When a man's word was his bond.*
- *When America was the land of the free and the home of the brave.*

Anonymous

Reprinted from NAC Newsletter, Washington D.C., May 31, 1971

The perfect combination of equipment for maintaining superb greens is the Ryan "Green Team." This turf trio of rugged, proven machines provides a system for keeping perfect greens.



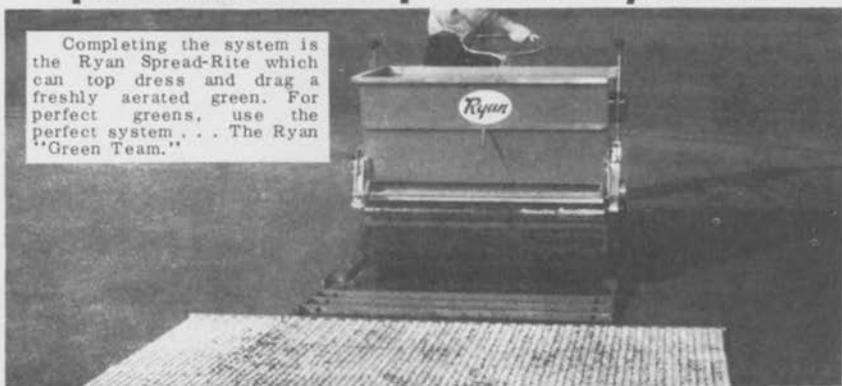
First, you use the Ryan Greensaire which aerates and dethatches in one easy operation. The Greensaire removes more cores (3" long) than any other aerator made. Its fast, clean coring action removes over 2 cu. yds. of soil and thatch per 5,000 square feet.

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NAME OF INTERESTED PERSON _____

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Or you may contact the next golf course supplier that calls on
you and give him the information needed for application.

TORO ACQUIRES RAKE-O-VAC LINE

Toro Manufacturing Corporation has added to its Turf Products Division a versatile machine that operates like a huge vacuum cleaner to pick up litter and debris from both soft and hard surfaces and includes a turf renovator.

Called the Rake-O-Vac, the machine was introduced as a new Toro product at the annual show of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America in Denver last week.

All rights to the Rake-O-Vac line were acquired recently by Toro from Goodwin Equipment Service, Inc., of Manteca, Calif. The price paid was not disclosed.

David T. McLaughlin, Toro's president, described the acquisition as one of the first major steps in implementing the company's recently-announced policy to broaden its corporate activities in the area of environmental beautification and main-

tenance. He said the company is actively seeking, through both internal development and acquisition, other products and services that could become part of this new business concept.

Dr. Finn J. Larsen, vice president and general manager of Toro's Turf Products Division, said the Rake-O-Vac
Continued on next page



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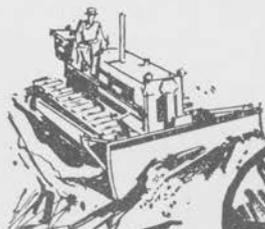
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Vac is capable of performing clean-up and maintenance functions that previously required three different machines.

With three interchangeable reels, each more than 58 inches wide, it is a rake, a sweeper and a turf conditioner, with a powerful vacuum and an enclosed hopper that has a carrying capacity of more than a ton (approximately 115 cubic feet).

The Rake-O-Vac has an 18-horsepower two cylinder gasoline engine that powers a 24-inch double inlet centrifugal vacuum fan and the reel units. With an empty weight of 2,060 pounds, it may be drawn by utility vehicle, tractor or light truck. It is equipped with balloon flotation tires to protect soft turf.

Dr. Larsen said the Rake-O-Vac is ideally suited for parks, golf courses, cemeteries, institutions, city streets, parking lots, school yards, stadiums and ball parks.

It picks up leaves, pine needles and cones, twigs, clippings and small debris, including paper plates, beverage cans and light bottles.

When used on turf as a rake in advance of mowing, it combs through and lifts the grass and long runners to assure more uniform cutting. As it cleans, its light scarifying action increases water and pesticide penetration to reduce maintenance costs and the need for renovation.

The rotary rake is standard equipment; the sweeper reel and renovator reel are accessories.

The rotary rake, with 564 extruded nylon teeth in six rows, lifts litter from turf. The rotary sweeper, with polypropylene bristles, is for hard surfaces. The renovator reel has 30 heat-treated steel blades that swing on three axles.

Dr. Larsen said the patented nylon teeth on the rotary rake will not mar bronze or stone markers, sidewalks or pavement.

He described the Rake-O-Vac as one of the most important new turf-maintenance machines developed in more than a decade.

MEET THE BOARD

This month we're featuring Director Clem Wolfrom, Superintendent of Detroit Golf Club.

Clem was actually born into the game of golf - his birthplace was in the present day Clubhouse of Maple Lane Golf Club. He began working for wages in 1948. After graduation from high school he entered MSU in 1951. His graduation in 1956 in the school of Ornamental Horticulture was followed by his acceptance as Assistant Golf Course Superintendent to Mr. Phillipson, the Superintendent of Dearborn Country Club. In March of 1957 Clem became the Superintendent of Dearborn CC. This position was short lived because Clem went into the service in September, 1957. In March of 1958 he returned to Dearborn as Superintendent until leaving in March of 1962 to accept the position of Golf Course Superintendent of the Detroit Golf Club.



After serving on the local Board in several capacities he became President of the Michigan and Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association in 1967 and was re-elected in 1968.

Clem is presently on the Board of Directors of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation and a past Director of the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation at Purdue University.

Golf and deer hunting are Clem's hobbies. He resides in Troy with his wife, Jan, and their two children.

Don't apologize for being yourself. Just be sure you are the best person you can possibly be. There's no reason why you shouldn't be proud of yourself if you work with concern and purpose, and strive for high values.

- Walter MacPeck

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- Charles A. Chamberlain

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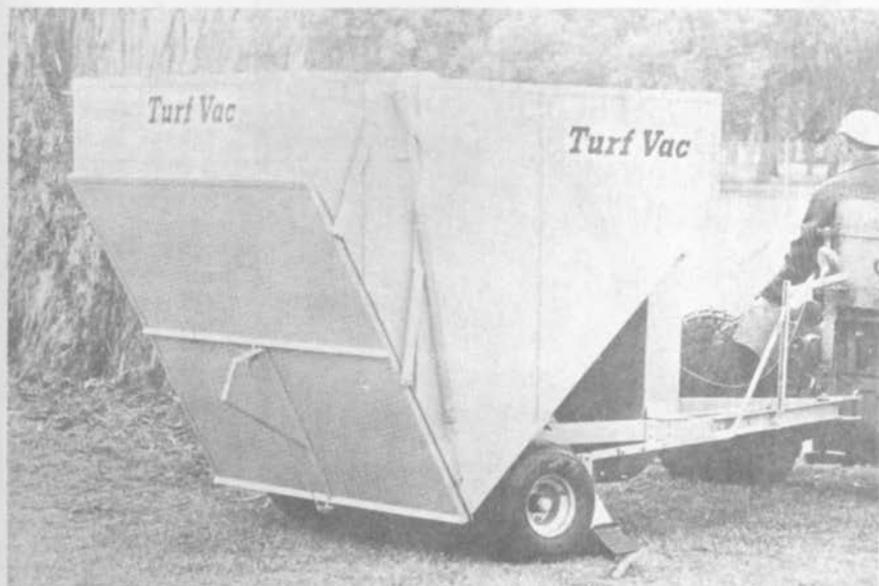
As your Scotts Technical Representative, I'd like to share Scotts most current turf grass research and development information with you. With this information, perhaps we can work together toward meeting your turf grass objectives.

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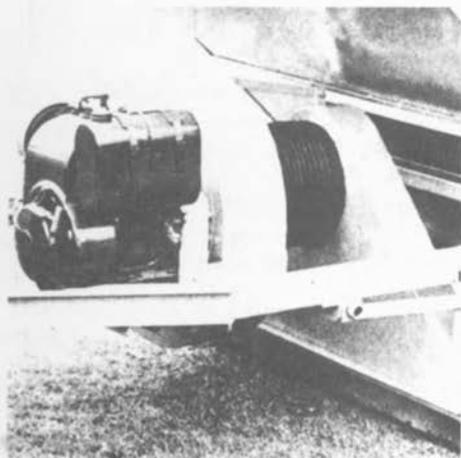
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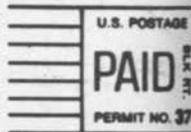
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