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September 1979



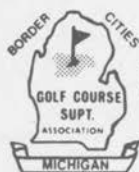
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A PATCH of GREEN

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



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Getting Organized: How to schedule your day

If your workload keeps growing as fast as your workday seems to shrink, maybe your problem is a lack of organization.

A few minutes spent in planning can help you get more accomplished each day and help you run your operation more efficiently. Not everyone can be an efficiency expert, but even the most disorganized person can get more done by planning his work more efficiently. These eight suggestions can help.

1. At the end of each workday, take a few minutes to schedule the next day's activities - phone calls, meetings, interviews, and projects. Make a list, with the most important to be accomplished at the top. As other important things come up, you may have to change your plans, but having a list can help you keep your priorities in mind.

2. Schedule work according to your own personal efficiency. Not everyone works at peak efficiency first thing in the morning, so you should schedule the important things for a time when you are at your sharpest.

3. Decide whether you would rather tackle the tough projects first and get them out of the way, or ease into them by finishing the smaller tasks first.

4. Tough problems take concentration, and it is impossible to concentrate when you are continually interrupted. If you know you are going to have to deal with a thorny problem, set aside some time for it. Let everyone know that you don't want to be disturbed and make yourself work at it.

5. Use an action request form for assigning tasks to your subordinates. It should include a description of the job, a deadline, and a person responsible for its completion. This system

makes for more paperwork, but it does make assigning jobs easier and gives you a written record for reference.

6. Take a close look at the things that make up your day. Some of them may be merely habit and no longer necessary. Cut ruthlessly. A collection of minor tasks can take valuable time away from the more important duties.

7. Group similar tasks into one time period. If you have to do similar things at different times during the day, try doing them all at once. Switching your concentration from one job to another can take more time than you think.

8. Don't agonize over decisions. There is a difference between spending a reasonable amount of time considering alternatives and delaying a decision because it is an uncomfortable one.

If you have to make a decision, make it. The only way you can avoid making a decision is by waiting until you have only one alternative remaining. That last alternative may be the worst of the bunch.

These eight suggestions may not make you an efficiency expert, but they may help you reevaluate your work habits. Not everyone works the same way, but it is important to find a system that works for you. Set your own schedule and follow it. You will be surprised at how much you can accomplish. -Fore Front

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October 24 & 25, 1979

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Dew is not dew

By Tom Mascaro

Turfgrass Products Corporation, North Miami, Florida

Dew, in the popular sense, is water of condensation. Dew forms on a cold surface when the air is warm and water is present as humidity.

The "Dew" we find on Turfgrass areas is not water of condensation. This water is the plant sap being pumped out or "exudated" from the hydathodes. The hydathodes are relief mechanisms that transport excess water out of the plant system.

Relatively speaking, very little research has been done on this important function of Turfgrass culture. In 1887, Dr. Marloth in Egypt studied the Tamarix (salt cedar) and found that it extruded salts and identified them.

Dr. J.K. Wilson, Cornell University, in 1923, found that the difference in dew on the Turfgrass area was not due to soil moisture, but to the species that grew. He classified the different grasses in the following manner:

1. Bentgrasses, Bermudagrasses and Poa Annua are the prolific pumpers of exudate and rated them high.
2. The Bluegrass family (with the exception of Poa Annua) were medium pumpers of exudate.
3. Zoysiagrasses, Fescuegrasses and Ryegrasses were low pumpers and produced the least amount of exudated water.

The difference in the rate of exudation explains why we can observe patches of heavy "dew" on Turfgrass areas that are not pure strands.

Dr. Endo, University of California, in 1969, found that spores of dollar spot fungus grew sparingly in ordinary water, but when the spores were germinated in exudated water, they grew sparingly to well, and caused a variable amount of infection. In other words, exudated water increased infection and disease. It induced acceleration and an increase in spore germination.

Dr. G.N. Hoffer, Purdue University, in 1949, demonstrated that quickly available nitrogen was rapidly transported through the leaf tissue and into exudated water. The high salt content of the exudate caused leaf, stem and root burn.

With this background information we can begin to understand better why the United States Golf Association Green Section advocated syringing of greens many years ago. Their findings indicated that the Superintendent who syringed greens in the early morning had less disease than those who didn't.

This practice simply diluted the concentration of the exudated water and rendered it harmless.

Exudated water contains glutamine, a form of sugar that is ideal for bacterial and fungal growth. If you touch your hand to exudated water, you feel the stickiness of this material, which is identically the same as the plant sap.

The salt index of exudated water will rise sharply when quickly available plant foods (especially nitrogen) are applied. If these salts are allowed to accumulate in the thatch or compacted soil, surface root, stem or lower leaf burn may occur. The potency of the exudate can be demonstrated by gathering a cupful from a well fertilized green and pouring it in

PENNSYLVANIA TURFGRASS CONFERENCE

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Contact: Arthur D. Wick, P.O. Box 362,
Sewickley, Pa. 15143, or Christine E. King,
Secretary-Treasurer, Pennsylvania Turfgrass
Council, 412 Blanchard Street,
Bellefonte, Pa. 16823.

Continued on next page

Dew is not dew cont.

one spot. A chemical burn will result.

These combinations of factors can and do have a profound effect upon the survival of Turfgrasses under certain conditions. Until more research is conducted to supply more information, the wise turf manager will:

1. Practice early morning syringing to dilute exudated water.
2. Use sufficient water to wash the exudate into the soil. Aerify to insure water intake.
3. Use slowly available plant foods to minimize the salt concentration in the exudate. If quickly available plant foods are used, split the feeding into light amounts on a frequent basis.
4. Control thatch to minimize the accumulation of the exudate. Frequent verticutting, light topdressing, dragging, brushing, all help to keep excess thatch under control.
5. pH is a factor that can be related to exudated water. The lower the pH the more susceptible Turfgrasses are to disease attack. Dusting (during periods of stress) with 5 to 10 lbs. of hydrated lime per 1,000 sq. ft. when grass is dry, or applying Dolomitic limestone, 10 or 20 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft., will change the pH in the thatch layer, which can become very acid.

I hope that this discussion "Dew Is Not Dew" has given you a better understanding of this rather unrecognized subject.

Some will continue to call it "Dew". Others will call it "Exudated

Water". Another common name is "Guttated Water", or "Guttation Water". Poets will eternally call it "Fairy Rain". By whatever name we call this liquid that is exuded from the Hydathodes of the grass leaf, we must always remember that this is a normal function of the plant. The Turfgrass Manager recognizes this basic principle and adapts management practices to it wisely, is the one who will produce superior putting surfaces for better golf.

Diseases of Turfgrasses

A new booklet which you may wish to add to your turfgrass library is this publication containing 80 color photographs along with the narration from the Crop Science of America's slide set "Diseases of Turfgrasses." If you are like most of us who would like to know more about turfgrass diseases, I believe you will find this publication quite valuable. It includes a concise written and visual description of all the major diseases of turfgrass. Single copies are \$5.00 and are available from: Crop Science Society of America, 677 South Segoe Road, Madison, WI 53711.

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Canada Geese a problem

United States Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
One Gateway Center, Newton Corner, Maine

Of all the waterfowl, Canada geese, particularly, are opportunists and take advantage of the easy living conditions offered them by people. The problem is not new; nor is it confined to one area of the country. In Southern New England and the Central Atlantic States suburban goose flocks have developed during the past several years. In these areas, there are situations where people have inadvertently encouraged geese by their landscaping and other area beautification.

Canada geese require fresh water areas for resting and nesting; and new tender grasses, grains, or other succulent vegetation for feed. Therefore, the well-manicured lawns of homes, golf courses and parks located near water provide ideal sites and attract geese.

Conflicts have now developed because although few Canada geese in an area are acceptable, flocks are no longer small and are expanding as the young birds return. Frequently, this means extensive grazing of grass and considerable volumes of droppings in some areas. Reservoirs, swimming pools, beaches, and other bathing areas become fouled, and sanitation problems occur when these birds congregate. Noise becomes intense during the evening, night, and early morning as these birds "talk" to each other.

In spite of the problems, these birds are a valuable natural resource and a source of recreation to the general public, bird watchers and hunters alike.

Geese, like all native waterfowl and other migratory birds, are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. This Act states that it is unlawful to hunt, kill, sell, purchase or

possess migratory birds, except as permitted by regulations adopted by the Secretary of the Interior. This protection of migratory birds is indicative of the value placed on this natural resource.

To solve the problems Canada geese are causing, the most important consideration is timing. It is much easier and more effective to drive birds from an area when they first arrive. Once they become established, they become more tolerant to disturbances and are more reluctant to leave.

Devices commonly used to move birds from an area follow:

Mechanical Barriers

The use of fences, hedgerows, or any physical device to control the movement of Canada geese is perhaps the most effective tool in controlling these birds. In the majority of problem areas, the geese walk - not fly - to and from the pond to the feeding areas. A low, solid fence or other barrier to prevent access to any area may be all that is needed to solve a problem.

Diminishing Attractive Factors

Since geese generally walk when leaving a waterway to feed, the edges of ponds and streams can be banked (using rock walls, wood cribbing, or other means) to prevent goose movement. Vegetation, such as grasses along the water's edge, can be changed to less desirable ground cover plants. Do not keep vegetation mowed short as this encourages new growth on which the birds will feed. Do not create small islands or peninsulas as they provide good nesting sites for geese. If they exist, consider changes to make these areas unavailable to the birds.

Continued on next page



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Canada Geese cont.

Feeding

In many instances, a major attraction to geese is the supplemental food offered by people to attract and hold the birds in an area. If geese are a problem, all feeding should be discontinued to force the birds to revert back to natural food supplies. In most instances, this will make an area less attractive to geese.

Bird Control Shotgun Shells

A permit may be required for firearms. Special shells will project a noise bomb up to 75 yards and are fired from a 12-gauge shotgun. By utilizing these shells when geese first come into an area, they can be effectively persuaded to go elsewhere. The use of these shells in conjunction with balloons as scarecrows will enhance the effectiveness of both.

Balloons

Large balloons, 30 inches in diameter, filled with helium, tethered on a 40-50 foot monofilament line will

give the scarecrow effect. One red balloon for every five to ten acres should give effective results in the daytime. At night, white or yellow balloons should be used.

Scarecrows

Scarecrows, a traditional method of controlling birds may be quite effective, if properly used. It is not necessary to spend time making an elaborate design as a loose sack of straw or a wide streamer of plastic will frequently suffice. Proper placement and constant motion are also important.

Automatic Exploders

A permit may be required to use these devices as they operate on propane gas and generate a noise much louder than a shotgun. The noise intensity and timing can be controlled manually. Exploders should be used only in areas where excessive noise will not create a nuisance.

Rugged individualism

By David Shallenberger, Tri-County Association

A young man lived with his parents in a public housing development. He attended public school, rode the free school bus, participated in the free lunch program, played in State parks, swam in the City pool. He entered the Army and upon discharge kept his national life insurance. He then enrolled in the State University, working part-time in the State Capitol to supplement his GI check.

Upon graduation he married a public health nurse, and bought a farm with an FHA loan, and then obtained a Small Business Administration loan to go into business. A baby was born in the County hospital. He bought a ranch with the aid of another GI loan and obtained emergency feed from the Government.

Later he put part of his land into the Soil Bank. His parents live comfortable on the ranch with their Social Security and Old Age Assistance checks. REA lines supplied electricity. The Department of Agriculture helped clear the land. The County agent showed him how to terrace it. Then the Government paid part of the costs of a pond and stocked it with fish. He was guaranteed a sale for his farm products by a federal agency.

Books from the Public Library were delivered to his door. He banked money which a Government agency insured.

Then one day he wrote to his Congressman: "I wish to protest excessive Government spending and high taxes. I believe in rugged individualism. I am opposed to all socialistic trends and I demand a return to the principles of our Constitution."

Reprinted from Divot News

Charles Gaige appointed to MBCGCSA Board of Directors

Dear Member,

This letter is to inform you that Mr. Roger O'Connell has resigned from the Board of Directors of the Michigan and Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association, effective June 15, 1979. In accordance with the by-laws of our association, Article III, Section 3, paragraph B, I, as president, have appointed Mr. Charles Gaige, Superintendent of Lakelands Golf and Country Club, to the Board until our next election. Mr. Gaige ran for the board in 1978 and I am sure he will be a great asset to our association.

At our next annual election, we will elect one additional Board member to complete the one year remaining on Mr. O'Connell's term. His term expires December 31, 1980.

Yours for better turf,
C.H. Wolfrom, Jr.
President MBCGCSA

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Industry News

Ames presents plaque to Terminal Sales Corporation



August 6, 1979 - Mr. Rick Keup (left) and Ames Area Sales Manager Mr. Ed Sorg (right) presents a plaque to Terminal Sales Corporation recognizing their 50 years of service to the lawn and garden industry. Representing

Terminal Sales is Mr. Ken Plaskey, Sales Manager (2nd from left) and Mr. Frank Orier, President (2nd from right).

Ames a McDonough company is a manufacturer of lawn, garden, and Plumb striking tools.

Wilkie Turf announces promotions

Walter J. Wilkie, President, announced that David A. Pedersen has been named Vice President - Operations and Donald W. Baxter has been named Vice President - Consumer Products.

Mr. Pedersen has been with the company since December of 1974 serving most recently in the capacity of Assistant General Manager. Prior to that he was with Alexander Grant & Company where he was a C.P.A. Mr. Baxter has been with the company from its beginning, and most recently was its Manager - Consumer Products.

To fill the two vacancies, Mr. Ed

Boccaccio a CPA of the nationally known firm of Alexander Grant & Company will join Wilkie Turf as Chief Accountant and Mr. Gene Muenchausen will join the company as Manager - Toro Consumer Products. Other changes include: Mr. James Barden, named Manager - McCulloch Products, and Mr. Jim Barr named Manager - Parts & Service.

Don Benham forms new company

Don Benham, formerly the sales representative for L&E Chemical Division, has formed BENHAM CHEMICALS.

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located at 3190 Martin Road, Walled Lake, Mich. The phone number is 624-3200, We wish him well.

In the meantime, the L&E Chemical Division announces the appointment of Mr. Norm Ax as their sales representative replacing Don Benham. Norm has been associated with turf for the past 22 years. Norm has 10 years experience as a golf course superintendent. Norm can be reached at 398-3636. The Lawn Equipment Corporation is located in Royal Oak, Michigan.

Century Rain-Aid opens additional Florida branch

Tampa, Florida is the location of an additional new Century Rain-Aid irrigation center and warehouse. "It will serve the expanding needs of the irrigation contractor, landscape, golf course, construction, multiple dwelling, consumer and municipal markets on the west coast of Florida," announced Ernie Hodas, President of

Century Rain-Aid.

As Rain Bird Master Distributor for Hillsborough County, Century Rain-Aid will distribute turf sprinkler equipment and all related supplies, offer full services and complete inventories.

Bob Elliott, the Century Rain-Aid Florida General Manager, announces appointment of George Brantley as Tampa warehouse manager. Brantley returns to the Florida west coast from the Carolinas where he managed an industrial distributor warehouse.

Located at 1930 N. Highway 301, Tampa, Florida, telephone: 813/621-2075, this new Century Rain-Aid addition becomes the second Florida facility and will augment the existing location at 1884 U.S. 18 South, Clearwater.

Century Rain-Aid also has other locations in Madison Heights, Southfield, Coldwater, Mich., and Elk Grove Village, Illinois; serving turf, agricultural, landscape, and waste water systems.

St. Louis Conference and Show plans well under way

Stouffers has been designated as the Headquarters Hotel for the 1980 Conference and Show to be held in St. Louis, February 17-22, 1980.

The local host chapter is the Mississippi Valley GCSA. Robert V. Mitchell, Jr. is the president of the Mississippi Valley GCSA and the Host Committee Chairman is Lee Redman. We are bound to have the biggest and best Conference and Show ever.

The Education Department is lining up the speakers for the Conference and Show and it looks as though there is going to be a wide range of topics covered. Topics that will be of interest to everyone.

The theme this year is "Conservation - Our Key to the Future."

A St. Louis Conference and Show Information flyer was mailed to all GCSAA members in August. The Conference Packet is scheduled to be mailed to all members in early October.

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The little red hen

Author unknown

Once upon a time, there was a little red hen who scratched about and uncovered some grains of wheat. She called her neighbors and said, "If we work together and plant this wheat, we will have some fine bread to eat. Who will help me plant this wheat?"

"Not I", said the cow. "Not I", said the duck. "Not I", said the goose. "Then I will," said the little red hen. And she did.

The wheat grew tall and ripened into golden grain. "Who will help me reap my wheat?" asked the little red hen. "Not I", said the duck. "Out of my classification," said the pig. "I'd lose my seniority," said the cow. "I'd lose my unemployment insurance," said the goose.

Then it came time to bake the bread. "That's overtime for me," said the cow. "I'm a dropout and never learned how," said the duck. "I'd lose my welfare benefits," said the pig. "If I'm the only one helping, that's discrimination," said the goose. "Then I will," said the little red hen. And she did. She baked five loaves of fine bread and held them up for her neighbors to see. They all wanted some, demanded a share. But the little red hen said, "No, I can rest for awhile and eat the loaves myself."

"Excess profits," cried the cow. "Capitalistic leech," screamed the duck. "Company fink," grunted the pig. "Equal rights," yelled the goose. And they hurriedly painted "Unfair" picket signs and marched around the little red hen singing, "We shall overcome" and they did.

For when the farmer came, he said, "You must not be greedy, little red hen. Look at the oppressed cow. Look at the disadvantaged duck. Look at the underprivileged pig. Look at the less fortunate goose. You are guilty of making second class citizens of them."

Continued on next page

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"But...but," said the little red hen, "I earned the bread."

"Exactly," said the farmer. "That is the wonderful free enterprise system; anybody in the barnyard can earn as much as he wants. You should be happy to have this freedom. In other barnyards, you'd have to give all five loaves to the farmer. Here, you give four loaves to your suffering neighbors". . .and they lived happily ever after, including the little red hen, who smiled and clucked, "I am grateful. I am grateful."

But her neighbors wondered why she never baked any more bread.....???

Termination

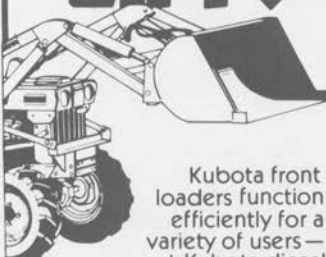
Now and then, every supervisor must face the unpleasant task of firing an employee. When that time comes for you, prepare as carefully as you did when you interviewed that employee for the first time.

Before the meeting, think carefully about the specific nature of your complaints and whether you have given the employee ample warning and an opportunity to improve. Don't throw away a potentially valuable employee just because you have not adequately communicated your desires to him. If no improvement takes place, make the termination interview clean and quick. Now is not the time to dwell on past failures, especially if there is nothing that can be done about them. Get to the point and end the meeting quickly. Be sure that the employee understands your decision is final and you will not be swayed by pleas for "one more chance".

Finally, give some serious thought to why your employee failed. Firing unsatisfactory employees should never become easy and if your termination rate is high, it probably reflects a flaw in your training system and management of employees.

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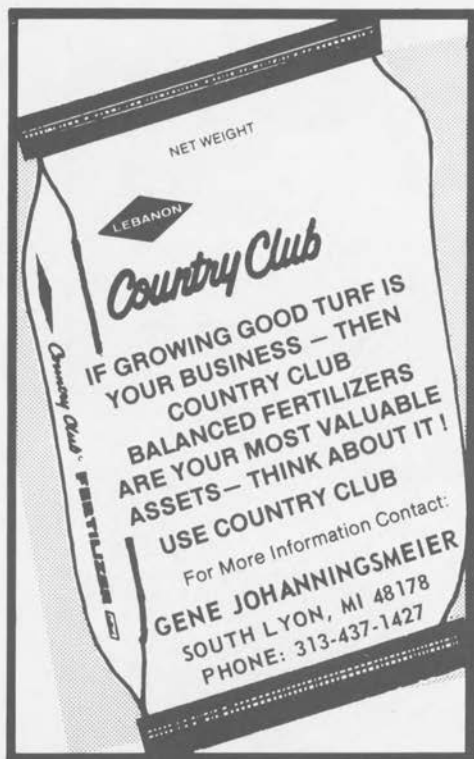
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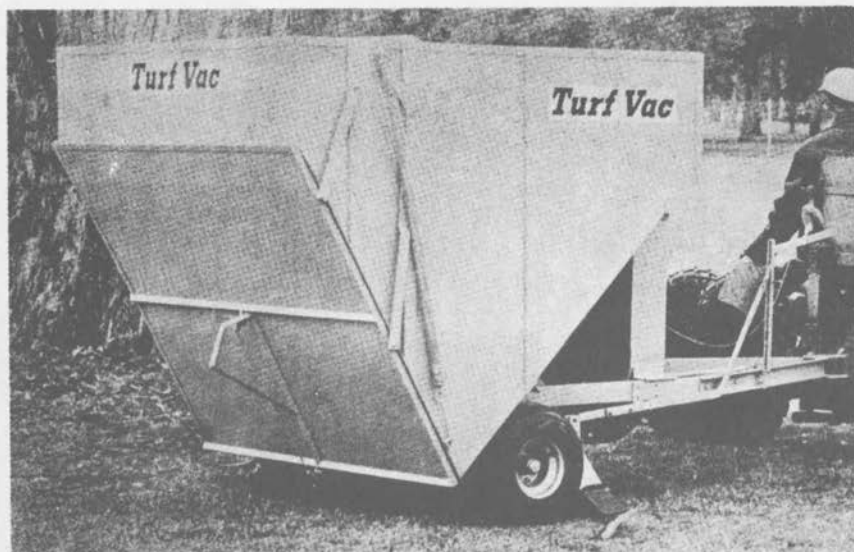
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