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# A PATCH of GREEN

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



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# YELLOW FAIRWAYS

By: Joseph M. Vargas

Many fairways in Michigan and surrounding states experienced yellow (chlorotic) turf on fairways and greens. The problem was observed on creeping bentgrass, annual bluegrass and Kentucky bluegrass. The problem was caused by the heavy rains and is commonly known as "wet wilt" which means the grass plant wilts even though (or because) the soil is saturated with water. Technically, when the soil becomes saturated with water, it removes the oxygen from the soil. Since water uptake is an active process, it requires oxygen and without it water cannot be taken up by the plant no matter how much is present. In addition, the root hairs which take up most of the water and nutrients die quickly in the absence of oxygen. This further complicates the problem because even after the soil dries and oxygen returns, there are no root hairs available to take up water and nutrients. It may be several days or even weeks depending on the environmental condition before new root hair are produced. In the meantime, the plant is incapable of taking up nutrients and water in quantities sufficient to maintain survival. Therefore, supplemental means of feeding the plant become necessary. Liquid nitrogen at 1/8 to 1/4 lbs/1000 sq. ft., in combination with iron sulfate helped the plants to

survive until new root hairs were produced. Discontinuing the normal irrigation cycle and syringing during the warm part of the day, helped the turf survive until new roots were produced. In all instances, "wet wilt" was worse where normal irrigation cycles were continued. Each season a little more information becomes available on how to maintain turf during stress periods. Hopefully over a period of time we will be able to develop cultural programs to deal with all the various situations.

## GOLF IN THE LATER YEARS

My muscles are flabby;  
I can't hit a drive.  
My mind often doubts if  
I'm really alive.  
My chipping is lousy,  
I never could putt.  
I guess I'll just stay home and  
just sit on my butt.  
My iron plays awful,  
my woods are as bad,  
I'm describing my game as a  
shade short of sad.  
So the outlook today is for  
grief and for sorrow.  
Say! who can we get for a  
fourth tomorrow?

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## Schwartzkopf Named Assistant National Director

Carl Schwartzkopf has been appointed Assistant National Director of the United States Golf Association's Green Section and Director of the Northeastern Region, it has been announced by P. J. Boatwright, Jr., Executive Director of the USGA.

Simultaneously, Stanley J. Zontek, Director of the Northeastern Region, was named to replace Schwartzkopf as Director of the North-Central Region, located in Crystal Lake, Illinois.

Both appointments are effective immediately and both have changed their headquarters. The change in directors will not affect the regional office staffs, which will remain unchanged.

Schwartzkopf is now located in the Green Section's office in Golf House, Far Hills, New Jersey, where he assists Alexander M. Radko, the Green Sec-

tion's National Director. He also administers the Northeastern Region, which is based at Golf House.

A graduate of Michigan State College in 1969, Schwartzkopf earned a master's degree in agronomy at Michigan State in 1971. He served as assistant superintendent of Oakland Hills Country Club, Birmingham, Michigan, before joining the Green Section staff June 1, 1971.

Agronomists William S. Brewer, Jr., and James T. Snow, of the Northeastern Region, have been named Assistant Directors of that Region.

Zontek, a 1970 graduate of Penn State University in turfgrass management, joined the Green Section staff February 19, 1971, as an agronomist in the Northeastern Region. He was appointed Director of that Region in 1976.



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# Landon's Turf Tips Using Charcoal

We've had a number of questions about the use of activated charcoal on turf over the years. Possible use of charcoal comes to mind when an excess amount of chemical has been applied to fine turf or when there is not enough time between chemical (herbicide) application and seeding other grasses. Several people have asked about the long range effects on future chemical applications from previous use of charcoal.

In 1974 J. A. Jagschitz published a paper in the Proceedings of the Second International Turfgrass Research Conference concerning his research on use of charcoal with 31 herbicides and 3 petroleum products in common use on or around fine turf.

The research showed that activated charcoal applied in separate experiments at various intervals from 7 weeks to 2 days prior to seeding improved a stand of Kentucky bluegrass, red fescue, and colonial bentgrass mixture when the seedbeds contained 2, 4-D, bandane, benefin, bensulide, DCPA, dicamba, mecoprop, nitratin, picloram, oxadiazon, silvex, simazine, and terbutol at normally used weed control rates. Charcoal was not needed for siduron as this herbicide did not inhibit grass establishment of these particular species. Charcoal did not deactivate diesel fuel, hydraulic oil, and a combination of amitrole plus

simazine. Chemicals which did not inhibit seedings and did not require charcoal were cacodylic acid, bentazon, dalapon, DSMA, gasoline, paraquat.

*Continued on Page 15*

## GCSAA MANAGEMENT MANUAL AVAILABLE

This is the first management manual specifically prepared for members of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. The manual entitled "Managing Human Resources - Getting Things Done Through People" was written by Ronald C. Frame, an Oklahoma City-based management consultant who has conducted a number of GCSAA management seminars.

The manual provides a concise, practical explanation of modern personnel management techniques and organizational dynamics, specifically adapted to golf course management.

The manual will be distributed as part of the registration fee to participants in the association's Management II Personnel seminars. Members may obtain copies for \$3.25, while the cost to non-members is \$5.25. Copies may be ordered from GCSAA Headquarters, 1617 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence, Kansas 66044.

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## GCSAA CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you and your members of the GCSAA Certification program. The program was established in 1971 to substantiate your work and accomplishments in continuing education. The Certified Golf Course Superintendent program is designed to recognize your expanding knowledge as you keep up with recent scientific and industrial developments in the industry.

The program offers:

- recognition of your educational efforts to stay informed about your industry, your association and your profession.
- an expression of keeping up with changes and advancements of your profession.
- a way to encourage proficiency in your profession.
- recognition of your commitment to

providing the best playing conditions for your course.

- continual self-improvement in all job-related activities.

Certification will designate you as a professional pacesetter and will add dignity and prestige to your profession. For more information please contact Palmer Maples, Jr., CGCS, Director of Education, GCSAA.

### LINCOLN'S ROAD TO THE WHITE HOUSE

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Defeated for legislature in 1832  
2nd failure in business in 1833  
Suffers nervous breakdown in 1836  
Defeated for Speaker in 1838  
Defeated for Elector in 1840  
Defeated for Congress in 1843  
Defeated for Congress in 1848  
Defeated for Senate in 1855  
Defeated for Vice President in 1856  
Defeated for Senate in 1858  
Elected President in 1860

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# TORO

# Putting the brakes on TENSION

Tension is a fact of life for anyone in a position of responsibility. The possibility of failure is one of our best motivations for putting out the extra effort that can make a success of whatever we attempt.

Unfortunately, it can get out of hand. When the obstacles begin to look larger than they really are, and our efforts to deal with them seem ineffectual, tension has taken over. In extreme cases, it can completely paralyze, or even bring on a variety of physical and mental illnesses that keep hospital beds full. Here are some suggestions for coping when things seem to be getting out of hand.

**Talk it out.** Sharing the burden will help relieve the strain. It may also clarify the problem and let you see a solution.

**Get out of town.** A change of scenery can often work wonders, even if it's only for a day or a weekend.

**Do something for others.** It will take your mind off your own problems, or at least let you see them in perspective.

**Work it off.** Chop some wood. Go for a brisk walk or a run. Hard physical work gives your mind a rest.

**Don't try to be a superman.** If you set your sights too high, you're bound to be frustrated. Take your goals one at a time.

**Give in, occasionally.** Even when you know you're right, sometimes it's easier to yield. It's better to bend than to break.

**Tackle one task at a time.** If you try to do several things at once, you may not do any of them right.

**Don't withdraw.** That usually just compounds the problem.

**Schedule your recreation.** Set a routine for relaxation and follow it, especially if you tend to drive yourself.

## THE MAIN DIFFERENCE

between private enterprise and government is found in this comparison: The formulas for making Coca Cola and Kentucky Fried Chicken are still secrets. How to make a hydrogen bomb is on the newsstand.

## AUTUMN!!!

A Pale Sun --  
And a gentle breeze,  
Alters this vast Terrain;  
Dripping Gold and Blushing Red,  
To enhance the Green;  
And the leaves of the Mother-Tree,  
Separates -- and trespasses;  
Their whispers invades the silence.

Frank Paladino

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# 6 ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS WE NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D ASK (BUT DECIDED TO ANSWER ANYWAY)

**1** Yes, GCSAA can help you become a better superintendent. One way it does this is through educational seminars and conference sessions it sponsors each year to help you become better informed about turfgrass diseases, pesticides, landscaping and management practices.

**2** Yes, GCSAA is helping to further the advancement of the turfgrass industry. Through the GCSAA Scholarship & Research Fund, Inc., GCSAA provided more than \$13,500 last year in research grants to leading turfgrass programs. GCSAA also provides educational opportunities to turfgrass students through annual turfgrass scholarships.

**4** Yes, GCSAA offers recognition for superintendents. Through its public relations efforts, its magazine, and its award programs, GCSAA helps promote the image and the professionalism of the superintendent. GCSAA also provides information to superintendents about how they can use public relations to promote their own image to their course, their community and their association.

**3** Yes, GCSAA provides a meeting ground for superintendents. Each year, GCSAA sponsors an annual conference and show for its members. Last year more than 6,500 educators, industry representatives and members from all over the world attended. GCSAA's executive committee decided at its last board meeting that the conference experience is so valuable that first-year members should be encouraged to attend by being given free admission.

**5** Yes, GCSAA provides each member with a life insurance program. Supplemental insurance, disability and pension programs also are available.

**6** No, GCSAA can't help you with your golf handicap. You'll have to work on that yourself.



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**A PATCH OF GREEN**

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**Landon's Turf Tips, Cont.**

and sodium arsenite. Charcoal rates varied from 100 to 500 pounds per acre.

Charcoal applied 7 to 9 weeks later at 200 pounds per acre alleviated damage to established bentgrass on a putting green after it received an application of 2, 4-D plus 2, 4, 5 - T.

Charcoal applied at 500 pounds per acre at intervals of 3 hours to 6 weeks did not reduce cool - season grass injury caused by amitrol plus simazine, bromacil, cacodylic acid, dalapon, diesel fuel, gasoline, hydraulic oil, maleic hydrazide, or paraquat. Some of these chemicals probably entered the plant system before charcoal could make physical contact. Others may not be readily adsorbed by charcoal. Little permanent damage resulted from 2, 4-D, bromoxynil, endothal, 2, 4-D plus dicamba, and 2, 4-D plus silvex as would be expected. However, the use of charcoal did reduce grass discoloration.

Permanent grass injury was caused by simazine and linuron but charcoal nullified this effect. Charcoal was applied at 500 pounds per acre 3 to 4 hours after herbicide application. These two chemicals enter the plant system primarily through the roots. Applying the charcoal to the foliage may adsorb the chemicals before it reaches the soil surface.

Three tests were conducted on the effect of bensulide on crabgrass control in turfgrass areas treated the previous year with 300 to 500 pounds per acre of activated charcoal in seedbeds. Of the 3 tests the herbicidal activity of bensulide was reduced in only one and only by 15%. Preemergence crabgrass herbicides can be expected to perform satisfactorily in the season after use of charcoal in seedbeds.

Additional tests were made to determine crabgrass control from several preemergence herbicides used in lawn areas treated earlier with surface application of charcoal at 100 to 400 pounds per acre. The effectiveness of bensulide was reduced when used 5 months after charcoal was applied at 200 and 400 pounds per acre. There was no reduction in bensulide effec-

*Continued on Page 17*

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To the atoms of the molecules in the ere of her air –

Her power rules every facet of every life;  
Her breasts harbor all in the largest of families;

A Witch, A Beast – She can unleash the qualms of God at Her will;  
A Mother, A Queen – She can cradle the Earth in a peaceful chaste –

FEAR HER –

RESPECT HER –

CHERISH HER –

SPURN HER –

WORK HER –

RELAX WITH HER –

BUT NEVER, EVER TAKE HER FOR GRANTED

---

## Dealing effectively with salesmen

Salesmen are a necessary part of your business operation. They keep you informed of new products and serve as a personal contact between you and your suppliers. When a product you need is in short supply, a good relationship with your salesman can make the difference between getting your order and going without.

Unfortunately, many superintendent/salesman contacts result in a lot of time and coffee being consumed with very little to show for it. Here are some ways you can organize your meetings with salesmen to save you both time and energy.

**PREPARE FOR SALES CALLS** by having some idea of what you will order. Study that firm's promotional literature and trade magazine advertisements to develop a list of questions about products which interest you.

**MAKE YOUR SALESMEN UNDERSTAND** that your time is valuable and that you have no intention of wasting it. Your regular salesmen should understand that you will have nothing to do with a salesman who wastes your time and his. After all, he is there for your convenience.

**TRAIN YOUR STAFF** to separate

the unimportant and unneeded items which salesmen are seeking to sell you from those products which could be of some value. Give someone on your staff the authority to turn down those which obviously have little value. Keep a list of your needs handy so that your staff can refer to it when a salesman calls.

**MEET WITH SALESMEN** in an area of your building where you are least likely to be interrupted. The few minutes each day you save by making your meetings more efficient will add up to a sizeable total by the end of the year.

**DON'T BOTHER YOUR SALESMEN** with matters over which they have no control. If you have a problem which they cannot solve, go directly to the company and use the time saved for more pressing matters.

It doesn't hurt to cement valuable relationships over an informal cup of coffee when you both have time to spare, but a hard look at the way you deal with salesmen can result in a considerable amount of time on everyone's part.

Forefront  
Nov. 1979

### Landon's Turf Tips, Cont.

tiveness when applied on turf receiving 100 pounds per acre of charcoal 5 months earlier. The same was true for DCPA, siduron, nitralin, bandane, and tricalcium arsenate. The author concludes that the adsorptive effect of charcoal when applied to the grass surface is potentially greater than when mixed with soil in seedbeds.

A final test conducted 17 months after charcoal application at 200 and 400 pounds per acre on established cool-season turf indicated no reduction in effectiveness of bensulide, DCPA, or siduron for crabgrass control.

The author also noted that higher rates of charcoal caused greater reductions in bensulide effectiveness while increased herbicide rates counteracted the retarding effect of charcoal.

#### Salt Tolerant Plants

There are more golf courses along the coast of the Carolinas than ever before. Additional courses are planned for future construction. Those immediately along the edge of the ocean and inlets (Links) are exposed to salt spray. As the fresh water table hets lower there is salt water creeping inland and invading irrigation water sources in wells and lakes. Storms also bring in excess quantities of salt water. All of this salt puts a lot of pressure on the local vegetation to withstand the changing environment.

Golf course superintendents interested in maintaining and improving the beauty of a seacoast course with plant materials other than mowed grasses should consider plants which are salt tolerant to avoid future problems. There is a book available entitled "Seacoast Plants of the Carolinas" for Conservation and Beautification by Karl E. Graetz, Plant Materials Specialist, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Raleigh, N. C. Columbia, S. C., February, 1973. 206 pages. This book contains descriptions of hundreds of grasses, vines, shrubs, forbs, and trees which are salt tolerant and useful for beach landscaping, stabilizing sand dunes, salt wind barriers, and helping mother nature improve the environ-

*Continued on Next Page*

## 51st ANNUAL MICHIGAN TURFGRASS CONFERENCE

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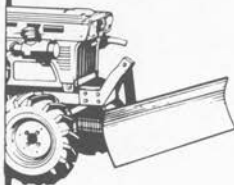
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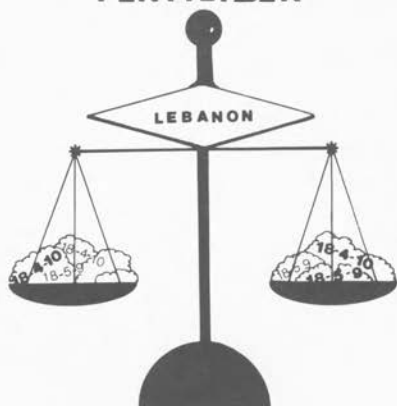
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### Landon's Turf Tips, Cont.

ment. As an example, the author says Japanese black pine is more salt spray resistant than any of the native pines. It is often planted in rows for borders on drives, property lines, and screens with a rather close spacing of 4 to 6 feet. It is also interesting as a single specimen or in groups. Superintendents should add this book to their library as a reference for salt tolerant plants.

### "THE BALL"

In my hand I hold a ball,  
White and dimpled, rather small.  
Oh how harmless it does appear,  
This innocent looking little sphere.  
By its size I could not guess,  
The awesome power it does possess.  
But since I fell beneath its spell,  
I've been through the fires of hell.  
My life has not been quite the same,  
Since I chose to play its game.  
It rules my mind for hours on end,  
A fortune it has had me spend.  
It has made me curse and cry,  
And hate myself and want to die.  
It promises me a thing called "Par",  
If I can hit it straight and far.  
To master such a tiny ball,  
Should not be very hard at all.  
But my desires the ball refuses,  
And does exactly as it chooses.  
It hooks and slices, dribbles and dies,  
Or disappears before my eyes.  
Often it will have a whim,  
To hit a tree or take a swim.  
With miles of grass on which to land,  
It finds that tiny patch of sand.  
Then has me offering up my soul,  
If it would first drop in the hole.  
It's made me whimper like a pup,  
And swear that I will give it up.  
And take to drink to ease my sorrow,  
But "The Ball" knows I'll be back tomorrow.



## Happy Holidays



# Season's Greetings

AND ALL GOOD WISHES FOR  
THE NEW YEAR



Bob, Burt, Don, Gordie, John Mac, John K., Dave,  
Roy, Jim, Ed, Ron & Paula

# Best Wishes for the Coming Season



*Hal Vogler*

from Hal Vogler and the W. F. Miller Staff

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