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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kevin Dushane

G.C.S. Bloomfield Hills Country Club

The end of the year is fast approaching and another golf season is behind us. The months of September and October were extremely wet and I'm sure the heavy rains put many of you behind schedule in your fall golf course construction projects. The Grand Rapids, Flint and Saginaw areas were hardest hit by the record rainfall and I hope all of the golf course superintendents in those areas can battle back from the apparent destruction caused by the flooding.

I'm sure everyone will remember the Fall of 1986 for many years to come. There has been much discussion among all of us as to what the long term effects will be to the turf because of the flooded conditions. The concensus is that the turf is going into the winter in a weakened condition and many ideas were tossed about as how to best prepare the turf for the winter. Hopefully, the winter will not be severe and everyone will go into the spring of 1987 under good conditions.

At the MBCGCSA meeting at St. Clair Shores Golf Club the educational topic for the evening was a

round table discussion involving the members in attendance. The topics ranged from dormant fertilization to wage scales of golf course staff. For those of you who did not attend, I feel you missed out on some valuable information. Some of the subjects were minor, some were controversial but the principle result evolving from the meeting was the interest and concern generated about overall golf course maintenance.

We have not had a meeting of this nature in many years and the feedback I received from those members who attended was very positive. I think personally meetings such as these can be productive.

The response from other members after the meeting concluded was that this type of educational topic can be beneficial and should be continued. I would like to see two or three of these meetings every year.

I would like to hear from members who have any comment concerning this type of educational program at our monthly meetings. Would you like to have more of these round table discussions? Are they beneficial to you and the membership? Can the format be improved? How?

If you have any suggestions please contact me or Roger Gill, the 1987 Education Chairman. We will be emphasizing this format at more of our meetings next year as I sincerely believe this type of educational meeting can make us all better golf course superintendents.

Everyone have a great holiday season!

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REFINING GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE PRACTICES - HAVE WE GONE TOO FAR?

Larry W. Gilhuly

"When against one's will, one is highly pressured into making a hurried decision, the best answer is always no, because no is more easily changed to yes than yes is to no."

Charles E. Nielson

Have you ever been in this situation? Does the request to have the greens 9' to 9'6" on a continual basis sound familiar? If so, welcome to golf course maintenance in the 1980's. With the advent of TV, golf played every week on nearly perfect golf courses peaked for the one week of the event. Regular membership players have become more demanding concerning maintenance practices that are sometimes questionable and, many times, detrimental to good growing conditions.

Have we gone too far in our golf course maintenance practices? Actually, there are two answers to this question. Yes, we have gone too far in some areas such as the great desire for "fast" greens on a year-round basis. In other areas we have not gone far enough, such as *Poa Annua* control or *Poa Annua* breeding and methods to reduce maintenance costs through breeding efforts.

GREENS

Undoubtedly, the main area of concern and emphasis in the maintenance operations must be on greens. The ultimate goal is to provide the best putting surfaces possible given the soil, turf type, manpower, irrigation system, etc. But, what does the word "best" mean? To some it may mean greens as fast as possible. To others the speed may be secondary to consistency and smoothness. Still others are completely satisfied with slower greens that are smooth and covered with grass. It is this area of putting green speed where the pressure has been, and continues to be, applied.

How many of us have had the comment, "Make the greens as fast as possible"? This request is many times made irregardless of the negative effects that occur for actual growing of the grass plant. In some cases, it can be done due to the mild climate and lack of play. For example, Cypress Point Golf Club in the Monterey Peninsula area has a mild climate with only 13,000 rounds of golf a year. Under these conditions they have gone from a speed of 7'4" to 8'2" in 1976 to an average of 9'6" to 10' in 1986. The only problem with this information is that very few, if any, clubs have this small amount of play; yet, those who have played Cypress Point come back to their home club and want the same results. This is simply not realistic

and should not be the goal of the superintendent or club.

SPEED AND THE USGA STIMPMETER

In 1976, a new tool called the USGA Speedstick (Stimpmeter) was used to determine a standard by which putting green speeds could be judged. In 1976, the average speed of putting greens was 6'6" across the nation. The slowest greens were found to be approximately 4'11", while the fastest were approximately 8'6" in the western United States. It is interesting to go back and review some of the speeds at various clubs in the western United States. For example, in 1976 the average speed at Seattle Golf Club was 7'6", Broadmoor Golf Club was 6'11" to 7'6", Eugene Country Club was in the 7' to 7'1" range, while Waverly Golf Club was 6' to 7', Pebble Beach 7'6", Los Angeles Country Club 6'9" to 7'4" and Cypress Point Golf Club 7'4" to 8'2"! By today's standards, many of these greens would be unacceptable. Personally I feel a speed of 7'6" to 8'6" will provide plenty of speed for regular membership play and if more speed is desired, simple double mowing should be adequate.

When one looks at these readings and compares them to greens found today in the west, it is easy to point the finger of blame at the Stimpmeter itself. This is true to some extent; however, the blame can be equally shared by overzealous club members, green committee members, professionals and superintendents alike that have gotten into speed wars with neighboring clubs to have the "fastest greens in town". As a result, we have seen an increase in moss invasion, disease and weeds on putting surfaces that are being mowed lower and lower with less and less nitrogen. It is time that golf courses begin to return to more reasonable speeds and healthier turf.

METHODS TO INCREASE SPEED WITHOUT LOWERING MOWING HEIGHT

There are basic programs that have been discussed for several years in regard to increased putting green speed without lowering mowing heights. The standard method many superintendents have used recently

CONTINUED PAGE 21

LATE FALL FERTILIZATION

by Dr. Norm Hummel
Cornell University

Late fall fertilization is not a new management practice by any means, but it has received increasing attention in recent years. As turfgrass managers have become more aware of management practices that promote deeper rooting, late fall fertilization has become more popular. Besides promoting root growth, late fall fertilization has been reported to improve spring build-up, without the flush of growth associated with spring fertilization. Leafspot damage has also been reported to be less severe in the spring following a late fall application of nitrogen.

PHYSIOLOGY OF THE GRASS PLANT

A very basic knowledge of plant physiology is needed to understand how and why late fall fertilization works. Here is a quick and dirty lesson.

Plants have a magnificent capability to produce their own food. Through a process called photosynthesis, they absorb the light energy from the sun and transform it into chemical energy called a carbohydrate. The sun is the ultimate source of all the energy we use today, excepting nuclear and thermo energy.

Photosynthesis is the process that has converted that light energy into a usable form.

The plant must now break down these carbohydrates to release the stored energy that fuels its normal metabolic processes and growth. Through a process called respiration, plants and animals are able to break down the carbohydrate into a usable form of energy.

All chemical reactions are temperature-dependent. Photosynthesis and respiration are no exceptions. Some chemical reactions however, are more temperature-dependent than others. For example, the rate of respiration will vary more with the change in temperature than will the rate of photosynthesis.

In the late fall when the air temperatures are consistently below 50 degrees, respiration in the leaf tissue is negligible and growth ceases. The green tissue however, is still carrying on photosynthesis and producing carbohydrates. Since the leaf has stopped growing, it has little use for carbohydrates and most of them are translocated down to the roots where

CONTINUED PAGE 19

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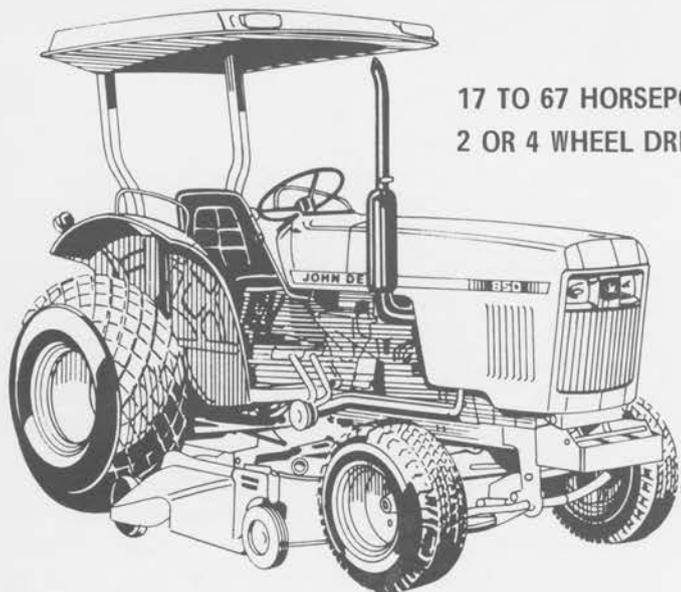


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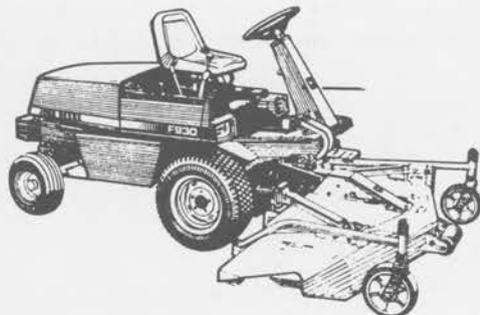
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GCSAA CERTIFICATION UPDATE

by Dennis Lyon, CGCS
Director/Chairman Certification Committee

Certification: 1985 was a very exciting year for the Certification program. There were 144 Superintendents certified in 1985 compared to 66 in 1984. The total number of Certified Superintendents went over 700 for the first time in the history of the program. Also, in 1985 the attestor program was initiated.

The attestor program, for those unfamiliar with it, involves a visitation to the applicant's golf course by two Certified Superintendents. During this visitation a series of questions are asked on the applicant's course, number of employees, budget, maintenance practices, capital projects, etc. The applicant also provides a written paper on how he/she has professionally solved three problems on the golf course. After the interview the attestors tour the course with the Superintendent and attest to the applicant's competence to become Certified.

Although it is a big step, the program has for the most part been well accepted by both the attestors and the attestees.

A change recently made in the attestor program was to the original requirement that attesting be completed prior to the applicant taking the exam. The Certification Committee approved a procedure allowing the applicant to take the exam either before or after attesting.

One area of the attesting program which has created some confusion is the requirement that attesting must be accomplished during the growing season. There are no exceptions to the requirement. The growing season is defined as the time when turf is actively growing. It is the responsibility of the attestors to determine if it is the growing season.

Another change adopted by the Certification Committee in 1985 is that when the closed book exams start in 1988, the "Rules of Golf" section will remain open book.

With regard to the Certification exam, the exam and resource material are currently being updated. The new exam is scheduled to be implemented in the latter part of 1986.

The proposed internship program is an aspect of the Certification program about which the Committee has been reviewing and obtaining membership input. As the internship program now stands, it will be voluntary rather than a requirement for Certification.

The internship program is currently in the development stages and entails a 12-month structured program under a CGCS. Although the internship program is voluntary, successful completion of the program will help fulfill the experience requirement for Certification. The committee has not yet determined how much credit towards the experience requirement the internship will represent. It is planned that the internship program will be implemented in 1987. Membership comments on this proposal are encouraged.

The "educational" requirement for Certification is another aspect of the program that will be implemented in 1989. The long range plan calls for completion of 30 semester hours of college credit or completion of half of GCSAA's Division I curriculum before a member is eligible for Certification. The Division I curriculum was finalized in 1985. The list of courses in Division I will be published this year (1986).

With regard to the educational requirements for Certification and recertification, an area which generates numerous inquiries is the question of obtaining CEU's for local and regional conferences.

This procedure is as follows:

1. Each chapter should designate a member to be responsible for applying the CEU credits for local and regional conferences. (Conferences must involve a minimum of 5 contact hours.)
2. This member should obtain the CEU application form from the GCSAA education office.
3. The appointed member should send the CEU application form and a copy of the conference educational program to the GCSAA Education Department a minimum of three weeks before the conference. (Note: CEU credits must be applied for **before** the conference.)
4. The educational department will evaluate the conference and determine how many CEU's the program will receive.
5. This evaluation and the sign-up sheets for the

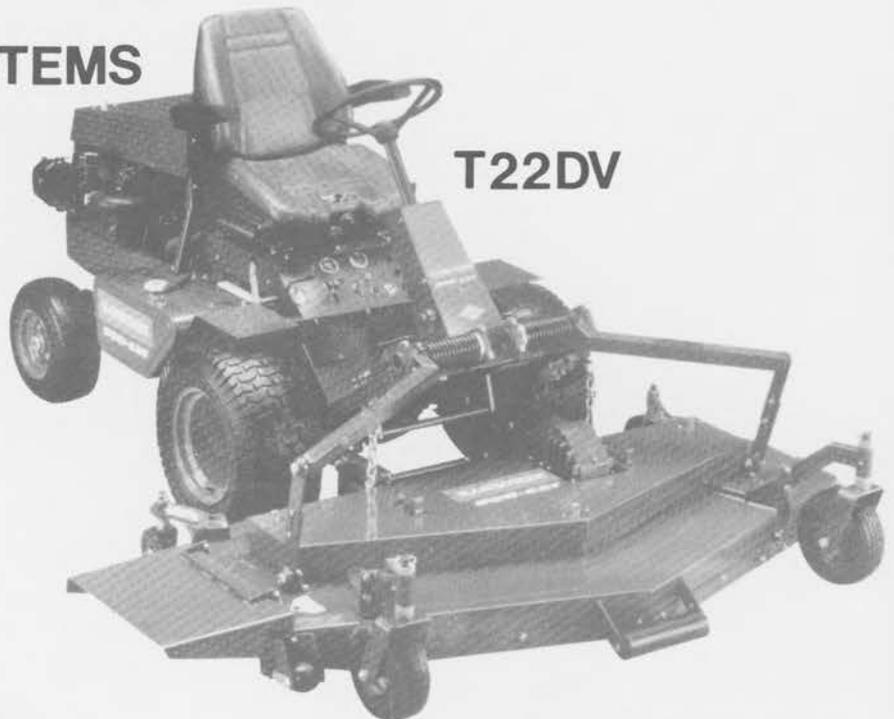
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Nothing cuts it on wet turf like the

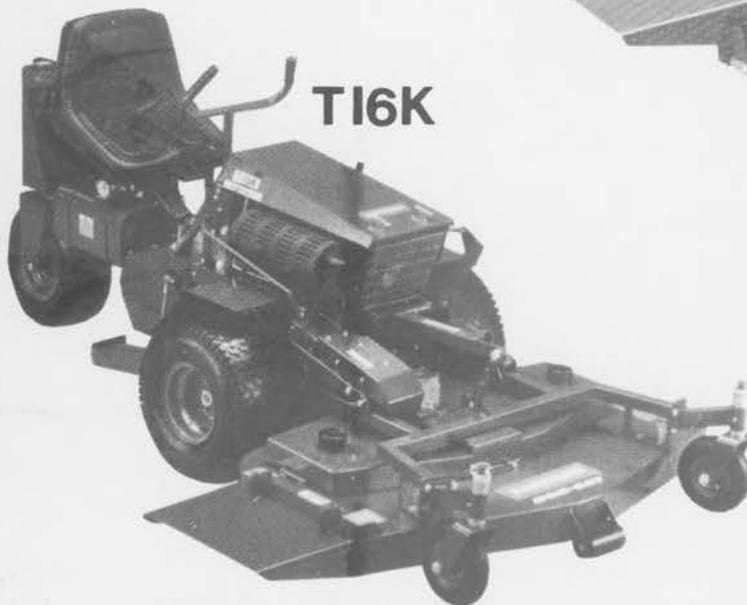
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Family Picnic a Huge Success

"If you missed this one, don't miss next Year's," said Ken DeBusscher.

Over 120 attended the annual picnic held at Stoney Creek Metro Park on Tuesday, August 19, 1986. Jim Smith and Fred Powell were our hosts. There were games and fun for all - Sailboats, Rowboats, Paddle boats, Canoes, Bicycles and swimming - and the weather was great and the food outstanding.

The only golf was a driving contest using marshmallows.



Bubble Gum Champ . . .



And the Runner



. Up!



The start of the Water Balloon Throwing contest.



The end of the Water Balloon contest.



The Line-Up for the Sack Race.



Ken DeBusscher giving final instructions to the contestants.

TRENT JONES TO RECEIVE OLD TOM MORRIS AWARD

Famed golf course architect Robert Trent Jones has been selected to receive the Old Tom Morris Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). Jones is the fifth recipient of the award.

The award, one of golf's most prestigious, will be presented to Jones February 2, 1987, at the Banquet closing GCSAA's 58th Annual International Golf Course Conference and Show, which begins January 26, in Phoenix.

The announcement was made June 13 at a special 80th birthday party for Jones in the USGA hospitality tent during the 1986 U.S. Open at Shinnecock Hills G.C., New York.

Jones joins Arnold Palmer, Bob Hope, Gerald Ford and Patty Berg as Recipients of the coveted honor.

Jones became a scratch golfer while a teenager and set a course record at the age of 16 while playing in the Rochester City Golf Championship. He was low amateur in the 1927 Canadian Open.

More than any other post-World-WarII golf architect, Jones reversed the trend toward playing equipment becoming the determining factor in how a course should be played. Jones' philosophy was that the course itself should determine play and that every hole should be a difficult par but an easy bogey. By the mid-1950's, Jones had become the most widely known and probably most influential course architect in history.

Jones was the first recipient of the ASGCA's Donald Ross Award for outstanding contributions to golf course architecture. He became an advisory member of the National Institute of Social Science, a member of the American Academy of Achievement of its 1972 Golden Plate Award, and a member of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews. In 1981 Jones was given the William D. Richardson Award by the golf writers in recognition of consistent and outstanding contributions.

One of golf's first greats, Old Tom Morris was a greenkeeper, golf professional, club and ball maker, golf course architect and accomplished player who won four British Open Championships between 1861 and 1867. At the Royal and Ancient, St. Andrews, Scotland, Old Tom gained worldwide fame, boosting the popularity of golf throughout the British Isles and in many other parts of the world.

An international golf audience including representatives of every major golf association will be on hand for the 1987 banquet ceremonies. The banquet attendance is expected to reach 2,000.

For further information, contact Billy J. Shelton, Media Relations Manager, GCSAA.

1986 FUND-RAISING PROJECTS

One again the Michigan and Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents can be proud of their efforts in raising funds for worthy projects.

Over \$12,000 was raised for Turfgrass Research. \$4,000 was donated to the Special Olympics, and the portion of the money raised as a result of "The Invitational" was several thousand dollars. Thanks again to the Fuller family.

These are efforts to be proud of thanks to all those that participated.

G.A.M. CLUBS

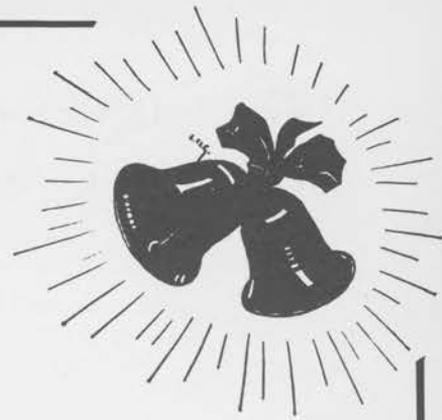
SUPPORT TURF RESEARCH

The Golf Association of Michigan encourages their members to donate \$1.00 per golfing member each year for turf research at the Robert W. Hancock Turf Research Center.

In 1986 G.A.M. clubs will contribute almost \$14,000 for turf research at Michigan State University. Mr. Robert Hall, Vice Green Chairman for G.A.M. stated, "The importance of turf research must be emphasized, because it directly benefits all golfers in Michigan. Playing conditions have improved on our golf courses because of the important research which has been done at MSU. We certainly appreciate the fine research facility, R.W. Hancock Turf Research Center, and are actively participating in its support."

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Dearborn CC	Plum Hollow GC
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Edgewood CC	Red Run GC
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Farmington Hills CC	Spring Lake CC
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Dave Sapp, Winner Low Gross, Vendors Flight



C.H. Wolfrom Sr. Classic at Maple Lane G.C. - Winner - Gene Johanningsmeier; Low Score of the Day - Jeff Blackett, who shot 69



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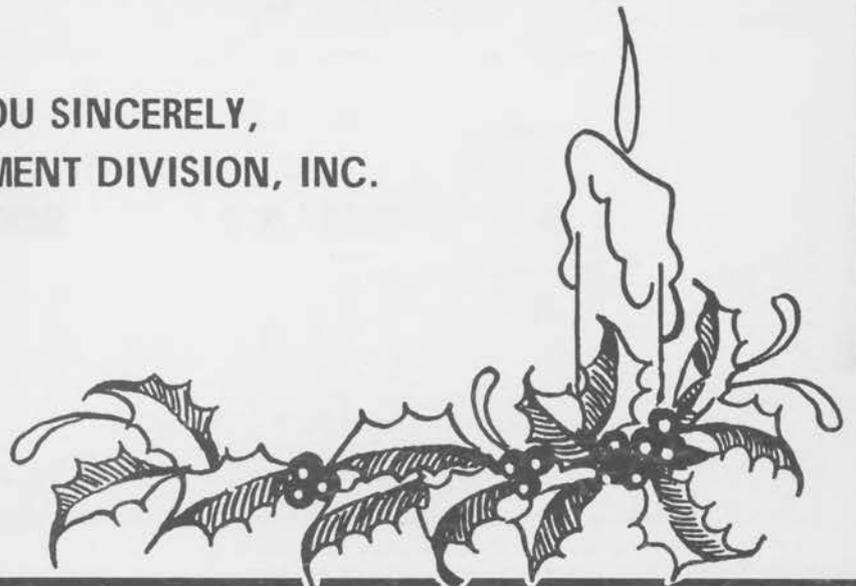
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**Merry
CHRISTMAS**



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WHAT IS A PESTICIDE?

The word comes from the Latin *pestis* for "plague," and *cida*, "to kill." Pesticides are biologically active chemicals used to kill or control unwanted bacteria, rodents, insects, plants, fungi, mites and other pests. There are more than 34,000 pesticide products currently registered by the EPA for use in the United States.

About 13% of all pesticides are sold for house and garden use such as: cleansers, bleaches, flea collars, lawn and garden products, rat poisons and insect repellent. Chlorine, used as a poison gas during World War I, is the same chemical in liquid form that is used as bleach and keeps our drinking water and swimming pools free of bacteria, algae and other harmful organisms. In fact, water treatment plants account for most of the 20% of pesticides used by industry.

14% of our pesticides are used by institutions such as hospitals and restaurants to control germs and insects. Some chemicals serve as pesticides and medicine. Warfarin, a rodenticide, is also used as a medicine to thin blood. Some antibiotics used to protect humans from infections also control bacteria

in orchards.

Forestry and agriculture account for approximately 53% of U.S. pesticide use. And it's been going on for centuries: sulphur has been used as a fungicide for over 2,000 years and chemicals such as lead, arsenic and nicotine have been used in agriculture since the early 1900's.

As a general rule, with of course exceptions, rodenticides - because they control warm-blooded animals - are more hazardous to humans than are insecticides. And generally fungicides and herbicides tend to be the least toxic. Most herbicides registered for forestry, right-of-way and lawn use were developed to control weeds in food and feed crops.

Often, because a compound is labeled as a pesticide, we as a society are very concerned about risks. Following are a couple of risk comparisons. Vitamin D, an essential ingredient for life and added to many foods, has about the same poison rating as Parathion, a highly toxic insecticide. Two tablespoons of table salt can be a lethal dose for a one-year-old child and salt is more toxic than some 20 compounds registered as herbicides for right-of-way and forestry use.

RISKS VS. BENEFITS

Pesticides are the least understood and most controversial chemicals in use in our society. Their value in controlling or destroying insects, weeds and other pests that threaten or annoy people is questioned by many people, who perceive them as unsafe and unnecessary chemicals.

RISKS

Risks are part of everything we do. We take risks every time we mow a lawn or drive a car. There are risks in travelling long distances and in staying home, but we do these things because of their benefits.

Some chemicals can pose immediate (acute) risks to our health. Other chemicals pose **chronic** risks that result only from exposure for long periods of time.

Why use **any** chemical that hasn't been proven to be 100% safe? It is scientifically impossible to prove the absolute safety of any chemical because we can't prove what **won't** happen - only what **will** happen. At some dose level, every substance known can pose dangers.

The research and development of pesticides has improved significantly in the past 40 years so that today's pesticides are -

- Less persistent in the environment.

- More effective in smaller quantities
- Applied with greater knowledge of and concern for the risks, and
- More strictly regulated by federal and state laws.

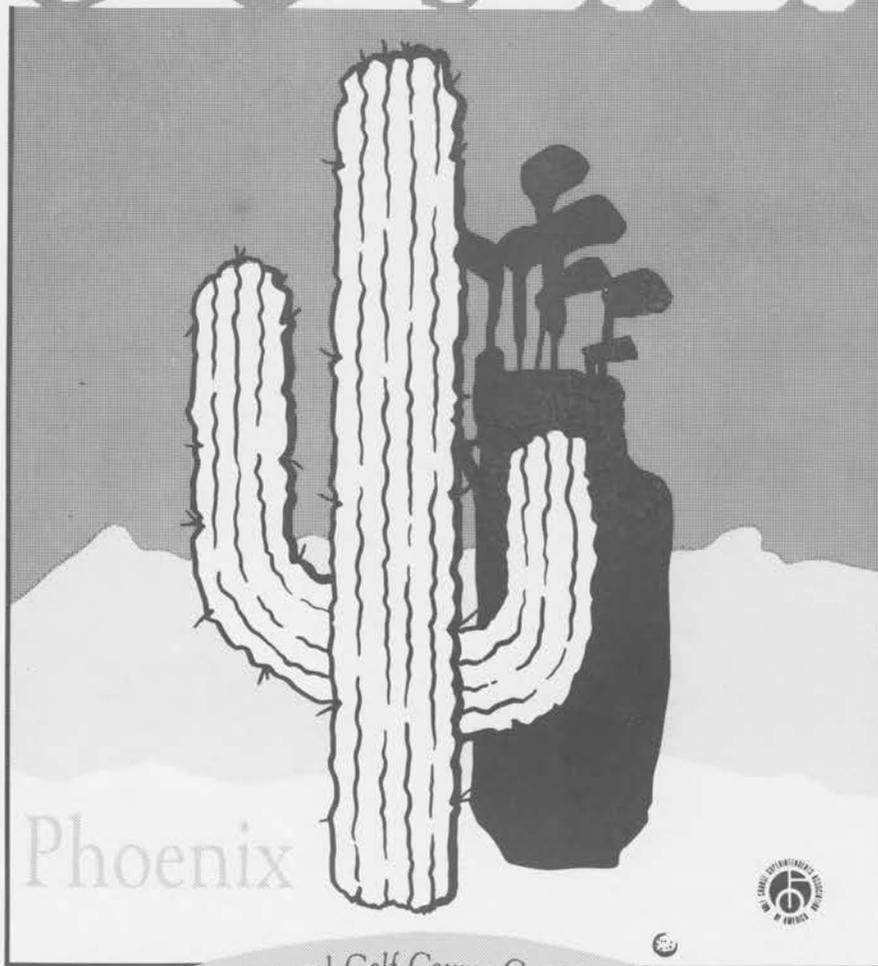
Before any pesticide can be registered and labeled for commercial use, it must undergo extensive testing to determine the health risks to humans, fish wildlife, etc.

BENEFITS

Who else uses pesticides? Hospitals and doctors' offices are kept germ-free with pesticides. They also keep restaurant and school kitchens free of insects and rodents. As consumers, we depend on pesticides to free our homes of termites, roaches and rodents. We use cleaning agents like Chlorox or Lysol in the laundry and bath, and moth balls in closets to protect our clothing. Special collars protect our pets from annoying fleas and ticks, and garden chemicals help us grow healthy vegetables, flowers and lawns. All of these products are pesticides.

From *Living With Chemicals*
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G C S A A



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ANNUAL ELECTIONS

On Wednesday, October 22, 1986, the annual elections were held at Maple Lane Golf Club.

Elected for their second terms were:

President, Kevin Dushane
Vice President, Charles Gaige
Secretary-Treasurer, Tom Mason

Director, Ken DeBusscher

Newly elected for a three-year term:

Jay DelCamp (Who was nominated from the floor - Jay is superintendent of the Oakland University Golf Course.



Kevin Dushane, President MBCGCSA

Left to Right — Front Row, Kevin Dushane (President), Ken DeBusscher, Ed Heineman, Tom Mason (Secretary), Mike Edgerton (Past President), Jay Delcamp (Newly Elected Director); Back Row, Jon Maddern, Roger Gill, Jim Timmerman, Charlie Gaige.



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WOLFROM CONFERENCE ROOM DEDICATED AT MSU

On Tuesday, September 16, 1986 a group of friends and relatives of the late Clarence Wolfrom were present for the dedication of the C.H. Wolfrom Conference Room in the newly opened Plant and Soil Science Building on the campus of Michigan State University.

Clarence was the superintendent of the Maple Lane Golf Club in Sterling Heights, Michigan and for over 50 years, through his leadership and dedicated service to the Club, it was able to grow and become one of the finest clubs in Michigan. It was because of his loyalty and hard work that the Roehl family owners of Maple Lane, donated funds to develop the beautiful C.H. Wolfrom Conference Room in his memory.

All of us in Turfgrass Management are proud of Clarence and the Roehl family for their recognition and support of a truly great man.

MERRY CHRISTMAS



HO! HO! HO!

CERTIFICATION, CONT.

conference will be sent to the responsible member

6. The member will then provide the sign-up sheets at the conference and obtain the signatures of those in attendance.
7. These sign-up sheets are then sent to headquarters and the members are given CEU credit.
8. No notification of credit is sent back to the member. Each member is invited to call headquarters and inquire as to the number of CEU credits on file. All Certified members are encouraged to determine the number of CEU's they have on file at least 12 months prior to recertification.

In summary I feel that Certification has evolved into an increasingly valuable credential. This increased value is evidenced by the dramatic increase in participants in the Certification program.

If you are interested in becoming Certified, now is the time to get started. You can have your visitation this summer and study for and take the exam this winter. Many Superintendents have found taking the prep course and exam at Conference to be a very rewarding experience.

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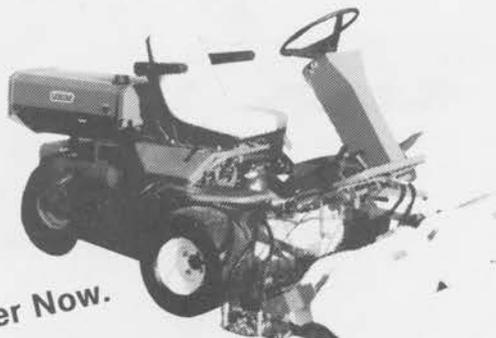
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LATE FALL FERTILIZATION, CONT.

they are stored. The roots will continue to grow and store carbohydrates until the ground freezes. If a fertilizer is applied when the shoots have stopped growing but before the ground freezes, much of the applied nitrogen will be used for producing roots, not shoots. This is a very sound and desirable agronomic principle.

TIMING IS CRITICAL

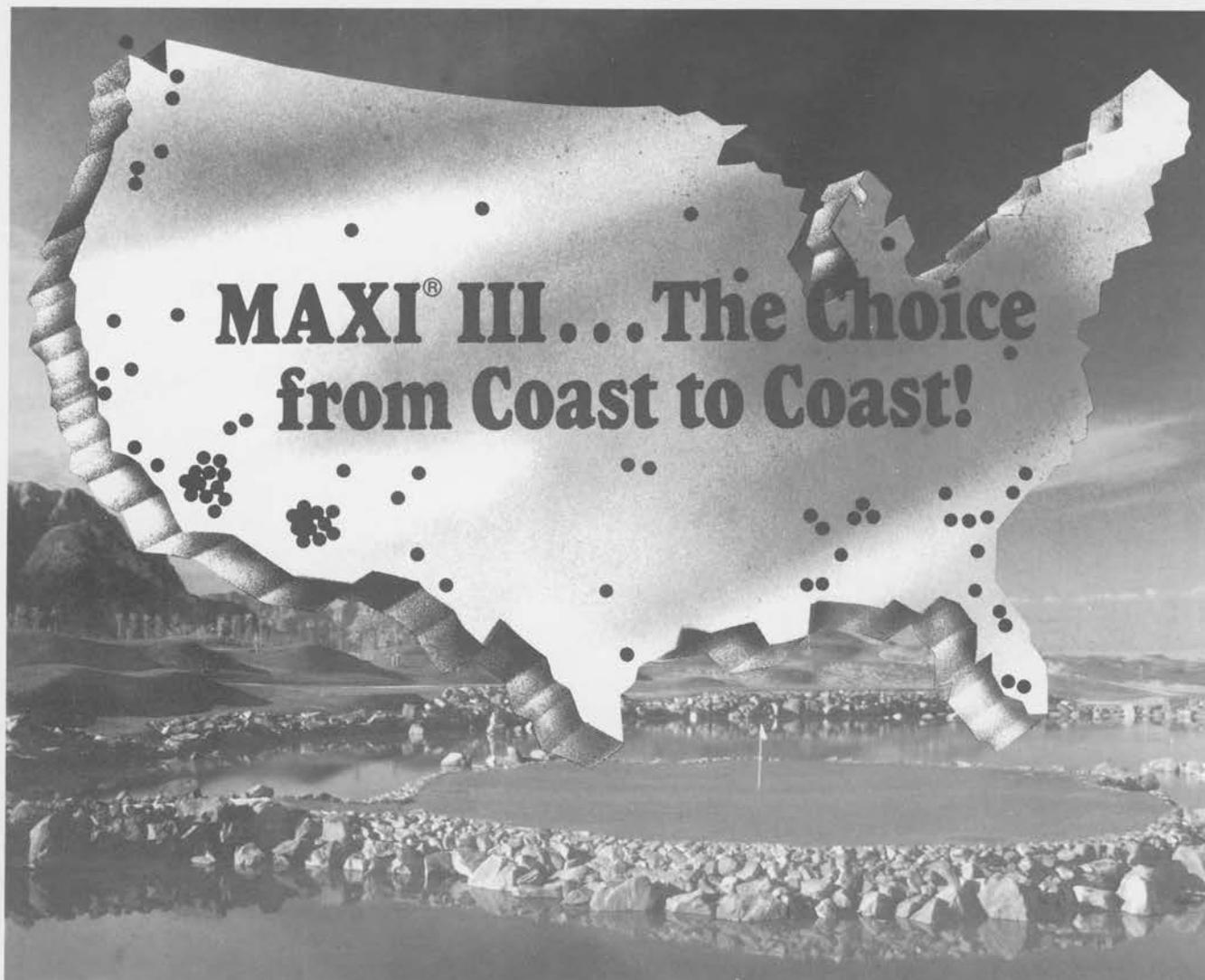
Timing of a late fall application of nitrogen is critical, especially on high value turf such as putting greens. The fertilizer should be applied so that the nitrogen uptake occurs after vertical growth ceases, but early enough for the nitrogen to be taken up by the active roots. Applying the nitrogen too early will force succulent vegetable growth, rendering the turf more susceptible to snow mold and other forms of winterkill. The fertilizer should therefore be applied shortly after the last mowing. In most of upstate New York the suggested time for this application is around November 10. Downstate, the ideal time is two to three weeks later. The date will vary with the particular season and the specific location in the state.

The source of nitrogen should also be considered in the timing. It is desirable that the fertilizer contain nitrogen in a readily available form. Water soluble sources such as urea, ammonium nitrate, or ammonium sulfate, are the preferred materials for the target dates. The nitrogen in water soluble fertilizer is in available form, they are less expensive than slow release sources, and the potential for foliar burn is small at this time. However, since potential for nitrate leaching is great during the winter months, soluble sources should not be used on sandy soils (especially Long Island).

Slow release nitrogen sources may also be used as a late fall fertilizer. However, the application dates will have to be changed. Research at Michigan State University has developed suggested application dates for various nitrogen sources. The following nitrogen sources should be applied at these suggested intervals prior to the target dates: sulfur-coated urea from C.I.L., 10-14 days; LESCO sulfur-coated urea, 2-3 weeks; Milorganite, 3-4 weeks; IBDU, 4-5 weeks; fertilizers containing both soluble and slow-release nitrogen, 7 days, depending on relative amounts of each. The suggested rates of application are 1 to 1½ pounds of actual nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft.

Using this slow-release nitrogen source requires guessing when turfgrass growth will cease. If such an application is followed by unusual periods of warm weather, there may be a loss of hardness and increased potential for winterkill.

While there are potential problems with the late fall fertilization, most can be controlled with careful observations, proper timing, and the use of preferred nitrogen sources. Late fall fertilization is a management practice worth consideration by all turfgrass managers.



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GONE TOO FAR? CONT.

is a light and frequent topdressing program. A recent study completed at the University of Nebraska by Dr. Robert Shearman indicates that ball roll was significantly greater on turf receiving light and frequent sand topdressing than on those receiving the traditional aerification and topdressing treatment. In addition to this finding, there are other interesting ramifications from the light and frequent topdressing program. Basically, disease increased with the light topdressing program and became less severe when surfactants were used.

MOWING HEIGHTS AND FREQUENCY

Have we gone too far in our desire for "tight" fairways? If you are a superintendent in Kentucky bluegrass country, many times the answer is yes. However, I have seen some outstanding Kentucky bluegrass courses in the state of Utah that are consistently mowed at $\frac{3}{4}$ inch and produce some of the best playing conditions for fairways I have viewed in the western United States.

The key to their operation however, is that the fairways are mowed at least five times a week. This goes back to the question of what does the membership want and how much are they willing to pay. Mowing Kentucky bluegrass at $\frac{3}{4}$ inch five times a week will certainly give extremely playable fairways without problems of *Poa Annua* and bentgrass invasion into the turf. To desire lower mowing heights with less frequent mowing is counter productive to proper growing conditions for this turf species. In a case such as this, the superintendent must relay the information to the membership and have complete communication so they understand the side effects of mowing height with this type of turfgrass.

In regard to other cool season grasses, it again depends upon what the membership desires. Basically, a mowing height on fairways of $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{5}{8}$ inch will provide the best playing conditions for the entire membership. Mowing heights higher than this cut three times per week can many times result in "flyer" lies. This leads to the natural request of members to soften the greens as their downward three wood, from a 1 inch cut fairway, using a Pinnacle golf ball, with Ping clubs will not hold the green. It is the responsibility of the player to stop the ball, not the responsibility of the putting green! To help the player, the fairways should be kept below $\frac{3}{4}$ inch if mowed three times per week.

What about those courses that have gone under $\frac{1}{2}$ inch for fairway playing conditions? Provided the membership desires this type of playing condition and the club has adequate irrigation and mowing equipment, there is nothing wrong with this operation. A good example of this are the outstanding fairways being maintained by Mr. Campbell at Sahalee Golf Club in Redmond. Superintendent Campbell is currently maintaining the fairways as $\frac{3}{8}$ inch with outstanding definition between the fairways and the 1 - $\frac{1}{2}$ inch rough. While this

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

GONE TOO FAR? CONT.

mowing height may be too short for most country clubs, it appears to have been very well accepted at Sahalee.

SUMMARY

The golf courses most affected by the new trends in intensive maintenance practices to improve playing conditions are not the high priced country clubs. Those courses that have moderate budgets (or less) with memberships who desire the "country club" look are most affected by these practices. Private clubs with high budgets that use walkers on greens, triplexes on fairways, aerify fairways with walking putting green aerifiers, utilize modern computer-based irrigation systems, purchase and maintain good equipment and have adequate manpower certainly raise the level of maintenance on their courses. It is when members of the "smaller" clubs visit these courses and return their home course that problems can sometimes occur. On those courses that can afford it, many of the maintenance practices being done today are not too far. On those that can't, these same maintenance practices are completely out of the question. It is up to the superintendent to get this point across, using any means available, that golf courses simply cannot be compared and no golf course is in "perfect" condition every day of the year.

In an excellent article written by Mr. James T. Snow, Director, Northeastern Green Section Region, titled "Who said the grass is always greener . . .", he makes two important points. First, no golf course is identical to any other. Second, no golf course will always be in excellent condition.

If many of today's players sit down and ponder these statements, fewer problems would result from the inevitable comparisons.

Credit: Northwest Turfgrass Conference 9/26/85

NEWS RELEASE

The USGA-GCSAA Turfgrass Information File is available for anyone wishing to gain information through abstracts on subjects dealing with turfgrass research. By calling 517-353-7209 and talking to Mr. Peter Cookingham, you will be able to search the files for your particular subject. A fee of \$.50 (fifty cents) per abstract will be charged, not to exceed \$50 per subject.

The file is continuing to have information added to it.

Turfgrass Information File is being developed for use by anyone. A future phone modem will be available to anyone wishing to directly hook up with the file information. The service is being provided by the USGA-GCSAA Turf Research Program.

Worry is like rocking chair; it will give you something to do but it won't get you anywhere.

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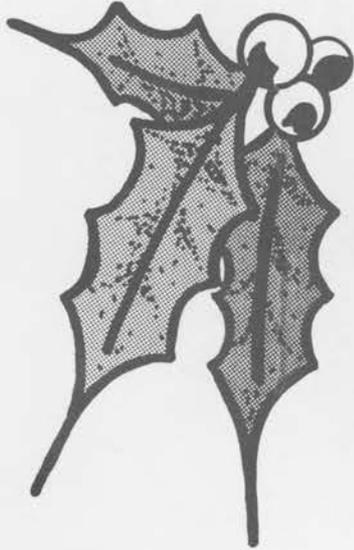


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