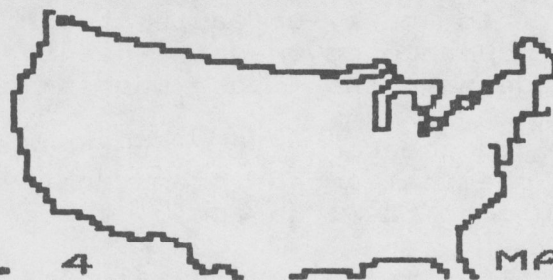


# TURF COMMS



V. 3, I. 4

MARCH 14, '87

**PURPOSE:** To pass on what we learn willingly and happily to others in the profession so as to improve turf conditions around the country.

"YOUR NUMBER ONE PIECE OF SAFETY EQUIPMENT  
IS YOUR HEAD."

Spent one and a half days at a workshop for those in the cockroach, termite and rat killing business (urban pest control). It was an educational change of pace. Heard all about "crack & crevice" work; that dust was better than fine sprays for inside walls; and that one should buy microencapsulated materials for long term control of bugs in restaurants and homes.

The urban pest control industry perhaps more than you are very concerned about coming changes in the pesticide laws. One well qualified speaker felt that regardless of which political party wins the next presidential election the "environmentalist" would be in position to push thru Congress stricter pesticide laws.

Certification of pesticide users will go to a 2 or 3 tier approach. You the supervisor will have a more intensive test to pass. Your applicator will be taking a test similar to the relatively easy test you have taken in past years. Such a proposed law is presently before the Texas Legislative body for regulating the urban pest control industry.

He said not to expect too much from the State Extension Service in the way of training as they are under severe budget restrictions that are getting worse. He predicted that you would see more manufacturers and consultants getting into the training business.

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This same individual predicted increased specialization in the pest control industry to make for easier training of personnel and more economical insurance coverage. That training will be a much bigger part of budgets in the future was another prediction.

This same well qualified speaker felt that the new tax law would push up equipment and chemical prices dramatically over this next year. Fuel he said would go to \$1/gallon by the end of the 1987.

DDT for AIDS prevention - The next speaker mentioned that old "DDT" was being suggested as an AIDS prevention. The DDT he was talking about was the old warning: "Don't Do That".

This speaker mentioned Rat Catcher's Child as a good book to read if you were interested in a history of the urban pest control industry. An industry you are not that far removed from. If you suddenly find yourself with out a position and don't want to pick up the family and move take a look at it.

The next speaker was Charlie Rogers of the Texas Water Commission who talked on Small Generators of Pesticide Waste. Apparently it is the Water Commission's task in Texas to assure proper handling of hazardous waste.

EPA's list of hazardous wastes is 80 percent pesticides according to Mr. Rogers. For more information on hazardous waste generation call EPA's RCRA/Superfund Hotline (800) 424-9346 and ask for a copy to be sent to you of Understanding the Small Quantity Generator Hazardous Waste Rules: A Handbook of Small Business.

MOST ALL OF YOU ARE BY LEGAL DEFINITION SMALL HAZARDOUS WASTE GENERATORS. It is going to pay you and your golf course to learn how not to be a hazardous waste generator. It may mean new equipment which allows you to spray mixing the water and concentrated pesticide only at the instant they are sprayed. That is mixed at the nozzles not in the tank. This approach eliminates contaminated tank rinse water (hazardous waste), or left over spray (hazardous waste) needing to be dumped. "Hazardous wastes" can not legally be dumped any more. You must store it in 55 gallon drums and have it hauled to an approved site by an approved carrier.

Enforcement is based on a skeleton staff as I see it. But, if they have records of you having received a potential hazardous waste material you better have a record of where all of it went. "All of it" including the container, rinses of the container, and rinses of the spray tank. More paper work. Your seller will supply the EPA the information that you received the hazardous waste (pesticide). That is part of their record keeping. Be sure you do your part.



To: Membership (? guests, golfers ?)  
From: Superintendent (? and Green Committee Chairman ?)  
Subject: What it takes to make the course playable.

1. Mowing of greens, tees, approaches, and fairways starts at 6 A.M. daily during summer months.

When mowers interfere with normal play, it is usually the result of a shortage of help, inclement weather, or equipment breakdowns. Please be patient if mowing occurs during your early rounds.

Maintenance is scheduled as follows:

<u>Mowing greens</u>	. . . . . 6 times/week
<u>Mowing tees &amp; approaches</u>	. . 3 times/week
<u>Mowing collars</u>	. . . . . 3 times/week
<u>Mowing fairways</u>	. . . . . 4-5 times/week
	depending on growth and tournaments
<u>Mowing roughs</u>	. . . . . 1-2 times/week,
	depending on growth
<u>Mowing tee and green banks</u>	. 1 time/week
<u>Cup changing</u>	. . . . . 6-9 times/week
<u>Sand traps raked</u>	. . . . . 4-6 times/week
<u>Grooming around trees</u>	. . . every 3 weeks
<u>Topdressing greens</u>	. . . . . twice monthly

2. The maintenance staff works 7 days/week between April 1st and October 15th.

3. Aerification is tentatively scheduled as follows:

<u>Fairways:</u>	Twice yearly: Late June, early August
<u>Greens:</u>	March, October
<u>Tees:</u>	Twice yearly: Early to mid May, July

Purpose: To relieve compaction that has resulted from golfers, carts, and maintenance equipment.

Results: Increases movement of air and water into the soil which results in better root growth and microbial action. Which in turn results in reduced thatch, grass plants better able to withstand the stresses of heat, and traffic.

4. Syringing (Misting of the greens with water) is one of the most crucial maintenance practices taken during the golfing season.

Why? The shortly mowed bentgrass by midsummer has an equally

short root system. A light misting applies just enough water to act like an evaporative cooling system. Thus the plant gets thru the stress period of the day in better condition.

When? On very hot days between 11 A.M. and 3:30 P.M. Syringing of a green, and collar should take approximately 3 minutes. Employees will try to work between foursomes, thus inconveniencing the golfers as little as possible. You may not a slight slowing of putting speed immediately after syringing. Please be patient with the syringing crew. Their job is critical.

5. The following would be appreciated by golfers playing behind you:

- a) Replace tee and fairway divots
- b) Repair ball marks on greens (if time permits, fix several)
- c) Rake trap footprints
- d) Pickup discarded papers and cans
- e) Please - Keep golf carts 30 yards from greens

In Closing: We try to schedule our maintenance programs to interfere as little as possible with your golfing pleasure. All employees are instructed to show courtesy to all golfers. Our job is to provide a beautiful surrounding for the members' pleasure. Remember: A lot of work goes into providing this surrounding.

EDITOR'S COMMENT: You are encouraged to copy and or modify the above for your membership. This is a modification of one such letter sent to the membership of Milburn C. C. by the superintendent, Don Cook.

## FAREWELL MONTY

Mr. James B. "Monty" Moncrief died of a heart attack after his daily round of golf February 25, writes Bill Benguefield. "He was a fine individual!"

Your editor remembers well Monty telling me what to say on USGA turf advisory service visits, "Just tell them what is best for the grass plant." Farewell Monty, it was good to have known you.