

# Tee to Green

Vol. IV, No. 4

Published monthly by the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association

May, 1975

### MEETING NOTICE:

Date: May 20, 1975, Tuesday  
 Place: Quaker Ridge Golf Club  
 Lunch: Available in Grill Room  
 Golf: 12 Noon on  
 You will sign for dinner on the first tee  
 Cocktails: 6-7 PM  
 Dinner: 7 PM  
 Program: Dr. John Kaufmann, Turfgrass Program at Cornell University. Also we will honor all life members and two new honorary members.  
 Host: Tony Savone

Directions: From N.Y. take Hutchinson River Parkway to the Weaver Street exit (exit 21) and turn south. Then turn left on to Griffin Ave. to club. From Conn. take Hutchinson River Parkway to exit 22 (Old White Plains Rd. Mamaroneck Rd.) go south and take a right onto Griffin Ave. Club is on the right.

NOTE: Please return your post card as soon as possible or call Quaker Ridge Golf Club—725-1100.

### SPECIAL NOTICE:

Monday, May 19—5 o'clock—SOFTBALL GAME between the Commercial Men and the Superintendents at the Rye Neck High School Baseball field.

Do you want to play? Contact Roger Morhardt of Powerhouse at 914-279-7181 or Bill Caputi, 914-698-6131.

Directions: Take the Boston Post Road to Hornidge Road (across the street from Zazou's, Vincent's Motel is on the corner.) Turn into Hornidge Road. Make the first right turn at the high school. Park behind the school and walk to the baseball field.

Spectators are welcome . . . all members and their families.

### COMING EVENTS:

- May 20 Quaker Ridge Golf Club M.G.C.S.A.
- June 10 C.G.C.S.A. Pautagpaug C.C.
- June 12 Pelham C.C. M.G.C.S.A. Supt. Championship  
1st round
- July M.G.C.S.A. meeting club to be announced
- July 17-20 USGA Women's Open Atlantic City C.C.  
All Class A members of G.C.S.A.A. admitted free.
- Aug. 18 M.G.C.S.A. picnic details to be announced.
- Sept. 10 Conn G.C.S.A. Elmcrest C.C.
- Sept. 11 M.G.C.S.A. Superintendents Invitational, Fenway Golf Club.
- Sept. 18 Labriola Memorial Tournament,  
Whippoorwill Club.

- Oct. 7 Conn G.C.S.A. Golf Club of Avon.
- Oct. 17 M.G.C.S.A. Field Day, Westchester Country Club  
Terry Mulligan & Bob Phipps Chairman.
- Oct. 29-30 Wisconsin Golf Seminar, Milwaukee Wisc.
- Nov. Annual meeting
- Dec. 13 Christmas Party — Rye Golf Club.

### WELFARE:

Keep us informed. Call Dick Gonyea 914-835-3205, Dan Cancelleri 914-667-3737 or Roger Morhardt 914-279-7181 with any information which you think should be shared.

We were sorry to learn that John Garvey has had another heart attack but are pleased to hear that he's back on the road to recovery.

Kim Alonzi is home from the hospital after a frightening experience. We all are hoping for a speedy recovery.



Chuck Martineau, Tony Savone, Al Tretera and Mike Leary —  
First prize winners — Low Net.

### M.G.C.S.A. NEWS:

It was a cool day for golf, but we still had 45 players in the best ball of foursome team event. Three teams tied at 61—our Golf Chairman Al Tretera started off the season by being a part of the winning foursome of Chuck Martineau, Mike Leary, Tony Savone and Al Tretera. Next was the team of Vince Pentenaro, Bill Barrett, Ted Smith and Andy Androsko followed by the team of Al Caravella, Jim Fulwider, Ted Horton and Garry Crothers. We hope to have a variety of tournaments this year. Remember you will need a M.G.A. handicap to play in the Superintendents Championship.



### Editorial Staff

Garry Crothers  
Ted Horton

Co-Editor  
Co-Editor

### OFFICERS

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*Not copyrighted. If there is good here, we want to share it with all chapters – unless author states otherwise.*

Although the weather was cold everybody enjoyed the course. Ron Boydston did a nice job on his log benches. As you all know things are hardly growing, especially the poa, but it won't be long and those fairways will be white. After the happy hour we all enjoyed a delicious dinner. It should be noted that some who sent in return cards saying they were coming did not show. I hope you called, because it sure doesn't help trying to get a dinner count. Those who played golf and didn't stay for dinner will be billed as our policy stated in last Tee to Green.

Our program on Current Economic Problems at clubs was an excellent panel. Probably at this time would be a good time to have a budget and superintendent salary survey.

We will be working on the new roster this month so if you haven't returned your new address or change please do so by sending it to M.G.C.S.A. Box 37 Rye, New York. Also please send back your By-Laws Questionnaire which was in the last Tee to Green.

### HOME AND GARDEN SHOW:

The M.G.C.S.A. had three display cabinets showing the Association functions, Educational features and a third area entitled Cooperation which illustrated turfgrass insects and diseases. The caption "Ask a turf expert about your lawn problems" resulted in at least 65 people asking questions at the booth.

The photo shows how the booth looked on Saturday when our official photographer Ted Horton took pictures. It took only a ½ hour to set up the display cabinets and I am sure we will be able to use them at future events. Thanks go to Dick Allen, Bob Alonzi, Sherwood Moore and Garry Crothers who all attended the booth Saturday and Sunday.

We're pleased to receive the following comments from Paul F. Frese, Naturalist Westchester County.

"This year's Home Gardeners' Clinic proved to be an outstanding success, serving as it did to inaugurate the County's official Bicentennial celebration. Attendance reached an all-time high of 5400.

We heard nothing but praise for the high quality of exhibits and the responsiveness of all exhibitors in helping home gardeners with their individual problems.

Please convey our thanks to all who shared in planning and staging exhibits. Their cooperation is deeply appreciated."



Guess who took the picture?



MGCSA Booth – Home and Garden Show



Home and Garden Booth — Garry, Dick and handy Andy.

### SECRETARY'S NOTES

By Ted Horton

One M.G.C.S.A. Board Meeting has taken place since last reported:

#### M.G.C.S.A. Board Meeting — The Apawamis Club — May 6, 1975

As of May 5, 1975, the membership count was as follows:

Class A	81
Class B	22
Class C	31

Within the limitations of our By-Laws, the above count would enable us to accept three more Class C members.

The following applications for membership were reviewed and accepted:

- Class A Paul Caswell—Greenwich C.C.
- B to A Peter Bass—Hauppauge C.C.
- B to A Joseph Alonzi—Huntington Crescent
- Class C Richard Hosking—Irrigation & Equipment Supply Co.
- Class C Robert Vite—Kay—Fries Chemicals, Inc.
- Class C William Carriere—J & B Trucking

Now that the Membership file is again updated it was decided to retype the Membership Roster. We will then price alternative methods of printing the Roster—possibly offsetting the costs of a "loose-leaf" type of Roster with advertizing.

Discussion about the upcoming May Meeting at Quaker Ridge Country Club followed. We are all enthusiastic about the presentation of plaques to the new Honorary members, Life members and the distinguished service awards to Dr. Virtuoso and Mr. King.

Incorporation is still a major project being studied. It is taking time but June appears to be a likely date for this to take effect. At this time we hope to be able to explain in detail just what incorporation will mean to our Association.

Membership Insurance was an item of considerable discussion. A committee comprised of Bob Alonzi and Ray Twombly was appointed to examine our respective insurance programs and to render their recommendation before July 31, 1975—our policy extension date. Your comments should be welcomed by this committee.

The M.G.C.S.A. participation in the Country Home and Garden Show was considered successful and the Board congratulates those who contributed.

Again, remember that if you have suggestions or comments, we need to hear from you.

### CANADIAN GEESE

Walter Androsko, Cooperative Extension Agent, has informed us that Mr. John Cross is now Agent-in-Charge of Fish and Wild Life Service, Post Office Box 717, 11 North Pearl Street, Albany, N.Y., 12201—phone 518-472-5381. If you are having a problem with the Canadian Geese, please contact Mr. Cross so that he can be requested to visit our area to appraise the situation and gear up for removal. Andy also informed us that there are Bird Scaring Cannons. These operate under a time clock that can be set to go off at specified intervals. They use LP gas and various models may have optional sound volume adjustments and two week time clock adjustments.



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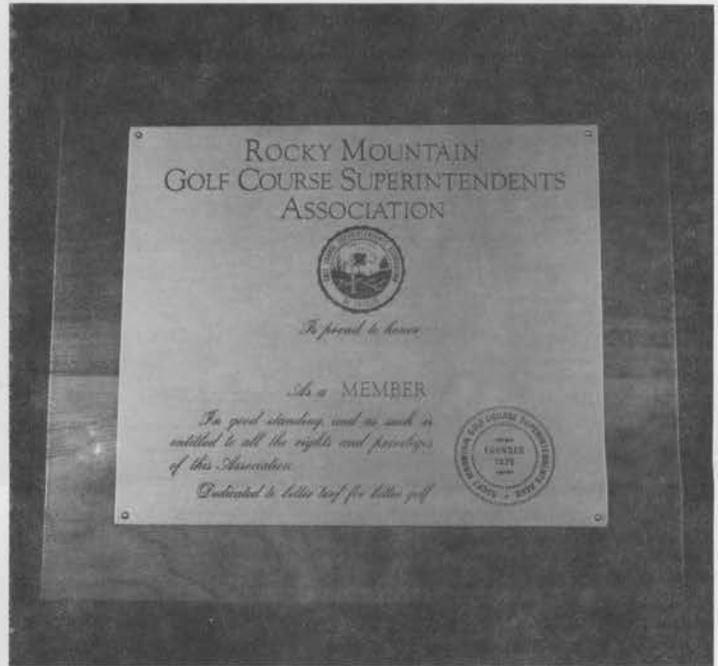
A thorough review of the Certification Program and actions taken by the GCSAA Executive Committee during its Post-Conference meeting in New Orleans resulted in several modifications of the Program. The most significant dealt with eligibility, employment verification and study manual requirements.

Beginning immediately, a member must have been a Class A member of GCSAA for two years to be eligible to apply for Certification. Previously, this period had been three years.

In recognizing the need to insure that only active golf course superintendents be allowed Certification, procedures to verify each applicant's employment will be bolstered. While a membership records verification remains a requirement at the time of application, a final employment verification procedure will be followed just prior to actual examination dates.

Clarifying another area of the Program, the Executive Committee determined that the Certification Program "Study Manual" is not a requirement and therefore applicants do not have to purchase the "Manual." Director of Education Bill Knoop will be developing a complete list of reference materials which can be obtained for study in lieu of the "Manual."

As of April 1, 1975, there were 231 Certified Golf Course Superintendents in the Association. Approximately one year ago there were 165 in this category, while a year prior to that there had been 116.

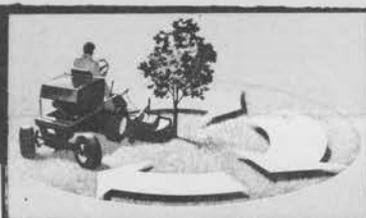


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## THE BUDGET SQUEEZE CONTINUES!

At the Rockland Country Club we were presented with some of the dilemmas which our fellow Superintendents are facing in Golf Course Maintenance. The panel—hand picked by Sherwood Moore and moderated by Al Caravella included Chuck Fatum—Weeburn Country Club, Maurice Cameron—Canoe Brook Country Club and Harry Nichol—Elmwood Country Club.

Chuck Fatum began by noting that his budget had not been reduced this season and attributed his success to the fact that he had been able to operate for the three previous years within one percent of his approved budget. He emphasized formulation of a priority list to help control expenditures and economize by employing part-time high school students to do miscellaneous work. Because his labor is non-union the wage scale for this work is \$2.50 per hour, which results in considerable savings. A year round crew of six men enable Weeburn to complete many of the necessary projects during the "off-season" months. Automatic irrigation is an important labor saving tool according to Chuck.

Skip Cameron discussed equipment replacement programs noting that he has achieved a five year capital improvement program. Hoping to replace equipment each ten years he allotted \$20,000.00 per year but found that it would require a minimum of \$25,000.00 per year to realize a ten year turn over. But, if he added ten percent per year to off-set increasing prices—he found out that he would need \$40,000.00 per year by the tenth year. Amusingly, his club promptly reduced the capital replacement budget by \$7000.00 Skip indicated that he could economize to save \$4000.00 by eliminating mowing on Sunday, \$4000.00 by reducing manicuring and \$2000.00 if no overtime was performed before April 1st. Notably, Canoe Brook Country Club increased membership dues moderately to enable minimal budget cuts in recognition of Skip's efforts.

But the bottom seems to have fallen out for Harry Nichol. The group was at first unbelieving as Harry explained how he

was going to reduce expenses by approximately thirteen percent from last year—a reduction of twenty-three percent of his proposed budget. Primarily, his labor force would be reduced by 42 percent by dropping three of seven men. No capital improvements would be made, no sand would be added to traps, mulch for paths would not be bought, trees and flowers were eliminated and major repairs to equipment would require authorization before being undertaken. Supervisory personnel would perform all work requiring overtime before Memorial Day. During the season, only two men would work on Saturday and Sunday, with irrigation taking precedence. Fairway mowing would be limited to two times per week and evening cutting would not be possible.

Difficult though it may be, Harry recognizes the necessity of the strict measures to economize. We are hopeful that the summer will ease the financial struggles of our clubs and that there will be some relief in the near future for Harry. His acceptance of the challenge and the willingness he is showing to do his best for his club is stimulating to me.

As you might imagine, discussion arising from the talks covered the subjects of budget comparisons, wage and salary situations, union negotiation and supplemental discount parts and supply houses. Chuck Fatum noted that Bill Reilly maintained his course with four men until the school released summer help by eliminating the frills. I often wonder if the member really wants the "extras" or would he welcome a return to the maintenance of the greens, tees and fairways and minimal attention to the roughs. I don't think so.

Al Caravella summarized by stating that his policy of changing jobs was the best solution. He commented that "in the first year he was awarded 100% of his requests, in the second 66%, in the third 33% and in the fourth, nothing. By the fifth year it was a budget cut and time to move." It makes you think—doesn't it.

By Ted Horton

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Skip Cameron explains equipment replacement programs.

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## THE IMPACT OF INFLATION ON THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT'S AND MAINTENANCE BUDGET

We generally reminisce about the "good old days" when a dollar was said to be worth a dollar, when quality labor was abundant, when materials were relatively low priced, and when the Golf Course Superintendent's standard of living was increasing. Today the dollar is barely worth thirty cents, quality labor is diminishing, and materials are being priced out of the market. I will attempt to evaluate these recent economic relationships as they pertain to the Superintendent's salary and the maintenance budget.

Column I of Table I lists actual 1968 data presented by Mr. Donald Gerber and Mr. Raymond Gerber before the Chicago District Golf Association Green Section Seminar in 1968. I then changed these 1968 amounts into comparable 1975 dollar figures under Column II. Remember that these 1975 dollar amounts only reflect impact of inflation or what the same quantities of fertilizer and supplies purchased during 1968 would now cost during 1975. Thus, the average superintendent's salary of \$13,877 during 1968 must increase to \$21,703 during 1975 or his standard of living has decreased. Column II also illustrates the individual budget components in 1975 dollars. Without any increase in the quality of maintenance our golf course budget of \$89,067 in 1968 would be \$147,569 during 1975.

The preceding data has established a base year (1968) from which to start, and with the assistance of the Consumer Price Index and the Wholesale Price Index, I have constructed an objective or goal (Column II data) to measure our budgets and salary levels. Column III describes the Superintendent that strives towards a five percent increase in both his standard of living and his operating budget. This superintendent's salary now must reach \$30,536 to represent a yearly real five percent increase in his standard of living from \$13,877 in 1968. His maintenance budget would have to increase to \$207,629 from \$89,067.

Column IV represents data from twenty-eight Chicagoland golf courses. If we compare Column IV with the data in Column II we can evaluate the actual progress of the superintendent since 1968. Unfortunately, the average salary has decreased, comparing \$21,703 to \$19,064 (17 golf courses from the north side of Chicago) and \$18,398 (11 golf courses from the west side of Chicago). Also, the average maintenance budget (\$131,530 from the northside and \$114,900 from the westside) fall short of the updated 1968 figure of \$147,569.

TABLE I Analysis of Golf Course Budgets

	Col. I <sup>1</sup> 1968	Col. II <sup>2</sup> 1975 Dollars	Col. III <sup>3</sup> 5% Inc.	Col. IV <sup>4</sup> 1975 Survey
Supt. Salary	\$13,877	\$ 21,703	\$ 30,536	\$ 18,398 <sup>5</sup>
Labor	51,000	85,374	120,121	19,064 <sup>6</sup>
Gas & Oil	1,940	3,247	4,569	—
Sand	1,466	2,454	3,453	—
Soil	560	937	1,318	—
Seed	900	1,507	2,120	—
Chemicals	3,517	5,887	8,283	—
Fertilizer	3,600	6,026	8,479	—
Flowers	447	748	1,052	—
Educational Expense	560	937	1,318	—
Equipment Repairs	3,500	5,859	8,244	—
New Equipment	7,700	12,890	18,136	—
	<u>\$89,067</u>	<u>\$147,569</u>	<u>\$207,629</u>	\$131,530 <sup>7</sup> \$114,900 <sup>8</sup>

1. 1968 Average Data from Seven Golf Courses.
2. 1968 Figures Adjusted for Inflation using a CPI of 156.4 and a WPI of 167.4.
3. Adjusting Col. II Data to include a real 5% increase.
4. Actual Data from 28 Chicago Golf Courses.
5. Average Supt. Salary for 11 Golf Courses on West-side of Chicago as of January 1975.
6. Average Supts. Salary for 17 Golf Courses on North-side of Chicago as of January 1975.
7. Average Budget for 20 Golf Courses on North-side of Chicago as of January 1975.
8. Average Budget for 11 Golf Courses on West-side of Chicago as of January 1975.

From the preceding exercise we are able to conclude that by comparing 1975 average figures to the "good old days of 1968," the Golf Courses Superintendent's standard of living and his maintenance budget have not kept pace with the rapid inflation of the 1970's. The members of our country clubs are asking the Superintendent to raise the quality of the golf course while providing him with a smaller quantity of materials and a lower real income as an incentive.

If the preceding information is presented to the Board of Directors of our clubs, I believe that the Superintendent will have a better chance of obtaining, not only a sufficient budget, but also a better standard of living. We cannot expect the Board of Directors to increase budgets or our salaries unless specific data is presented to support our requests.

Robert E. Siebert  
Naperville Country Club

Credit: The Bull Sheet, April 1975

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## LEGISLATIVE AWARENESS — A MUST TODAY

In recent months, various governmental instrumentalities have attempted to enact legislation which could have had an adverse effect upon the operation of golf courses and their resultant quality. In several instances, attempts have been initiated which could have limited or banned the use of fertilizer on golf courses. Additionally, we have seen trial balloons flown concerning rationing of fuel, real estate taxation methods and increasingly harsh regulations of necessary pesticides.

Government, be it local, state, or federal, continues to be felt more and more on the golf course. The time when golf courses were seldom affected by such matters has long since passed, and now the superintendent and all other supervisors at a golf course must consider these laws with almost every action they take.

We may be an industry guilty of complacency and not mindful of serious inroads which have been made and others which some contemplate that could easily alter this picture if allowed to continue unaltered. Consider for example that most decisions made concerning golf are based upon the premise that golf courses as they have become known, will continue. Recent governmental attempts in some areas cast a dark shadow across all golf courses, and in some instances, endanger their very existence.

When professional associations of "greenskeepers" were established some fifty years ago, the primary reason for their formation was to assist the members in scientific areas of turfgrass management through the dissemination of new information. While this reason still exists today, an important new area is that of being in a position to react to potential governmental actions.

Graphic examples of cooperation between professional associations and governmental bodies can be found daily. Within the golf course superintendent's profession, there are several excellent examples of how a united group can insure that its interests are represented and considered prior to final action. First at the federal level and more recently at the state level. Massachusetts and Michigan for example, some legislators proposed the banning of non-farm fertilizer usage. While individual or local interest was first aroused, this was closely followed by organizational efforts to present information to legislators which was vital to a complete and thorough understanding of the problems which would follow such a ban. Fortunately, we can say today that these federal and state proposals were permitted to die without moving beyond the committee level. However, this is not to say that further attempts by these or other governmental bodies will not be forthcoming, nor can we afford to become relaxed on the issue. Unfortunately, the golf superintendent's interests may not always receive the mindful considerations they deserve by the law makers.

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) made determined efforts on the Massachusetts and Michigan fertilizer bills and on a Wisconsin pesticide bill by advising the chapters in those states of the proposals, followed

by suggested actions and/or GCSAA position information. Superintendents in those states acted in unison through a letter writing campaign and in offering testimony to support their concerns.

This is not a totally new area of action for GCSAA, with it having given testimony concerning pension reform legislation, as well as in dealing with the Environmental Protection Agency; however, involvement in the state-level legislation is relatively new and caution must be taken to insure that counter-productive measures are not permitted through a conflict of actions by the state and national organizations. Neither should GCSAA attempt to supercede the chapter's prerogatives in state-level actions, because the impetus must remain at the local level where those who will be most directly affected will have the greatest input. GCSAA's intended posture is that of acting as a hot-line to disperse information and to serve as a reservoir of resource information and prepare nation-wide position papers.

Because more and more legislation is of concern to golf courses and historically it has been demonstrated that legislative actions are duplicated from the local and state levels to the national level and vice versa, a seemingly minor item of legislation may soon become so significant that it is affecting the profession nation-wide. Additionally, a piece of legislation may appear to be insignificant at the time of passage and later, through interpretations and enforcement policies, become of tremendous import to the profession and the superintendent's ability to perform his required tasks.

Based upon these trends and historically documented cases, each member of the chapter must be on the alert for legislative developments within his geographic area and report to the chapter. Next, the chapter must determine if the proposal could be harmful or helpful and what would be the best approach to the matter. If the chapter feels this development is of a considerable magnitude or if possible assistance is desired, they could report the item to the GCSAA officers or headquarters personnel. In some instances, GCSAA may advise chapters of impending legislation or seek the assistance of persons within the chapters to represent the national organization at the local level.

Individual superintendents may not be able to be aware of all legislation which could affect them, nor would they always be able to bring to bear the impact an organized effort would. However, it is the individual superintendent who must bring these matters to the attention of the organization so that the appropriate actions can be taken. This effect could become even more broad based if a course's golfers could be encouraged to become involved to the extent of reporting items of interest to their superintendent.

We can all afford to be legislated out of existence and fortunately through our professional association, we can position ourselves to insure that our interests are represented on all items of legislation which could negatively or positively affect our ability to provide the type of conditions that today's golfers have learned to expect and appreciate.



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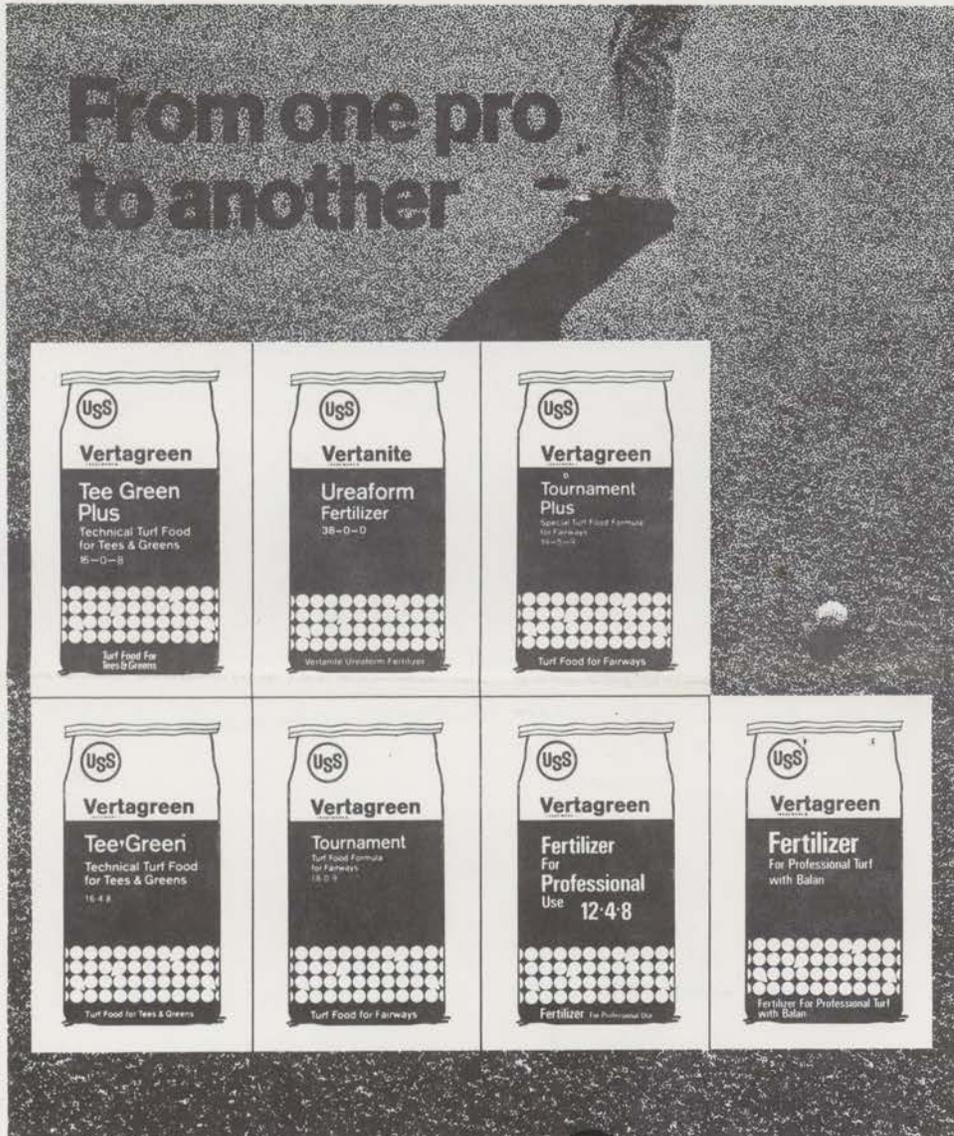


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