



**MEETING NOTICE:**

Date: July 6, 1978  
 Place: St. Andrews Golf Club  
 Host: Phil Santucci  
 Golf: 12 noon on—2nd Round Supt. Championship  
 B & C Championship 18 holes  
 Lunch: Available in grill room  
 Cocktails: 6-7 PM  
 Dinner: 7 PM—Please return your card for reservations  
 Program: Dr. Ralph Engel, International Turfgrass Tour  
 Directions: Take Central Avenue in White Plains South to Jackson Avenue—Or come down the Sprain Brook Parkway to Jackson Avenue where the club is located.

**COMING EVENTS:**

July 26 U of Mass, Field Day—USGA.  
 August 4-5 Curtis Cup—MGCSA members will be able to have free passes upon showing membership card at The Apawamis Club call desk.  
 August 14 Family picnic—Woodway Beach Club  
 Sherwood Moore, Chairman  
 August 23 Rhode Island Field Day  
 September 19 MGCSA Invitational, Sunningdale G.C.  
 November Annual meeting  
 December 2 MGCSA Christmas Party, Greenwich, Conn.  
 Paul Caswell, Chairman

**MGCSA NEWS:**

June 15th had to be one of the nicest days we have had for golf in a long time. Sunny, dry, cool, just perfect. Dave Enos and Bob Alonzi had the red carpet out along with the weather. Those who played golf enjoyed a well conditioned golf course with nice fast greens. If anybody thinks they have had rotary work, try Burning Tree's back 9 . . . Rocks, trees, brooks . . . but it was all trimmed up. Why more didn't play golf is beyond me but those who did enjoyed a great day for golf.

Vinnie Pentenaro came in with a nice 76 to take honors in the first round with Chuck Fatum right on his heels with a 77. Yours truly had his usual many stroked round, but had a birdie and par to make the day, along with a 230 yard drive with a 3 wood. Almost outdrove Horton. The Manager Bob Alonzi went all out to show us how it's done. Excellent Prime ribs, extra dessert, excellent hors d'oeuvres. Richard Hurley, Vice President, Agronomy and Research for Lofts

Pedigreed Seed, Inc. talked about preparing The Augusts National for the Masters Golf Tournament. We all learned a few things about overseeding in the south, especially for the Masters in April. 60,000 lbs. of seed is a lot of seed. Lofts had a nice Field Day on the 21st. Great turnout but few Superintendents. Dr. Herbert Cole had slides showing the various diseases. Those interested in Microscopes can get information from the Broderon Instrument Co. P.O. Box 217, Wexford, Pa. 15090. Dr. Henry Indyk talked about the importance of blending of bluegrasses varieties to give the best possible turf. It looks like summer is now here after a brief Spring. Leaf spot will now be replaced by dollar spot, brews patch and hopefully we won't see Pythium this year. Hope to see you all at St. Andrews, the first course in the USA. Take time to look at the history of golf items in the clubhouse.

Garry N. Crothers

**Welfare:** Please contact Pat Lucas 203-637-3210 or Edward Horton 914-699-2827 in regard to any hospitalizations etc. of members of MGCSA.



Head table at the June MGCSA meeting. Left to right, Patricia Vittum, Hyperodes Research; Mr. Manero, Green Chairman of Burning Tree C.C.; Dave Enos, Golf Course Superintendent, Burning Tree C.C.; Ted Horton, President MGCSA; and Dick Hurly, Research Director of Lofts Seed Co.



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Ted Horton

Co-Editor  
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### HYPERODES UPDATE

by Pat Vittum

Once again the Hyperodes weevil has made its appearance. I have been taking samples from eight courses, once a week at each course, and most of the courses have areas where damage from the weevil is evident. Fortunately, in most cases these areas were left untreated intentionally, so a population would build up and I could study it.

During the week of June 5th, most of the insects were in the small to medium sized larval stages. The following week, most were medium to large larvae. (This is the stage when they do the most damage.) During the week of June 19th, most were large larvae or pupae. This is an indication that the damage has probably peaked in most areas, since pupae do not feed at all and most of the large larvae which I found had finished feeding and had moved into the upper soil layers.

In previous years, we have noticed a substantial difference in the rate of development of the insect in different parts of the county. This year there appears to be only about four or five days difference from the southern to the northern part of Westchester County (and parts of Fairfield County). A couple of sites show a greater difference.

Dr. Tashiro plans to put out a series of test plots in early July and at later dates throughout the summer in an effort to determine the best means of controlling the summer activity of the weevils. At this point we cannot make an official recommendation. However, it appears that the first week of July will be an appropriate time to apply your material (probably Dursban at the regular rate—1 to 2 lb at/A). You might try a small area first to see if the warmer temperatures of July cause a problem with phytotoxicity. You also might consider

watering in the material, again to reduce the possibility of burning the grass.

Dr. Tashiro feels summer applications should only be made in small areas where there have been problems in the past, and not applied on a wide scale. Once again, this is NOT an official recommendation. We do not have enough experimental evidence to make an official recommendation at this time. Hopefully, this year's summer plots will provide the necessary evidence for future recommendations.

If you have any questions, call me any time at Winged Foot G.C. (914-698-2827).

### MCGSA Research Fund Report:

#### Hyperodes Weevil Project:

The monies are starting to come in from the various clubs. We still have a long way to go and certainly each individual member should be able to contribute also. There have been very few superintendents contributing to date and we should be the leaders. Please make your check out to MCGSA Research Committee and send to Box 37, Rye, N.Y. We must raise another \$5,000 to reach our goal for 1978. To date the following clubs and individuals have contributed to the 1978.

#### Hyperodes Research Project:

##### Clubs and Associations

The Apawamis Club	Ridgeway C.C.
Blind Brook Club	Rockland C.C.
Brae Burn Country Club	Rockrimmon C.C.
Burning Tree Country Club	Round Hill Club
Fenway Golf Club	Quaker Ridge G.C.
Garden City Golf Club	Wee Burn C.C.
Greenwich Country Club	Winged Foot Golf Club
Elmwood Country Club	Woodway C.C.
Metropolis C.C.	Wykagyl C.C.
Mt. Kisco C.C.	Scarsdale C.C.
Mountain Ridge C.C.	Waccabuc C.C.
Old Oaks Country Club	Sleepy Hollow C.C.
Piping Rock Club	MCGSA

##### Whippoorwill Club

##### Individuals and Commercial Firms

John Corsi	Dan Verille	Aqua Lawn
Roger J. King	Mel Lucas Jr.	Bill Somers
Anthony Grasso	Bryan Maker	Walter Androsko
John Hunt	Paul Caswell	I & E Supply
Garry Crothers	Edward C. Horton	Cloro Spray Corp.
Phil Santucci	Frank Bevelacqua	Frank Lamphier
Ted Joawick	Pat Lucas	Roger Hazen
	Glen Moore	

It sure would be nice to have 100% contributions by Class A members and 40 clubs at least to reach our total commitment to Cornell University.

MCGSA Research Committee

### WINTERKILL—WE WEREN'T THE ONLY ONES

#### Winterkill . . . It Did And It Didn't

A veteran superintendent has come up with a very interesting, although hardly viable suggestion. "If I could arrange it," he cracked, "I would put in a rule for my members. It would be very simple . . . 'Florida is off limits to any person

wishing to play this course.' For my money, the worst thing that ever happened was Florida in the winter. Every April it drives me up a wall."

What happens to said super and virtually every other colleague who must ply his knowledge and ability under the most dreadful of weather conditions in New England is the mass exodus of golfers from sunny Florida to the unpredictable spring of Massachusetts and other points northeast.

"My members go to Florida and play their clubs off on lush grass and smooth greens," the superintendent continued. "Then, when they return to our course, they expect to pick up where they left off. It's ridiculous, especially when we're coming out of a winter like the one we had to put up with this year."

This brings us to the unrelenting problem of spring on New England golf courses—the persistent presence of winterkill. That malady does just what it implies. It kills the grass and turns it into a brownish, sickening color. Acute cases can turn a course into a depressed area.

The winterkill of 1978 was further distressing to the superintendent because of the no-growth spring experienced in New England. As late as the second week of May the ground temperature remained in the low 40's and delayed the germination period of plants almost endlessly. An added deterrent was the presence of strong northwest winds. So, if winterkill had invaded your course, its recuperation was a long, drawn-out process.

There was an inexplicable aside to the occurrence of winterkill this year. For the most part, when it overtook a course, it was devastating. There were reports telling of certain areas where a full 18 greens were wiped out. Yet, there also were strange absences of winterkill . . . in areas where the disease was almost expected to visit.

One popular Eastern Massachusetts course was browned out by winterkill. The damage there was virtually irreparable and the uncooperative spring brought shivers to its superintendent. The feeling was that he might have to rebuild 16 of 18 greens and replace more than half of his tees.

That was the sharp, piercing edge of winterkill's invasion. But at an adjacent course, only a few miles away, there was no incidence of winterkill. The superintendent there was almost at a loss for words. "I kept looking for it, almost wishing I'd get a few spots," he told. "But there was nothing. The unusual aspect of it was the fact that I had done nothing to combat the possibility of winterkill. I just let the weather run its course and hoped for the best. I got it."

Most people assume that the Blizzard of '78 was the prime reason for the high occurrence of winterkill. "That's false assumption," one super advised. "In my case, I think it might have helped. I didn't plow my greens at all. It gave me complete snow cover all winter and the blizzard in February just added to the protection. But that was my good fortune. In place where ice had already formed, the added snow just compounded the problem. It kept the ice there longer and gave winterkill all the time it needed to do its dirty work."

Another superintendent reported that winterkill played hopscotch with his course. "It was a crazy pattern," he revealed. "I had a tee completely ruined by winterkill. And right next to it my practice putting green was as lush as

August when the snow disappeared. I think it's just a part of the unpredictable properties of weather elements. I can't explain it. Weather is one thing that no one can explain."

Winterkill, then, was a killer to some and a welcome absentee to others. When it did hit, it was devastating, cruel and persistent. Those, who escaped it, were lucky. Those, caught in its path, are still fighting the effects of its attack. New England . . . a true test for the golf course superintendent.

Gerry Finn

Credit: Newsletter June 1978

## Editorial

### The Mysterious Winter of '77

It is obvious that what many Superintendents thought was going to be a good spring for our greens turned out to be a disaster for many of us. Over the past several weeks I've discussed the situation of Poa winterkill with several Superintendents and after visual inspection I have come up with the following conclusions.

First of all and most noticeable is the fact that those who aerified their greens this past fall had the most damage. Especially, where the aerification holes were not closed up. Those who aerified immediately after Labor Day with smaller tines, then topdressed, fertilized and left their greens a little hairy going into the winter didn't seem to suffer as badly. The courses with no fall aerification on greens came out the best. Poa greens that were on sand topdressing programs fared the worst. Traffic areas on and off sections of a particular green also seemed hit worse. Courses with more play than others seemed to have more problems. Greens in hard to grow areas, with little air movement and heavy traffic were damaged more than others.

Upon taking over at Skokie in mid-January one of the first observations I undertook was to shovel snow off of some greens to check for an ice layer. Indeed that is exactly what I found, a very thin coat on many greens and not only in low lying areas.

Synopsis:

The summer of '77 was a bad one probably one of the worst. With all of the heat and rain in mid-summer to many of us the only re-course was to aerify greens in the fall. The poa was weak, those that utilized a sand topdressing program where fall poa germination is limited had many weakened plants going into the winter. Green areas where traffic is heaviest also had restricted roots unable to withstand the ice immediately under the surface level. Those who aerified and didn't have the holes close up as fast as anticipated suffered when the greens became saturated with rains in late fall followed by heavy wet snows which froze in the unfrosted aerification holes. Some of us who probably made the last cut on greens a little too late especially on small heavily trafficked greens also suffered. Maybe we learned a lesson from this past winter. Our business is like a card game, sometimes we have to make the "wrong move" at the right time!

John Berarducci

Skokie Country Club

Credit: The Bull Sheet June, 1978

## MAY OVERLOOK IMPORTANCE OF ANTHRACNOSE ON 'POA'

J.M. Vargas Jr. and R. Detweiler,

Department of Botany and Plant Pathology,  
Michigan State University

A new disease problem attacking "Poa (*Poa annua*—annual bluegrass) has been identified on many golf courses over the past three years. That is not to say anthracnose (*Collectotrichum graminicola*) is a previously unidentified problem for it is reported in the literature. But while the disease has been reported before, its importance has been overlooked, or more correctly stated, the damage done to "Poa" by anthracnose has been blamed on other factors: *Pythium*, *Helminthosporium*, and high temperature.

It was not uncommon to go onto a golf course in the summer and hear a superintendent say, "Pythium has wiped out my fairways" or "Helminthosporium has wiped out my fairways" and "I treated it with this or that and it didn't help." Nor was it uncommon to walk on a golf course and hear someone say, "Look, I can't apply more water, the fairways are saturated and they're still wilting" or "I have even syringed in the middle of the day and they are still wilting."

### Attacks Grass Under Stress

The reason the *Pythium* and *Helminthosporium* fungicides didn't work was because neither was the problem. Excess water and syringing didn't work because the grass was not wilting. If anything, the excess water contributed to the anthracnose problem.

The one characteristic symptom of "Poa" infected with anthracnose is its yellow appearance. When Poa or any grass wilts, it turns dark blue to purple, and yet superintendents were talking about their "Poa" turning yellow and wilting.

What is anthracnose? It is a weak pathogen that can attack "Poa," Kentucky bluegrass, and red fescue under stress. It appears to attack during cool as well as warm weather. The yellowing is present under cool or warm weather but death of the grass plant occurs in hot, humid weather conditions. Most

of the stress on "Poa" came from the high temperatures last summer. The disease in "Poa" was worse in heavy soil, compacted areas, and heavy traffic areas or hillsides. In one case excess nitrogen fertility was also attributed to symptom development. In Kentucky bluegrass, shade and short root systems contributed to the severity of the disease.

How can the disease be properly identified in the field? By the black fruiting bodies, acervulus, (acervuli, pl.) of the fungus, with spines (setae) protruding from them, which are present in the infected tissue. The black bodies can be found in the green or chlorotic tissue (yellow) when the disease is moving rapidly during warm weather but they are more commonly found in the dead tissue.

### Effective Control

The benzimidazole systemic fungicides (Tersan 1991, Fungo 50, Cleary's 3336, Scotts DSB & Fertilizer) at the 2 oz. rate give the best control when applied as eradicants. Rates of 1 oz./1000 sq. ft., while effective, did not give as good control as the 2 oz. rate. Four and 8 o./1000 sq. ft. rates also gave excellent control but the cost is prohibitive. The quickest recovery occurred where the systemic fungicides were drenched in after application. Weekly applications of the contact fungicides Tersan 75, Tersan LSR, Fore and Daconil 2787 were effective.

Many fairways which lost 50 to 75 percent of their turf prior to treatment recovered ten days to two weeks after treatment indicating that the crowns of the plants had not been killed by the anthracnose fungus. Often the roots of the treated annual bluegrass plants are up to 2 inches in length following treatment in spite of the fact the daytime temperatures were in the high 80's and low 90's. In the untreated controls the annual bluegrass roots remained shallow to the point where the turf could be easily torn out. The evidence indi-

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cates that much of what has been previously called high temperature killing of "Poa," *Helminthosporium* and *Pythium*, is in fact due to anthracnose.

#### Preventive Applications

If this summer is hot and humid, or if you are in an area that always has hot humid summers, you may wish to apply 1 oz/1000 sq. ft. of a systemic fungicide when the daytime temperatures start to go above 85°F. and the nighttime temperatures stay above 70°F. This should last for 4 weeks. Then you could apply Tersan 75, Tersan LSR, Fore or Daconil 2787 followed a week later by an additional ounce of a systemic fungicide. Applied as a preventative, one ounce has been effective.

Why the contact fungicide if the systemics are so effective? Because resistance to the systemic fungicides has developed for every major pathogen on which it was used. This includes *Collectotrichum* spp. on other crops. There is no reason to believe it won't happen here and if it does happen on your course, you will have to spray every 3 to 7 days with a contact fungicide from July through August to prevent anthracnose. Using a contact between systemic fungicides application and during the rest of the year will hopefully delay the development of this resistance.

Credit: Green World, Spring 1978

#### A PORTRAIT OF A "SUPER" WIFE

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Who Revels The Down-To-Earth Life,  
Which Is Devoid Of Fancies and Flings,  
And Embraces Only Genuine Things;

Tho' Life's Not Always A Hummer,-  
Indeed—Not During The Summer,  
When Katy Has No Recourse,-  
(Since Her Rival's A Grass-Skirted Course);  
But To Tread Alone With Her Sprightly Few,-  
Losing The Battle To A Tameless Shrew;

(Patiently She Endures The Season's Flirtation);

For Her Man Wings About Like A Timely Gear,  
With Umpteenth Diseases Spawning Fear,-  
Evolves On A Course of Scientific Toil,  
Which Resolves Nature's Turbulence In The Soil;

But Lengthening Shadows Diminshes The Day,  
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(Gracefully She Soothes The Simmering Tide).

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(Right) June MGCSA meeting, left to right, Mr. Manero, Green Chairman, Burning Tree C.C.; Bob Alonzi, General Manager, Burning Tree C.C. and Vice President, MGCSA and Dave Enos, Golf Course Superintendent, Burning Tree C.C.



Richard Hurly, Research Director of Lofts Seed Co.



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## SAFETY IS IMPORTANT WHEN HANDLING AND STORING PESTICIDES

Proper handling and storage of pesticides should be an integral part of any golf course superintendent's chemical use program. These substances, with their remarkable abilities to enhance the appearance and playability of a golf course, also have the potential for considerable damage to you and your employee's health.

Improper handling of even small amounts of pesticides can cause blurred vision, headaches, nausea and chest constriction. Larger doses can deposit dangerous chemicals in the bloodstream, causing permanent damage to organs, especially the lungs and kidneys. Periodic blood tests should be run on workers who regularly come in contact with pesticides.

Establishing some clear and easily followed rules will protect you and your crew when handling potentially dangerous chemicals.

Read and reread the product label each time the pesticide is used. Manufacturers review and test their products often and may change label instructions.

Wear protective clothing when handling pesticides. Long sleeves, rubber gloves, unvented goggles and a respirator are necessary. Never drink anything, eat, smoke put your hands in your mouth or rub your eyes while handling chemicals. Avoid spraying on windy days and always stay upwind when spraying. Wash thoroughly with soap and water when you've completed a job.

Use good housekeeping practices, washing chemicals spills off work areas and mixing equipment promptly. Even the

smallest splash of pesticide on your skin should be washed off with soap and water immediately. Having a safety shower in the chemical mixing area for washing off larger spills gives added protection.

The proper storage and mixing facilities are a great aid to having a safe pesticide operation. A separate room or building for these functions is preferable, but under all circumstances you should have a lockable storage area and a mixing bench with running water. Pesticides should be segregated according to type to prevent cross-contamination and should be kept away from other supplies.

Containers for chemical storage should be clearly marked and periodically inspected for leaks or corrosion. Use original containers whenever possible. Under no circumstances should a pesticide be stored or mixed in a container that could be mistaken for a beverage or food container—a drinking water jug, for example.

Allowances should be made for the collection and proper disposal of runoff from the chemical preparation area. You should also develop a plan for containing water contaminated by fighting a fire in the chemical storage area.

Avoid the temptation to stockpile pesticides. Use up supplies on hand before you order more and don't accumulate odds and ends of old chemicals.

A safe operation is no less efficient than a careless one. In fact, careful handling of expensive compounds and strict adherence to use guidelines may reduce waste and save you money in the end.

**Credit: Fore Front, May 1978**



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