

Golf Course Superintendents Association

OF NEW ENGLAND



NEWSLETTER

August 1962

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The August meeting was held August 5, 1962 at the Charles River Country Club, Newton, Mass. In spite of a record scorching 80 Supts. turned out,

The Clapper Company demonstrated the new Toro seven gang Roadmaster for use on roughs and the Toro Workmaster Golf Cart with dump body.

Most of the Supts. played golf, but those who didn't toured the golf course, inspected the maintenance equipment and discussed the golf carts and storage facilities for same.

The current weather situation was also discussed. In the Worcester area, July was the coldest since 1901 with a temperature of 49° July 6 then 87° the following Sunday for the highest reading. In Boston July was the coldest in 39 years, in Rhode Island the second coldest in the history of the local weather bureau, the coldest in Maine in 47 years. In Worcester rain fall was 1.81 inches below normal.

At the Business Meeting

All Committee Chairmen present gave their reports.

Correspondence from the National regarding a golf team to play at Palm Springs, California February 1963 was discussed.

National Conference 1964 to be held at Philadelphia.

Membership in Golf Course Supts. Association of America is now 1884 members.

Bob Grant and Dick Blake to act as Delegates on Policy Committee at National Conference.

Theodore F. Robbins, Asst. Supt. Unicorn C. C., Stoneham, Mass. was voted an Asst. member.

Applications for regular membership were received from:
Stanley A. Brown - Supt. New Bedford Public Links, New Bedford, Mass.
Thomas J. Scannell - Supt. Cranwell Golf Club, Lenox, Mass.

The Next Meeting

Sept. 10, 1962 - Lake Sunapee C.C., New London, N.H., Ladies invited, come early and play golf upon arrival, the snack bar will be open for lunch -- All members are invited to a Cocktail Hour at 4 P.M. (Compliments of the host club) Dinner at 5:00 P.M. - Host Supt. Henry Holman, Jr.

the Editor - Dick Blake

"Avoiding a wrong thing does not necessarily result in doing the right thing." Bernard Halane, Good Business.

Rights and wrongs of golf course management are a commonplace discussion whenever turf-fellows get together. When problems arise for discussion at any of the superintendent or other meetings, there are always some on either side of the "argument". This is understandable because there are no conditions exactly alike and so there are some who will, and there are some who won't show identical results with any one practice. Spring and Fall are the times for experimenting with something new...and then only on a small area. Summer's no time for experimenting.

Here are a few do's and dont's that practical men have learned will help reduce summer problems.

(1) Don't overdo things in hot weather...as Prof. L. R. Dickinson, recipient of the second annual Green Section Award has always stressed, "The grass plant wants to live...give it a chance to do so..don't try to make it live."

(2) Do not chance overstimulating the turf in the summer...greens especially should not be "forced"...keep nutrients applied on the low side.

(3) Do not attempt to reduce the height of cut on greens in hot weather.

(4) Do remove clippings from tees and aprons...just as you remove clippings from greens. It is possible to invite disease, insect, smothering, and other problems that weaken turfgrasses if clippings build up. Removal of clippings keeps grasses healthier.

(5) Do be careful to avoid the bruising of aprons in hot, dry weather...especially when the turf is on the verge of wilting.

(6) Do syringe and carefully water greens whether they are suffering from dry or wet wilt...we have had extremes in weather these past two years... '61 was extremely wet...while '62 to date has been extremely dry in most of the Eastern Seaboard. Far less injury has occurred to greens this dry year as compared to '61. The axiom that "Fewer problems arise when the superintendent can control the amount of water applied to greens" is again proven this year.

(7) Do not attempt to correct grain problems in greens in summer... this is best done in Spring and Fall.

(8) Do not lose sight of the fact that hydrated lime is a good material to combat disease, algae, and overly wet greens, Gypsum too is sometimes helpful with problems of excess water and heavy soils.

(9) Do move cups frequently to minimize wear injury around cups.

(10) Do not apply 2, 4-D or 2,4,5-T to cool season turf in summer.

(11) Do not apply sodium arsenate to cool season turf in summer.

(12) Do measure size, and be careful of rates of all materials applied to greens.

(13) Do not apply phenyl mercuric acetate herbicides (PMA) to Merion Bluegrass turf at any time.

(14) Do not apply topdressing in July and August to bentgrass greens.

(15) Do follow the Green Section article "Specifications for a Method of Putting Green Construction" if you plan to rebuild any greens this Fall. (Reprints available upon request.)

(16) Do not increase phosphorus readings in greens if Poa annua is a problem...keep phosphorus down so that lead arsenate will be more effective when applied. Light frequent treatments of lead arsenate applied during the summer season tends to discourage Poa annua, when Poa is most susceptible to discouragement.

(17) Don't forget the iron sulphate for improving color and avoiding iron chlorosis in greens. Add some magnesium sulphate (Epsom Salts) to the iron sulphate once in a while when color is lacking... 1-ounce of each per 1000 sq. ft. in 3 gallons of water...applied when the grass leaves are dry gives immediate color improvement.

(18) Do spike greens weekly in the summer season to penetrate the upper, compacted, fraction of the soil which is ever so slight but nevertheless very troublesome often-times.

(19) Do be prepared to spray insecticides for sod webworm and chinch bug in August and September...more insect activity has been noticed this year due to the dryness of season.

(20) Do plan any renovation work early...get an early start so that seeded areas could progress well before the winter season approaches. Seed placed in the ground between August 15 and September 15 will normally provide better results than seeding later.

(21) Do be careful of mowing after rains when hot and humid...especially heavy rains...when turf is in danger of wet wilt, it can be bruised just as easily as when dry wilt prevails.

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"Experience is a good teacher but a queer old soul...she gives the test first, THEN explains the lesson." Wesleyan Methodist