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OF NEW ENGLAND



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NEWSLETTER

June 1962

The June meeting was held June 4, 1962 at Ledgemont C. C., Seekonk, Mass. This was a joint New England and Rhode Island Association meeting as well as the annual Chairman meeting. (There were 8 Chairmen present).

President Nary Sperandio introduced the Greens Chairman from Ledgemont C. C., Mr. Herbert J. Cohen who welcomed all to the club facilities for the day. He next introduced Dick Blake, President R. I. Association who in turn introduced Dr. Jesse DeFrance, consultant for O. M. Scott & Son Company who was the speaker for the educational program.

Dr. DeFrance gave an interesting talk illustrated by colored slides.

He cautioned all to be on the watch for Chinch bugs.

Tony Caranci host superintendent conducted a tour of the course. Tony has re-built several greens and tees, also of interest was the large building being constructed for golf carts.

Tony also reported that the course was extremely dry and that he had pumped a pond dry and was purchasing water for irrigation at the earliest date he could recall.

* * *

An application for Assistant membership was read from Theodore F. Robbins, Asst. Supt. Unicorn C. C., Stoneham, Mass.

Winners of Golf Tournament

Low Gross

Low Net (4 ties)

Mel Wendell - 74
Bill Carter & Stan Brown 78
Paul (Actidione) Chechele 79

John Dolan
H. Lungreen
Sam Mitchell, Jr.
Floyd Wiget

Next Meeting

July 9, 1962 - Dedham Country & Polo Club
On route 128 turn west on 109 at Westwood Exit then first right Westfield St.

Host Supt. Bob Mucciarone
Lunch 12:30 - Golf after lunch.

Please register for golf tournament and establish a handicap.

The Editor
Dick Blake

DIAGNOSIS AND CONTROL OF TURF-GRASS DISEASES

Dr. Houston B. Couch, Professor of Plant Pathology
Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pennsylvania

Successful control of turf-grass diseases over an extended period of time requires alertness and attention to details in the area of diagnosis as well as fungicide selection and application. Development of the art of diagnosis begins with acquisition of a thorough knowledge of all the diseases known to occur on the grass species in question during each season of the year. An accurate record should be kept of each disease outbreak on the golf course, and the control measures attempted. This should be done methodically, no matter how insignificant the problem may appear at the time. Diseases have a bad habit of returning.

Several factors should be considered in the selection of the specific fungicide entries in the disease control program. These include cost, effectiveness, phytotoxicity, safety to user, level of compatibility with other pesticides, shelf life, and market availability.

If maximum benefit is to be realized from the use of any fungicide, the material must be applied in accordance with recommendations. Also, the applications should be uniform and at accurately controlled rates. In the long run, poor spray technique, or inadequate spray equipment can only mean inadequate disease control.

TOP TIPS ON TURF DISEASE CONTROL

Stan A. Frederiksen, Distributor Products Division
Mallinckrodt Chemical Works
St. Louis, Missouri

For purposes of sharing ideas, and of stimulating panel discussion on turf disease control, the following ten "tips" may be found to have merit:

- 1--Develop a solid background of disease control know-how
- 2--Avoid built-in turf disease problems
- 3--Follow good sound basic turf maintenance practices
- 4--Always assume the presence of numerous turf disease organisms
- 5--Analyze your "disease" problem (i.e., is the problem really turf disease, or is it something else that is causing the turf disease)
- 6--Eliminate the condition that causes or promotes the disease
- 7--Develop a complete turf fungicide control program
- 8--Select effective turf fungicides
- 9--Practice true disease control economy (i.e., consider the cost of achieving effective disease control, rather than merely the price of a turf fungicide)
- 10--Work closely with the distributor who works with you

These are broad ideas--there may be some which may be considered more important. However, it will generally be agreed that the above ten "tips," if carefully followed, will come pretty close to solving most turf disease problems.

TURF-GRASS NUTRITION AND FERTILIZER USE

Dr. William O. Trogdon, Head
Department of Soil and Crop Sciences
Texas A & M College
College Station, Texas

The soil-water-plant relationship in turf-grass management is indeed a complex one. Fitting fertilizers into the program becomes less complex as the simple fundamentals of turf-grass nutrition are better understood.

The elements essential to plants, including those commonly referred to as the fertilizer elements, may be classified as nutritive or regulatory. The nutritive elements--carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, phosphorus, sulfur, magnesium, and calcium--become a part of the living plant. Calcium, sulfur, and phosphorus may also function as regulatory elements do iron, boron, copper, zinc, manganese, and molybdenum.

Fertilizer use is an attempt to assure that enough of an element will be available to the turf-grass when it is needed so the plants will grow to our specifications. All factors that affect the absorption, accumulation, upward movement, distribution, and utilization of inorganic solutes in the plant must be considered. Factors most frequently considered are the balance, the nutrient level, the fertilizer interactions, and varying degrees of availability of different fertilizers.

Just as the three "R's" are the basis for evaluating learning or education, there are three "R's" which can be used as a simple guide for proper fertilizer use. They are: The RIGHT AMOUNT of the RIGHT KIND at the RIGHT TIME. These are the fundamentals for fertilizer use.