

Golf Course Superintendents Association

OF NEW ENGLAND



NEWSLETTER

December 1963

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Past President—

N. J. SPERANDIO
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Concord, Mass.
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The December and annual meeting was held Dec. 2, 1963 at the Waltham Field Station.

The 1964 slate of officers is as follows:

President
First Vice President
Second Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Trustee for Three Years
Trustee for Two Years
Trustee for One Year
Finance Committee Chairman
Educational Committee Chairman
Golf Committee Chairman
News Letter Committee Chairman
Auditors

Joseph Butler
Leon V. St. Pierre
Anthony D. Caranci, Jr.
John Callahan
Arthur Cody
William Ash
Albert Allen
Howard Farrant
George Rommell
Thomas Curran
Edward Murphy
Richard Blake
Albert Allen
N. J. Sperandio

Tony Caranci, Jr. was named to the policy committee replacing Bob Grant.

Next Meeting

Jan. 6, 1964 - Waltham Field Station

Directors Meeting 10:00 A.M.

Lunch 12:30

Business Meeting 11:00 A.M.

Educational Program 1:30

Guest Speaker - Don Waddington, University of Mass.

"Root Growth as Effectuated by Oxygen Diffusion."

* * *

A Directors meeting was held Dec. 9, 1963 at which time recommendations for Article and Bylaw changes were discussed.

John Latvis was appointed a life member.

All members are requested to read the Constitution and By-laws before attending the next meeting and it would be appreciated if all recommendations for changes or corrections be presented in writing.

Only Members of the N.E.G.C.S.A. are allowed at business meetings and only Regular and Life members are entitled to vote. (Article 4 Sect. 3 & 7)

Blood Donation for Howard Farrant at any Red Cross Blood Bank would greatly be appreciated.

* * *

Our sympathy is extended to the family of James Fallon, Power Lawn Mower Co., Pawtucket, R. I., who died Dec. 2, 1963.

Also to Les Allan and family on the recent death of their son serving in the Armed Forces.

MERRY XMAS AND A HAPPY & PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO ALL

The editor

Dick Blake

Again quoting from the U. S. G. A. Green Section Record - by James B. Beard, Michigan State University: "Winter kill is a term encompassing a large number of types and causes of injury. It is used loosely to include any type of injury that occurs during the fall, winter, or spring period, including dessication, ice coverings, heaving, flooding, disease, and direct low temperature injury." Just preventing snow mold with fungicide treatments, does not get us out of the woods.

As the snow and ice receded this past spring - many of us were disheartened to see what had occurred or was occurring.

Some correlation of injury to soil conditions - such as compaction, soil moisture, rapid drying out of surface by winds, or a combination of them has been made. Suggestions for consideration would be as follows:

1. Thoroughly aerify and fertilize early in the fall to lessen compaction and to encourage deeper root growth.
2. Allow turf to "harder off" before snow falls.
3. Lift sod and eliminate pockets where greens may have settled so that water will not puddle and form ice.
4. On greens where surface grades are marginal, lift a strip of sod and trench 4 to 6 inches deep off to outside of collar to expedite water runoff. Professor Dickinson advocated this practice years ago. Where greens have a gravel or crushed stone base under the top-soil, a series of vertical drains can be made in low areas using a standard cup cutter and filling holes with pea gravel.
5. Raise height of cut in late fall.
6. On exposed, windswept greens, use tree boughs or snow fence to help hold snow cover and reduce wind burn. An application of top-dressing late in the fall may also offer some protection and help to attract heat in the spring. Organic fertilizers can also be used for this effect.
7. Apply fungicides for snow mold prevention either as a spray or mixed dry with sand or fertilizer as a carrier. First application should be timed to precede first snow and subsequent treatment will depend on whether a mid-winter thaw occurs to enable application.
8. Make inspection tour of course at intervals during winter to see what conditions are.
9. If weather conditions are such, ice may form regardless of our precautions. Be prepared with manpower and equipment to remove snow early in the spring if under laid with ice. It may be necessary to hire a small bulldozer if snow is deep.
10. Make plans to be able to provide water to greens in early spring either through use of the irrigation system, power sprayer or tank truck if necessary. A windy, dry spring such as this past spring can be very damaging to turf that has just emerged from a protective snow cover.
11. Above all have a Sod Nursery.

GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE MEMO

UNIVERSITY OF R. I.

Turf on greens subjected to play during the northern winter will most likely be injured.

Grasses are living organisms that have rather specific characteristics. For turfgrass purposes, we make use of certain of their inherent strengths and try to compensate for their weaknesses by regulating the management program.

Grasses subjected to putting-green conditions, with the required close mowing and normally heavy traffic, are very definitely placed under strain. Even under favorable soil and climate conditions, the roots of these grasses are restricted in depth and extent. On normal soils it is possible, through good management, to live with this restricted root system. On frozen soils or on those that are wet and sticky because of daily freezing and thawing, it is not possible to regulate or adjust the soil environment. Management can do very little to affect the grass under these conditions. One of the few things that can be done to reduce turf injury is to eliminate play while these frost conditions exist.

Putting greens subjected to winter play will be slow recovering in the spring and will probably be thinned. This will open up an avenue for the increase of annual bluegrass. Soil structure may also be damaged with a resulting compaction problem.

Greens are not usually level, uniform of surface or generally in good conditions for play at any rate once the soil starts to freeze. They will not reflect a golfer's ability or potential. It would seem questionable to cause permanent injury to greens by keeping them open for play when they are not truly testing the golfer. The use of temporary greens may provide an adequate target and surface for those golfers who enjoy winter play.

C. R. Skogley, Associate Professor of Agronomy

Cooperative Extension Work in Agricultural and Home Economics, University of Rhode Island and U. S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating. Issued in Furtherance of Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914. J. L. Rego, Associate Director.



"PREPARING FOR WINTER"

by Paul J. O'Leary Supt. Ekwanak C.C. Vt.

Gentlemen, time was when after coping with a busy season of play, summer diseases, drought, and insect pests - we, Superintendents in the northern states looked forward to a less hectic pace with the advent of winter approaching. However, as stated in the September issue of the U. S. G. A. Green Section Record, by our respected friend Al Radko, turf managers now fear winter-spring problems as much or more than summer problems. The damaging winters of 1959, 1962, and 1963 are still fresh in our minds and we cannot help but wonder what 1964 will bring.

Certainly, we hope it will be kinder than 1963, when many times it seemed that there were better ways to earn a living.