

NEWSLETTER

Golf Course Superintendents Association

OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

JULY 1968



Sponsors and administrators of the Lawrence S. Dickinson Scholarship Fund — Awarded yearly to deserving Turf Management Students.

NEXT MEETING

Superintendent-Press, July 8, 1968
Twin Hills C. C., Longmeadow, Mass.

This will be the First Annual Arthur E. Anderson Trophy. 18 Holes, Best Ball $\frac{3}{4}$ Handicap. Prizes galore. Registration, Fees and Dinner — \$20.00 per Supt. and Guest.

PROGRAM

Golf Starting Time — 10 A. M. — 1 P. M.

Call R. H. Bontempo, Pro. 413-567-0181

Luncheon Available Dinner, Sirloin Steak Served 6:30 p.m.

DIRECTIONS — HOW TO GET THERE

Take the Mass. Turnpike to West Springfield, Exit 4. Follow Route 5 south to center of Longmeadow. At white First Church of Christ Congregational, take left and follow Route 192. Pass Longmeadow C. C., continue to Wolf Swamp Road, off Shaker Road, continue down Wolf Swamp Road for one mile. Twin Hill C. C. is on the left side.

Be prepared for plenty of action and something different. Fill out the enclosed card promptly and return by June 19, '68. Get yourself a golf writer or TV sportscaster from your area.

TAKE TO THE HILLS

This month's safari is cut from special planning in the golf touring activities of the course superintendent. We're calling it the first annual super-press tournament and if it has the far-reaching effect everyone visions, someday — someone else will be looking forward with just as much anxiety to the 100th renewal of this meeting of two different worlds.

The super-press will be hosted on super premises by super people. It is fitting that the kickoff attempt be played at the Twin Hills Country Club where the giant of the fairway manicurists, Roy Mackintosh, has put a spit and polish finish on the battleground.

Twin Hills is only three . . . going on four years old. Its life has been highlighted by two extremes of the dictates of the weather. Its first season was conducted in a perpetual pocket of gasp-causing and grass-choking heat. It seemed that it never rained at Twin Hills, nor any other place in the East . . . for that matter. But the course survived and Mackintosh still had a smile on his face when members applied their weapons to the parched, virgin territory.

If the opening season cried for rain, the third prayed for at least a reasonable letup from an uncommon surplus of same. This happened to be a crucial year for the Hills. Mackintosh lost two fairways because of a drainage problem which didn't reveal its acute state until it was too late. But still Mackintosh smiled through the crisis and the members understood.

When the forces of the supers and press converge on Mackintosh's lair July 8, they will find a golf course flourishing in condition. Twin Hills, while only a youngster in the manner of achieving maturity, has come around to living a lush life to give Mackintosh the rhyme and reason to display a keyboard smile.



Left — Robert Bontempo, Pro.; Roy Mackintosh, Supt.

If you are mindful of the ingredients which make the complete country club, it will do you well to take a long and hard look at the appointments of the super-press tournament. You won't have to notice the perfectionist's approach to staging an affair of this type. It will drench you in its efficiency. But this is the way things are done at Twin Hills.

The royal treatment doctrine was initiated successfully by popular pro Bob Bontempo in last year's \$5,000 Twin Hills Classic. Bontempo is young, energetic and a sort of rebel to conformity. He calls it desire, this first-class plunge into every tournament at Twin Hills. If events follow according to Bontempo tradition, everything will travel the route of the clock. There will be no snags, no cause for players to offer earthy remarks in rebuttal to the handling of the tournament. This is as certain as tomorrow's mowing schedule.

Beyond the pro shop more of the sparkling hospitality of the Twin Hills family will be ready to complete the day. When you are greeted by maitre d' Joseph Illouz, served in style by food and beverage manager Allan Skole and given the red-carpet attention of club manager Chuck Camerlin, . . . the efficiency will run over. Each is dedicated to his particular function at Twin Hills. All receive marks of 100 when semester exams are held.

With such a superb setting and superior team of personnel to complement the physical properties, it remains for the superintendents to make a concentrated effort for full membership participation in the Twin Hills venture.

This certainly deserves to be labeled the most important event on the association calendar. It follows that members will do all in their power to wrap it up with a success tag. Play away, gentlemen. This is your day.

— Gerry Finn

Golf Course Superintendents Association

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MALEIC HYDRAZIDE

By CHARLES LANE
Assistant Supt. Chestnut Hill C. C.

Of all the growth retarding compounds to come along in the past few years, Maleic Hydrazide is perhaps the most well known. It was first discovered in the laboratories of the United States Rubber Company in 1947 and has been extensively experimented with on all types of plant material.

Maleic Hydrazide (M.H.) is produced as a liquid. It is absorbed through the plant leaf and translocated in the plant fluid to the meristematic areas of the plant. There it does its work by halting cell division, but not necessarily cell expansion. A halting of cell division naturally decreases the plant's growth.

The uses of M.H. on plant tissue appear to be unlimited. It has probably found its most favorable reception on golf courses, cemeteries, highways, and other large turf grass areas.

Maleic Hydrazide is not recommended for finely groomed, or heavily traveled turf. On golf courses this automatically limits the application of M.H. to rough and non use areas where grass is two or more inches high. Since most hard to mow spots are in these areas, the fact that it cannot be used on tees, greens, and fairways shouldn't bother too many people. M.H. can be used around trees, on steep slopes, and any other inaccessible areas that require expensive hand or rotary trimming.

The decreased mowing results in a well groomed look throughout the entire season, and less wear and tear on equipment. An added feature is that by decreasing rotary mowing your chances of injury to operators are decreased. Of course, the most obvious asset gained is the savings in labor cost brought about by a sharp reduction in mowings during the year.

Maleic Hydrazide may be applied either in the spring or fall, while the grass is actively growing and soil moisture content is high. Spring applications should be made between April 10 and June 1. The best time for spring application is during the time that dandelions are in bloom. The recommended rate for spring application is 1-1/3 gals. M.H. in 50 gals. of water per acre. Fall applications of 1-2/3 gals. M.H. in 50 gals. of water per acre should be made between October 1 and November 15. The best time for fall application is just as close to dormancy as possible. Due to a natural summer dormancy of grasses, an application is not recommended during June, July and August.

Although M.H. comes as a liquid from the factory and is readily miscible with water, its even and correct application seems to be the biggest problem with its use. Since a tractor mounted boom is difficult to maneuver in inaccessible areas, a hand gun and hose are almost a must. Most superintendents that have applied M.H. prefer to use about 40 or 50 P.S.I. pressure.

Grass should be 2 — 4 inches high at the time of application, and should not be covered with clippings or leaves, be-

cause the chemical will never get to the grass blade. Rain will reduce the effectiveness of M.H. if it falls on the grass within 12 hours after application, so check your local weather forecast. Grasses that receive an M.H. treatment should be at least three years old. Grasses that are wilting or growing under drought conditions will not absorb M.H. well enough to do the job.

Discoloration, following application of M.H., has been noted. This may range from a slight purplish hue resembling wilt to a complete browning. However, recovery is usually quick and the treated areas will take on a deeper green color than surrounding areas. This is probably due to either an increased mineral content in the plant, or the reduction of cell volume forcing chloroplasts into a tighter space. This increased greening could possibly mean a savings in fertilizer. Fall applications caused noticeably less discoloration, but approximately a 2 week delay has been noted in spring "green-up."

Grass should not be mowed for at least 7 days after the application of M.H. This allows time for the chemical to circulate throughout the entire plant.

Most manufacturers, whose product contains Maleic Hydrazide, claim that only 1 or 2 mowings are necessary during the growing season. However, if you want a really well groomed look you may want to mow a little more frequently. In either case manufacturers recommend that you don't mow any lower than 2 1/2 inches.

Grasses treated with M.H. appear to be more resistant to early frosts due to the semi-dormancy brought about by the treatment. This chemically induced semi-dormancy also appears to make treated grasses more drought resistant. This is probably due to the reduction of the amount of water needed by the plant to produce cell sap. This could also explain why treated areas look greener than adjacent untreated areas. Perhaps they have not really gained color, but rather they have just maintained their color while untreated areas have lost some of theirs.

Most companies that produce M.H. claim that their product will prevent seed head formation, if it is applied before they begin to form. Watch this carefully, because if you have to depend on natural grass, such as *Poa annua*, to keep an area green and you eliminate natural overseeding with an application of M.H. you could be in trouble. On the other hand this could be one of the most effective controls for weeds (including *Poa annua*) to come along in a great while.

Another use for M.H. has been found by some superintendents in the transition zone. Due to unpredictable temperatures in this area, over-seeding of Bermuda greens can be touch and go. A light application of M.H. on these greens retards the Bermuda and successful over-seeding with one of the cool weather grasses can be accomplished. Although this is a theoretically sound idea, a great deal of care should be taken to apply the right amount. Otherwise you may not be mowing your Bermuda greens next summer.

Since M.H. retards growth on all plant materials, there is one other possible use for it on the golf course. If you have trees or shrubs that have to be cut back frequently, this may be the ideal place to use M.H. Also, if you have hedges that need constant trimming, you could cut down your labor a great deal with an application of Maleic Hydrazide. Be careful not to allow too much M.H. to drift onto a nearby tee or green.

As I have said before, the uses for Maleic Hydrazide on golf courses are somewhat limited; but with a little research and experimentation, more and more ways will be found to reduce labor costs and give your course that well groomed look that we are always striving for.

EIGHT DAYS A WEEK

There has dwelled in the mind of many a superintendent the eternal hope of the noble profession . . . that someone will see fit to do away with the eight-day week.

What's this? Are we going daft? Was there mention of something like "eight-day week?" Oh yes. It isn't a matter of superintendents running an extra 24 hours on the time clock. The overtime is served by the golf course, itself. In fact, it remains the most overworked piece of equipment on the premises. If it had any brains, it would join a labor union.

It actually doesn't amount to eight days, this overtaxing of the tees, greens and their contemporaries. But it might as well be eight. It would be nine days if that many could be crammed into one week. So, the abuse appears limitless.

With this as a launching pad, it does seem as though the powers of the golf course and country club should declare a moratorium on play. Slowly but not too steadily, the introduction of closing the grounds on Mondays to the makers of divots is taking hold in New England. Outside our boundaries the practice is solid, especially on Long Island where the eight-day week has been ruled virtually insane.

Naturally, superintendents endorse this proposed day of rest. It certainly would serve to bring about better conditions. As a matter of cold reality, club members would be the chief beneficiaries in the end. Their course would be testimony to such assumption.

It sounds practical enough. The course actually is a tired, sprawling mess after the heavy play of the weekend. It is on Monday that the superintendent is called upon to exhibit the very essence of his prowess. The wounds are deep and the scars heavy after a couple of hundred golfers have left their marks in concentrated attack on the real estate.

As one healer of the grounds observes, it might even be a step in the right direction if club officials closed the course until noon on Monday. The average work day from a standpoint of the superintendent can begin anytime after daybreak. If the front nine were made available without the inconvenience of players storming the land, work crews could concentrate their morning efforts there and move over to the back nine when high noon arrived.

Maybe this comes through as another attempt by the super to acquire personal gain. But it is far from it. The closing of the course would enhance only the condition of the layout. The superintendent and his men would still be plowing their efforts with as much vigor as before. There would be established two telltale differences. The concentration would be uninterrupted and in the foresighted future more things would be accomplished.

If greens committee chairmen are listening, here is a logical suggestion: Why not poll the membership as to the reaction to a proposed closing of the course on Monday? It just may be that the majority believes the plan to have merit. In most instances it should work out that Monday is the lightest playing day of the week in relation to numbers. For most it might develop into a much-needed day away from the toils of the game.

In the meantime superintendents, too, must do their part. The healthy association of greens chairman and super . . . as displayed in last month's enjoyable day at The Country Club . . . certainly warrants discussion of the matter. Eight days a week boil down to too much golf action — in any man's league. Even the golf course needs its sleep. — Gerry Finn

Last Meeting Golf Results

Low gross, D. Patnode, T. Murphy, Lexington C. C.	74
1st Low Net, A. Jardine, A. Caranci, Ledgmont C. C. ..	65
2nd Low Net — tie —	
M. Peterson, N. Sperandio, Concord C. C.	68
W. Clark, G. Tedesco, New Seabury C. C.	68
Dr. Melendy, J. Diorio, August C. C.	68
R. Dowling, R. St. Thomas, Hyannisport C. C.	68

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

June 8, 1968

The excellent attendance at the Green-Superintendent-Chairman meeting at the country club was heartening. Judging from similar past meetings, this latest meeting was the most successful.

Playing a round of golf, at an unfamiliar course, not only promotes better relationship, but also affords a greater opportunity to become better acquainted. Some superintendents reported that because of this informal and relaxed atmosphere, they were able to discuss matters with their chairman which they would not have been able to do before.

Greens chairmen and golf course superintendents are similar because both are very dedicated men. We must remember that chairmen receive no remuneration, only the satisfaction and pride in having a good golf course. So when he takes time out from his busy schedule to attend our green-chairman-superintendent meeting, he does so for you.

A close working relationship between the green chairman and the golf course superintendent is the ideal situation to promote the best interest of your club. This type of friendly understanding and personal association will produce a proud chairman, an excellent performing golf course superintendent, a fine golf course, resulting in a happy, satisfied club membership.

Hats off to those chairmen who attended, we were honored to have you with us.

ANTHONY B. CARANCI, JR.
President

HOMER C. DARLING

Homer C. Darling died on June 4th in his 74th year at a St. Petersburg, Florida hospital.

Mr. Darling was the developer, owner and president of Juniper Hill Golf Course, Northboro, Massachusetts.

In 1928 he purchased the Brigham Farm owned by the Brigham family since 1665. Homer developed this dairy farm (originally a King's grant) into a popular nine-hole golf course. The last nine was completed in 1953.

Red Darling, as he was called when he played football for the old Mass. Aggies. One of the highlights of his football career was in 1915 when Percy Houghton and the Crimson Tide were the number one team of the nation that year, just nosed out the old Aggies by one touchdown in the closing minute of the game. Red was one of the game heroes playing the front wall for the poor "Country Cousins." After graduation from Mass. State, Homer C. Darling was commissioned a second Lieutenant in the U. S. Army, serving with the 132 Inf. in France.

Lieut. Darling was awarded The Distinguished Service Cross, "For extraordinary heroism in action near Bois de Fays, France, October 10 - 12, 1918.

Red Darling's platoon was exposed to heavy machine gunfire from the front and right flank. He led his platoon forward through heavy brush, although suffering heavy casualties. During the advance, he and one other member of his platoon attacked a machine gun nest and captured three machine guns and five Hun prisoners. In hand-to-hand fighting he personally killed five Germans and wounded several others. On May 31, 1923 Homer married Florence A. Dudley of Larchmont, New York. They have a son, Homer C. Darling, Jr.

Mr. Darling served as Chairman of the Northboro School and Building Committee, Town Finance Committee and the Church Standing Committee and Trustees. He was a member of the Golf Course Superintendents of America and was former President of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England in 1946-1947, former President of the Massachusetts Turf and Lawn Grass Association, was a member of the American Legion and the United States Legion of Valor.

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