

NEWSLETTER

Golf Course Superintendents Association
OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

April 1984



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

Another Good Show, Joe

Joe Troll's pulled it off again.

Not to suggest that it couldn't be done, but just for the record, the 53rd Massachusetts Turfgrass Conference and Industrial Show outdid itself with another slam-bang performance at the Springfield Civic Center.

This one was significant for its numbers. First, it was the 25th year or golden anniversary appearance by Dr. Joseph Troll as its conductor. Second, every seat in the seminar house (and sometimes there were 1,200 of them) were filled to capacity. That says something and then some for the event.

"We tried to give the superintendent everything he can put to use in this type of an undertaking," Dr. Troll explained. "Whatever's new in the business was there for him to see - equipment, methods and changing approaches to the application of his talents and experience.

"I know when we've hit paydirt, too. I don't want to sound like we're blowing our horns. However, everyone I talked to said the show was better than ever. That tells me it was a success, especially when it was staged only a couple of weeks after the national conference."

In line with his attempt to keep the superintendent abreast of the changes and advances in his profession, Dr. Troll added some new wrinkles to his cast of subjects and presenters.

On the program were such interesting topics as "Applying the Computer to Your Golf Course Management Operations." This was ably presented by our own Bob Grant of Brae Burn. Another - with Tedesco's Paul Miller shining on the podium - was "The Role of the Superintendent in Knowing How to Play Golf."

Still, a third intriguing subject - "Stress and the Golf Course Superintendent/Basic Survival" - was handled with gusto and a personable flair by the unflappable Bill Smart of the IBM Country Club in Poughkeepsie.

"I've always tried to blend the natural subject matter of turf problems and the like with current information and topics that are up to date," Dr. Troll advised. "And I attempt to bring in speakers whose presentations form a combination of information and entertainment. I want to take the boredom, that sometimes is attached, out of seminars. And, according to the reaction, I have to think I've succeeded."

The computer and stress-related presentations were eye-catchers because of the changing world of all professions.

"Stress is something the superintendent has to cope with," Dr. Troll remarked. "Whether he wants to admit it or not, the superintendent has been under stress for years and sometimes he didn't know it.

"In order to get ahead in the game, the superintendent must be assertive. And, when he's assertive, stress is bound to occur. So, what we wanted to do was help him recognize it and deal with it. Bill Smart did an outstanding job in that sense."

Dr. Troll maintains that computers are here to stay and eventually will become part of the superintendent's working arsenal.

"Bob Grant showed us how computers can be of help to the superintendent in many ways. Of course, they aren't going to solve the field problems. However, they will relieve some of the pressures away from them and streamline the superintendent's administrative approach."

So, what does Dr. Troll do for an encore when the 54th Massachusetts Conference rolls around next spring?

"Preparing for the show is an on-going thing," he told. "I'm already thinking of what I'll put into the program and some of the attractive names in the field I can bring in to present it. I concentrate on subjects and people that will put a little spark into the conference. What I want most of all is to have superintendents looking forward to the next show and wondering what's next on the agenda."

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Next Meeting Monday, April 23, 1984

Hyannisport Club
Hyannis, Mass.

Qualifying for Guy Tedesco Invitational
make own foursome.

Directors Meeting 11:30 am

No regular meeting

Check in pro shop 12:30 pm

Tees will be assigned

Golf 12:45 pm

Host - Bob St. Thomas



Bob has been superintendent at Hyannisport for 18 yrs. Prior he was superintendent at Sunnigdale C.C. in Scarsdale, New York where he was one of the founders of the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association, serving as its first president.

Bob lives in Hyannis with his wife Cindy and their six children.

We all look forward to our 1984 golf kickoff at such a well conditioned course.

Directions - Mid Cape Highway Rt 6 over Sagamore Bridge. Take Rt 132 Hyannis exit. Go into Hyannis to the westend rotary (Dunfey's; Paddock) take Scudder Ave. Go to stop sign, bear left. Go to Irving Ave., take right, club is there.

Golf Course Superintendents Association

Effect of Oftanol and Triumph on Japanese Beetle Grubs

Pat Vittum, University of Massachusetts

Many of you are familiar with Oftanol*, because it has been available on a limited basis for two or three years. Initial studies had indicated that a single application of Oftanol* at 2 lb ai/A would give season long control. More recently, reports from various regions of the country indicated that Oftanol* might not be the "cure-all" we had all hoped it would be.

To address several questions concerning Oftanol*, we conducted a very large field trial in 1983, to determine the best times to apply Oftanol* (generic name - isofenphos) or Triumph* (generic name - isazophos). Triumph* is a still experimental insecticide which shows great promise in providing excellent short term grub control, while Oftanol* has determined more persistence.

The study was conducted at The International Golf Course, in Bolton, Mass. The course has a fully automatic watering system with no water restrictions (thou shalt not covet!). The trial was placed in a large rough area, primarily Kentucky and annual bluegrasses, which was maintained at 2 to 3 inches. The area was nearly unreachable from any fairway, so it was subject to very little traffic from golfers.

We applied materials on 11 dates throughout the year - 1 April, 21 April, 5 May, 20 May, or 2 June for spring applications and 14 July, 29 July, 10 August, 24 August, 8 September, or 21 September for summer applications. The insecticides included diazinon 5G (6 lb ai/A), Oftanol* 5G (2 lb ai/A), Oftanol* 2F (2 lb ai/A), Triumph* 1G (2 lb ai/A), and Triumph* 1E (2 lb ai/A). Applications were made to 10 feet by 7.5 feet plots by hand shaking granulars from glass jars or by watering cans for liquids. Applications normally were made in early afternoon, and 1/2 inch of water was applied 12 hours after application.

We returned to the treated plots 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, and 10 weeks after application to collect samples. We cut one square foot from each plot (at least one foot in from any edge), turned the sod over, and removed all grubs from the sod, soil, and roots. Since we had five replications for each application, we could then take averages of grub counts and conduct statistical analyses.

As you can imagine, the numbers generated from a study of this size can be mind boggling. So let me spare you the numbers and make a few generalizations instead. All of the insecticides applied on 1 or 21 April or on 5 May eventually provided very good (at least 95%) control, but generally the Oftanol* and Triumph* liquids reached this level of control two or three weeks sooner than their granular counterparts. For the 20 May application, both liquids provided at least 95% control within two weeks, but the granulars did not do nearly as well, providing only 70 to 80% control. The insecticides applied on 2 June performed similarly to those applied 20 May. Both liquid materials reduced the grub populations significantly compared to the untreated check and eventually provided at least 90% control, while the granulars often were not significantly different than the check and did not do as well.

Keep in mind that we had a lot of rain in eastern Massachusetts during the spring of 1983 - 10 inches in April, 6 inches in May, and 4 inches in June at the trial site. I believe that the surprisingly good performance of all materials applied in April or early May can be attributed to the rain, which drove the insecticides through the thatch and into the soil, where it would reach the grubs. The later ap-

plications were not subject to as much rain, and thus, may not have penetrated into the soil far enough. Equally important, by late May grubs are not as active, so they do not eat or contact as much insecticide as they would earlier in the spring.

The six summer applications, at two weeks intervals, demonstrated several things. First of all, Oftanol* 5G never provided 95% control, seldom exceeded 80% control, and generally was not significantly better than the untreated check for at least four weeks after application, regardless of the date of application. Both liquids (Oftanol* and Triumph*) performed very well in many cases, providing at least 95% control two to four weeks after application. In general, the level of performance was (1) Triumph* 1E (2) Oftanol* 2F and Triumph* 1G (tie) (4) Oftanol* 5G and (5) diazinon 5G.

We also made one fall sampling of the plots that had been treated in the spring, to see how persistent the insecticides were in field conditions. We found that both formulations of Oftanol* reduced the subsequent fall grub population significantly relative to the check, but surprisingly, so did the Triumph* applications in all cases but one. Oftanol* reduced those fall populations 50 to 95%, with an average of 75%. (Triumph* did not do nearly as well.) Thus, it appears that in most high quality turf settings, this season long effect should be helpful but a follow up late summer application may be necessary.

A few passing thoughts: The heavy spring rains probably improved the performance of the spring applications. In contrast, the hot, dry summer produced conditions which reduce the effectiveness of some soil insecticides. The relatively light (1/2 inch) irrigation 12 hours after application (which was done at the request of the sponsoring chemical company) probably was not sufficient to drive the granular materials through the moderate thatch and into the soil, while the liquids penetrated more readily. Furthermore, the superintendent also applied about 1/5 inch of water every other night in July, to avoid losing turf to the drought. These frequent light waterings may have induced the granules to release their chemicals early, before they reached the soil.

All of the materials performed most slowly in April and September. This is when the soil is coolest and the grubs are least active, so they are less susceptible to insecticides.

Early studies suggested that Oftanol* had a lag time of about three weeks from application until grub populations would be reduced. This lag period is apparent with the granular applications, regardless of date of application, but the liquid formulation (2F) caused significant grub mortality within two weeks of application throughout most of the growing season.

This year's studies will be looking at possible effects of liming shortly before applying Oftanol*. At this point there is circumstantial evidence suggesting that lime applications made two to four weeks before an Oftanol* application may hinder the Oftanol* under certain conditions. Use care, and allow plenty of time between applications this year to be on the safe side.

At this point, it appears that the best time to treat for grubs is in August, when the grubs are smallest and most susceptible. If grub populations are unusually heavy, a spring application can be made in late April or early May. Whenever you treat, and whatever you use, water the treated area very thoroughly. Basically, you cannot over-water as far as the chemical is concerned (the turf may disagree!). Get the chemical through the thatch and well into the soil, where it can do the job.

* trade name

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Phoenix and Vegas leftovers



GCSANE group minus a few. In Phoenix, (l-r) Arthur Washburn, Dave Barber, Frank Higgins, Don Hearn (hidden), Bobby Brown, Paul Miller, Tom Schofield, Steve Murphy.



Las Vegas Award Winner - Frank Higgins is all smiles after he received Jacobson company of the year award for Sawtelle Bros.

Pesticide Record Keeping

Interpretation of 333 CMR 10.15 (1)
Record Keeping Requirements

The regulations 333 CMR 10.15(1), promulgated pursuant to the Massachusetts Pesticide Control Act (Chapter 132B of the General Laws) require that all certified and licensed applicators applying pesticides commercially or their employers "keep true and accurate operational records ... on each application of a pesticide." The following information is required on each application as quoted from the regulations:

- (a) Place of application;
- (b) Date of application;
- (c) The brand or registered name of the pesticide;
- (d) The EPA registration number of the pesticide;
- (e) The amount of pesticide applied;
- (f) The purpose for which the pesticide was applied;
- (g) Method of application;
- (h) The persons certified or licensed by the Department who participated in the planning and execution of the application;
- (i) Accidents or incidents resulting from the use of a pesticide of liability insurance carried and the name of the insurers;
- (j) The amount of liability insurance carried and the name of the insurer;
- (k) Any illnesses or injuries caused by or suspected to have been caused by pesticides and reported to the applicator."

The purpose of this document is to clarify the responsibilities of the pesticide applicator and his employer in complying with this regulation.

Below is the Department's interpretation of 333 CMR 10.15(1) (a)-(k) and the requirements necessary for compliance with this regulation.

(a) Place of application.

The records must bear the complete name and address of the location where pesticide(s) are applied including apartment or office number if applicable. Each apartment, residence or business or governmental entity at a single address is considered a separate "place of application" and must be recorded separately. Specific locations within a residence, institution or place of business do not have to be identified.

Divot Drift the golf season will be underway shortly. Again we remind everyone to establish a handicap or you will be playing at scratch Once again Joe Troll did an outstanding job for the Mass. Turf Conference GCSANE members are reminded to support the Francis Ouimet Scholarship Fund. A \$15 donation will get you a bag tag. Address to:



Ouimet Scholarship Fund, 190 Park Rd., Weston, Ma. 02193 With all the wet weather the 1984 is off to a late start Our thanks to Gary Luccini and Franklin CC for hosting our March meeting. Also our thanks to Fred Tabaraccio of Macafferri Gabions for being our guest speaker See everyone at Hyannisport.

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So, despite the hefty assignment of keeping interest at a peak year-after-year, Joe Troll gave the profession a four-beller in his 25th turn at the conductor's perch. Indeed, everyone attending the sessions left with a growing anticipation for what's in store for them in 1985.

"I'm satisfied with everything," Dr. Troll concluded. "And the wheels up here (his head) are starting to turn again. Will I hear those 'it's better than ever' sound next year? I hope so."

Not to worry, Joe. You will, you will.

Gerry Finn

Upcoming Dates

May 14, 1984 - Green Harbor
Marshfield, Ma.
Blind Draw

June 11, 1984 - Mt. Pleasant CC
W. Boylston, Ma.
Supt. - Green Chairman Tournament

NEW MEMBER

Congratulations to John Coffey of Wollaston Golf Club on becoming a new member.

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