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*Published monthly by the Michigan and
Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents
Association*

Circulation 1,050

Ted Woehrle, Oakland Hills C.C.

Clem Wolfom, Detroit Golf Club

Co-Editors

Blakeman Printing Company

Fraser, Michigan

Graphic Arts/Circulation

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GCSAA profiles average golf course

National survey figures recently released by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), intended to provide its membership general guidelines, also prove to be of interest to the comparison minded golfing public.

Knowing full well before they began that the "average golf course" does not exist, GCSAA's survey now reports some interesting points for golfers and non-golfers alike to ponder.

The mythical "average course" will be an 18-hole private course with more than 400 members. It will be open ten months of the year during which time 37,340 rounds of golf will be played.

The golf course superintendent will manage 168 acres with bluegrass fairways averaging 2.9 acres each, bluegrass tees of 2,460 square feet and bentgrass greens of 5,914 square feet.

To keep this area in the condition desired by his membership, the superintendent's annual operating budget will be \$109,501. This annual total includes items such as a \$7,964 investment in capital equipment, \$59,301 for labor (excluding the

superintendent's salary), \$5,068 for fertilizer, \$4,298 for pesticides, \$4,810 for equipment repair and \$1,767 for seed.

A comparison of these recent survey results with those of a similar survey made in 1971 reveals a 19.7 per cent increase in overall operating budgets while the actual maintained acreage of golf courses decreased 3.85 per cent.

As substantiated in other national survey reports, an increasing proportion of golf courses are located in southern areas with a decreasing proportion in western states. Also, greater numbers of golf courses are defined as public, municipal or semi-private while private golf courses are proportionally on the decline although they still comprise the largest number of courses.

Survey results were tabulated from responses supplied by more than 1,200 of the association's member golf course superintendents from throughout the United States and Canada.

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GRASS CLIPPINGS

by FRANK GREEN

When the statistics are all in on the 1975 growing season, they will undoubtedly add up to one of the worst years in history for growing grass.

It has been a dry summer and temperatures have been low as 45 degrees at night and as high as 98 degrees in the daytime. The humidity too has varied greatly and has sometimes been as high as 90%. These temperature extremes and the often high humidity have contributed enormously to the increased disease incidence on Southeastern Michigan golf courses. Almost every disease imaginable has invaded the turf of area golf courses; from resistant dollar spot to brown patch, to pythium, and anthracnose.

The big problem this year has been that all of the above diseases have occurred while the grass has been under extreme heat stress. As a result, the combination of these two factors has made turfgrass management

enormously difficult. There are over 250 golf courses in the Southeastern Michigan area and as many as 75% of them have lost more than "just a little" turf due to these adverse conditions.

If you question the fact that the weather has been hot and rainfall at a minimum, just ask Gerry Gill. It seems that one of the members at Tam-O-Shanter was a little careless with a cigarette or a match and tossed it in the rough. This act in any normal year would have been harmless enough and the most damage done might have been a scorched blade of grass. This summer, though, the grass was so dry that a fire ignited and fortunately several foursomes playing nearby rushed to the scene and stamped out the fire before it got out of control. True, it is a funny story, but think of it - when was the last time it was so dry in the middle of the summer that your roughs caught on fire?

Continued on Next Page

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Grass Clippings Cont.

Over the years, I've been in many states. For those of you who have also moved around a little, I'm sure you'll agree that some of the finest golf courses in the country are in South-eastern Michigan. I think you'll also agree that the level of maintenance on our courses is as high if not higher than that of almost all other areas of the country. This says an awful lot for the abilities of the superintendents in our area.

There are going to be times however, when the best superintendents are going to have trouble growing grass. One of those times is this year. Virtually, all of the courses in the area, are going to have some scars from this summer and this is unavoidable. This evidently just happened to be the year that Mother Nature picked to get even.

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"Baron comes up fast. We seeded the course in late August 1973. The fairways were ready for play by May 1974. We could have opened the course then except the greens weren't ready until mid-June."

"And Baron stays green until the first snowfall. Last winter was bad . . . lots of rain and thick ice. But as soon as the ice and snow were gone, Baron came up green and beautiful. We didn't have any winter kill. I told my neighbors they should have overseeded with Baron this fall."

"We usually cut to 1-1/4" and Baron stays green and nice. We found this to be even when we cut to 3/4". We didn't have any problems with diseases, not a single



And here's what Jean Pierre Masse landscape contractor and turf consultant for the golf course has to say about Baron

"There's no question that Baron can adapt itself to growing conditions. All this land was woods before we got through with a bulldozer. See this sand? That's what's under the top layer of soil in the fairways. This soil is extremely sandy, very acidic and obviously very porous. But regardless, Baron did a fine job."

There's not much more we can add except that Baron is available from Pedigreed Seed Company or any authorized distributor nearby wherever you grow quality turf.

Anselme Bourassa is the owner of Les Vieilles Forges Club, Trois-Rivières, Québec, Canada. Jean Pierre Masse is a turf consultant and landscape contractor for Masse & Fils Co., Cap de la Madeleine, Québec, Canada.



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The golfer's responsibility to the golf course

by JAMES P. CALLAGHAN
Assistant Superintendent
Athens Country Club, Athens, Ga.

Authors note: This is the first of a series of articles aimed to educate the golfing public on pertinent aspects of golf course management. I trust that these articles will find their way to a conspicuous area where the golfer will have an opportunity to read them.

Today's golf course superintendent has a very responsible job - everytime something goes wrong, he's responsible! Like the superintendent, the golfer has various responsibilities. When properly performed, he is adding to the playability and appearance of the golf course and lessening the burden of the superintendent and his crew.

The golfer must first realize that by simply playing the game, he is inflicting injury in many different ways to his golf course. Chopping pieces of turf out of the ground, scarring the putting surfaces with his approach shot and golf spikes, upsetting the playability of the sand trap and riding around in a very efficient compacting machine are the most common injuries

afflicted by the golfer to his course. It is the golfers responsibility to remedy the wounds made by him as well as the wounds made by others who tend to be forgetful.

Immediately after a divot is taken, it should be replaced. There are several ways pertaining to this. Some individuals have stated that a divot taken from an area of predominantly creeping grasses, need not be replaced for it will be covered in a relatively short period of time. The only problem with this trend of thought is that a golfer landing a divot, will have some degree of difficulty in executing his next shot. Now, you may ask, since the player gets to place his ball on the tee, is it necessary to replace a divot taken from a tee? Absolutely! A vast amount of time and effort goes into the fine grading of a tee. Constant failure to replace divots results in an uneven surface which will lead to poor appearance caused by uneven mowing.

Immediately after a ballmark is

Continued on Page 10

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EPA action on Chlordane

As you may know, chlordane has been used for many years as a soil insecticide. Within the past week or so EPA has stopped its sale. The reason EPA gives us is that it has found chlordane to cause cancer in "test" animals.

I have spoken with a number of turf people about the loss of chlordane and they tell me there are several materials that can be used in its place. One stated there is evidence

that chlordane was or is a contributor to the thatch problem. The feeling is that it may kill off the soil organisms that are responsible for thatch decay.

While many superintendents may be bitter about the loss of chlordane, the feeling is that it is gone now and we must re-educate people to use the other materials. We should consider an "After Chlordane" article for THE GOLF SUPERINTENDENT.

Golfer's Responsibility Cont.

created, it should be repaired. This is one injury that cannot wait for treatment from the grounds crew; it is essential that the one who puts it there clears it up. A ball mark repaired immediately will take 24 hours to heal. A ball mark repaired 24 hours later will take two weeks to heal.

Immediately after the golfer gets to within a few feet of the putting surface, he should be aware that his feet should move in a manner that will not mar the putting surface. Dragging golf spikes and putting greens aren't a favorite combination. Remember that the person who plays behind you cannot repair injury caused by your golf shoes until he has holed out (Rules of Golf). If

you have heavy feet, be sure to repair damage caused by your golf shoes.

Immediately after negotiating a sand trap, the golfer should rake it out as level as possible. He who lands in a depression in a sand trap is not the happiest golfer in the world. In addition to having a difficult shot, the golfer must be aware that his club cannot touch the sand on the backswing. It takes very little effort to keep the sand trap in the same condition you found it in, if not better.

Immediately after taking command of a golf car, the golfer should realize that he is operating a grass plants' nightmare. It is the most devastating facet in routine turf management on the

Continued on Page 13



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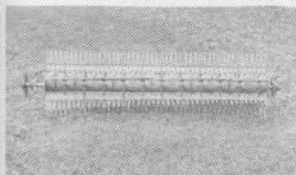
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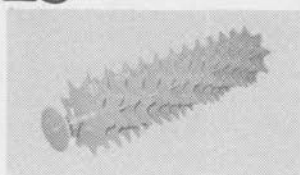
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Or you may contact the next golf course supplier who calls on you and give him the information needed for application.

Golfer's Responsibility Cont.

golf course. The golfer should operate the vehicle in a manner that will minimize its detrimental aspect. Operating the golf car in rough areas whenever and wherever possible is a must. He should confine the vehicle to designated paths. Staying clear of wet areas and worn turf will result in better quality turf.

Another area of responsibility that rests on the golfer is permitting work to be accomplished on the course. The superintendent and his crew are constantly trying to meet work schedules around the golfers. However, there are times when the golfer should sacrifice a minute or two in order to let a particular job be completed. If a green is being sprayed and the operator has almost completed his job, let him finish. It seems quite absurd that the worker should stop for five minutes to let a foursome through when he can have his job completed in a minute or two. The same aspect applies to the

men cutting tees, aprons, greens and fairways. If the golfer can observe that the job is just about completed, let the worker finish the job and let him move on. It is amazing how many man-hours can be saved if the golfer shows the same courtesy to the crew that the crew strives to show the golfer.

The last responsibility to be discussed is that of keeping the course clean. Wherever people gather, so does trash. Nothing mars the appearance of a golf course more than garbage, and the guilty ones are the golfers. It is the golfers responsibility to dispose of refuse properly.

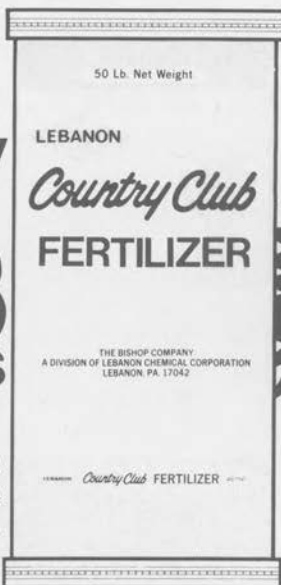
By carrying out his responsibilities, the golfer will certainly add to the betterment of his golf course. By carrying out his responsibilities, the golfer will certainly win the respect of the superintendent and other golfers. By carrying out his responsibilities, the golfer will certainly become an asset to the operating of the golf course.



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Pesticide Classification Pesticide Applicator Training Pesticide Applicator Certification

by DONALD C. CRESS

The Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act (FEPCA) was signed in 1972. There are three points of concern to many pesticide applicators at the present time. These points are: 1) Classification of Pesticides, 2) Pesticide Applicator Training and 3) Pesticide Applicator Certification. These are discussed below.

1) CLASSIFICATION OF PESTICIDES

All pesticides are currently being classified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for either *general use* or *restricted use*. After October 21, 1976, only certified pesticide applicators will be able to purchase and use the restricted use pesticides; while anyone will be able

to purchase and use general use pesticides.

At the present time, the criteria for classification of pesticides have not been officially published in Federal Register. Hence, there is *no official list* of restricted use pesticides at this time. If and when a list of restricted use pesticides becomes available, it will be released through the Cooperative Extension Service, Michigan Department of Agriculture and pesticide dealers. In addition, the product label will state the classification.

2) PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING

The Cooperative Extension

Continued on Page 16

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Pesticide Cont.

Service is presently developing training material for pesticide applicators. The material is being written in such a way that it is self-training. That is, the pesticide applicator will be able to read and study the material at his own pace. There will be study guides and quizzes to aid in learning the material. The projected date for availability of the training material is January 1976.

It is anticipated that the bulk of the training and certification, particularly of private applicators, will be done during the months of January through April. This is because most applicators, particularly private applicators, are extremely busy during the months of May through October. October 21, 1976 is the deadline for certification of both commercial and private applicators.

The training material for private

Continued on Next Page

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Pesticide Cont.

applicators will emphasize the importance of the label, safe handling of pesticides including proper calibration of equipment, application, storage, disposal and other safety information. Examples of some of the most common pests and their damage will also be included in the training material.

The same type of information will be included in the commercial applicator core training manual, but it will be in somewhat greater detail. In addition, there will be a separate unit manual for each of the categories and subcategories of commercial applicators.

3) CERTIFICATION OF APPLICATORS

Private applicators (basically defined as agricultural commodity producers) will have to be certified *only if they want to use pesticides which are classified for restricted use.* (Remember, at this time we still do not know the restricted pesticides.) On this basis, private applicators have three options concerning certification. These are:

- 1) Get certified to use restricted use pesticides, OR
 - 2) Apply only general use pesticides which do not require certification, OR
 - 3) Same as 2) but retain a certified commercial applicator to apply the restricted use pesticides if necessary.
- In some cases, labor exchange may be used rather than the commercial applicator.

In Michigan, a commercial applicator is anyone in the business of applying pesticides for hire. Certification and licensing is required whether they apply restricted and/or general use pesticides.

Commercial pesticide applicators will be able to be certified and licensed in one or more of 10 categories, depending on their specific type of business. These categories

Continued on Next Page

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are defined in FEPCA and are very similar to the categories which Michigan commercial applicators have been licensed under in the past. The specialties of aerial application and space fumigation will be trained in one or more of the ten categories of commercial applicators.

Public agency applicators are classed as commercial applicators. They will be certified but not licensed. Commercial applicator categories 8 through 10 apply principally to public agencies.

The actual *process* for certification of private and commercial applicators is *not absolutely certain* at this time. However, it is likely that the following steps will be involved:

1) The individual will apply for certification to the Michigan Department of Agriculture, then

2) He will obtain his training material - possibly by mail or from the county Extension Service office or from one of the Department of Agriculture regional offices, then

3) He will study the training material at his own pace, then

4) The Michigan Department of Agriculture will announce the dates, times, and places where the examination can be taken, finally

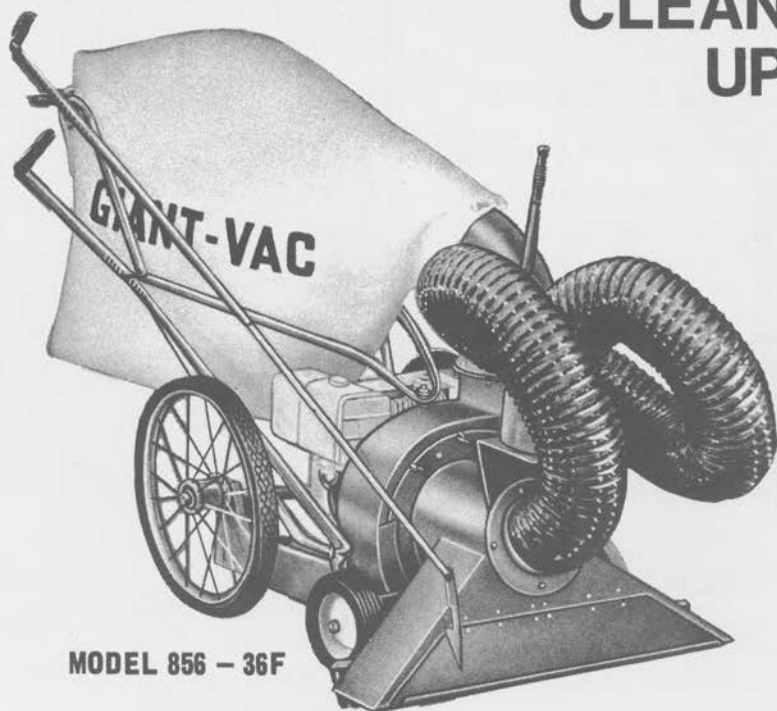
5) The applicant will be notified as to whether or not he is certified.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture will collect the fee, administer the tests and issue the certification. The proposed *fee for certification of both private and commercial applicators is \$10.00*. In addition, commercial applicators will have a *\$20.00 license fee*.

The exact certification procedure will be finalized in the future. It will then be made available through the Extension Service, Department of Agriculture and various news media. All pesticide applicator training and certification is subject to EPA approval.

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