

April 1980

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Soil, Crop Sciences Dept.
Texas A&M Univ.



A PATCH of GREEN

JB

Official Publication of the

Michigan & Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association



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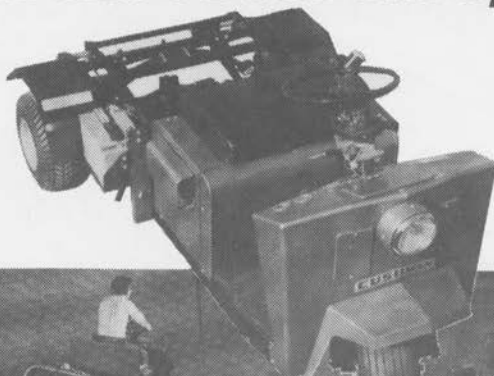
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Winter Injury in the Cool Temperate Zone

Desiccation and low temperature kill are the two major causes of winter injury to the turf plant in the cool temperate zone of the United States. A third type of injury caused by fungus organisms, *Typhula* spp. and *Fusarium* spp. is prevalent from year to year, but is not as serious or as damaging as desiccation and low temperature kill. Mechanical damage, a fourth type of injury, is increasing.

Desiccation Injury

A grass plant must rely on an internal water supply for respiratory activity. When soil moisture is limited and the internal supply of water within the plant is diminishing to a point that water loss is greater than the amount that can be taken into the root zone, the plant desiccates. This is basically a wilting phenomenon but one that is more feared than any other form of physiological winter injury.

Desiccation can be held to a minimum by applying several hundred gallons of water to the area of concern before it comes under stress. Water tanks, spray equipment and the use of the watering system are tools used to obtain and disburse the water. Several applications are normally required. In the plains area of the mid-continent, it is common to have the watering system in operation during the open winter months to prevent excessive turf loss. The watering system is drained from day to day after the system has been in use. If desiccation has occurred, it is important to power spike the damaged area several times, overseed, topdress and syringe frequently to encourage germination and plant recovery. If at all possible, play should be restricted until the damaged area has recovered sufficiently to withstand traffic. However, if early play is permitted, turf recovery

is normally slow, as a form of mechanical injury is then taking place. Soil moisture and temperature will have a direct bearing as to how early a damaged area can be played upon.

Low Temperature Kill

The conditions for low temperature kill to the turf plant are physiological. When the lower crown on the turf plant is in an extreme state of water content under low temperature stress, complete destruction of the plant can occur. Often the turf plant comes out of the winter looking good under these conditions. However, damage has occurred within the plant to the crown and root system which is not visible. When temperatures begin to rise in early spring to encourage growth, the plant begins to transpire and will soon die; there is no life support system functioning.

Low temperature kill has been associated with ice formation, which has been misleading. There is no question that excessive ice or snow will cause suffocation or winter scald. Suffocation will occur if an excessive amount of carbon dioxide accumulates, if oxygen is restricted, or when an interchange of soil gases is stopped. Under an anaerobic condition such as this, the solubility of excessive use of arsenicals, or heavy metals such as mercury and cadmium fungicides and perhaps other herbicides may increase the total amount of damage. Winter scald, on the other hand, is when standing water or ice acts as a lens for the sun, which, in turn, scalds the leaf. To prevent suffocation and winter scald injury, surface and sub-surface drainage must be adequate. Breaking and removing the ice layer during the alternate freezing and thawing period during the

Continued on Page 6

Lucas, Bavier, Osterman & Timmerman Elected by Golf Course Superintendents

St. Louis - Melvin B. Lucas Jr., CGCS, Superintendent of Piping Rock Club, Locust Valley, Long Island, N.Y., was elected president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America during the association's annual meeting Feb. 20 in St. Louis.

Michael R. Bavier, CGCS, superintendent of Inverness Golf Club, Palatine, Ill., was elected vice president for 1980.

New members of the association's board of directors elected during the meeting were Robert W. Osterman, CGCS, superintendent of The Golf Club of Aspetuck, Easton, Conn., and James W. Timmerman, CGCS, superintendent of Orchard Lake (Mich.) Country Club. Osterman and Timmerman will serve three-year terms.

President Lucas appointed James A. Wyllie, CGCS, superintendent of the Bayview Country Club, Toronto, Ontario, to serve as secretary-treasurer. Lucas also appointed Paul Boizelle, CGCS, superintendent of Fiddlers Elbow Country Club, Far Hills, N.J., to fill the remaining two years of Bavier's term as director.

Other members of the Executive Committee are David C. Holler, CGCS, superintendent of Gulph Mills

Golf Club, King of Prussia, Pa., and Edward F. Dembnicki, CGCS, superintendent of Arcadian Shores Country Club, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Immediate Past President Charles H. Tadge, CGCS, superintendent of the Mayfield Country Club, South Euclid, Ohio, will remain on the Executive Committee through 1980.

The association's annual meeting and election was held during the record-setting GCSAA 51st International Turfgrass Conference and Show held Feb. 16-21 in the Cervantes Convention and Exhibition Center in St. Louis. More than 7,000 attended the activities which included the show, business meetings and a wide array of educational sessions. Attendance was the highest in the 51-year history of the event, and records were set in the number of exhibitors, amount of exhibit space sold and in attendance at educational sessions.

GCSAA, which has a membership of 4,500 in the United States and 19 foreign countries, is headquartered in Lawrence, Kan. The primary objective of the association is to enhance the personal and professional growth of its members through continuing educational programs.

Pictures on Page 8

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Winter Injury, cont.

late winter is imperative.

Snowmold

Typhula spp. and *Fusarium* spp. fungi cause minimal damage to turf if normal preventive fungicide applications have been carried out. There is one exception when snowmold is in abundance during the spring of the year regardless of the preventive fungicide program practiced; that is when the ground is not completely frozen before the winter snow sets in. Snow is a tremendous insulator against cold and protects turf from desiccation. However, it increases the use of fungicides rather than limits their use. Recovery from snowmold injury to the turf plant is rather rapid if optimum spring growing conditions are present. Turf is not completely destroyed, but merely set back in a mottled state.

Mechanical Injury

Mechanical injury to turf takes place in two different forms; foot and vehicular traffic. With a long, late fall and early spring playing season in many areas, serious injury to turf by foot printing on frosted playing

areas has become standard at many golf courses. Ice crystals within the grass blades are distorted and rupture living cells, causing death. Syringing greens in early morning, for instance, before traffic is allowed on the course, will help solve the problem; water melts the ice crystals.

During the spring when the upper portion of the soil has begun to thaw, the soil is overly wet and slippery. Foot traffic at this time will cause severe compaction and tearing of the roots at the point where they penetrate the still frozen area. When soils are partially thawed, injury is serious and long lasting. Visual damage is not noticed at this time of the season, but is one of the primary reasons why troubled areas act up during periods of summer stress.

Snowmobile damage to turf is becoming more apparent each season. A snowmobile running in loose snow will create approximately a five-to-six inch deep track. When this area is used over and over, a glazing or icing effect takes place. Toxic conditions

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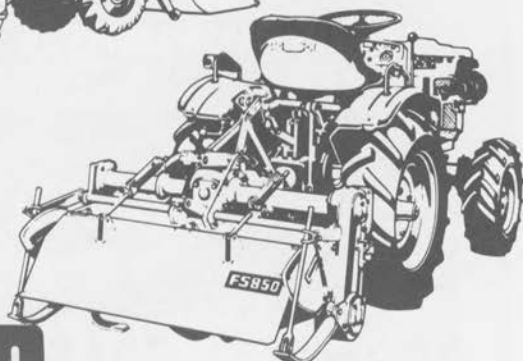
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Winter Injury, cont.

will develop as previously pointed out, with the end result in turf loss.

One can easily see what a golf course superintendent has to face in the cool temperate zone of the United States. Turf injury will result in many forms, in many ways, under varying conditions. It is not an easy task to provide optimum playing conditions when the breaks are not going your way. The golfing membership plays in late fall or early spring and often refuses to remain off the frozen turf. Construction to improve drainage or rebuild a new green is not carried out because of the late playing season. The ground is not frozen solid going into the winter months, an early snow falls and preventive fungicides have not been applied for snowmold control. To top it off, the snowmobiles have an early start this winter. With spring around the corner, anaerobic conditions have been created with an abnormal amount of snow. Ice and snow removal has been taking place in order to correct existing conditions. And, as

the remaining ice and snow melts, low temperature kill has occurred with a healthy looking plant on the playing surface. Snowmold is scattered hither and yon, and the northwesterly winds are just beginning to let you know that desiccation may still be a problem this early spring.

Yes, here comes the golfer, the snowmobile has been put away and he can't understand why the course is the way it is. Under these conditions one must expect turf loss.

Conclusion

What steps then should be taken by golf course superintendents to prevent winter injury? The first and most important rule is not to play on turf when it is not actively growing, especially greens. Temporary greens should be played from the time the ground begins to freeze in late fall until completion of heaving and thawing in early spring. Excerpts from "The Case For Temporary Greens", January, 1966, USGA Green Section Record, document the impor-

Continued on Page 12



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ELECTION PICTURES

(FROM PAGE 5)



(Left)- Dr. Paul Rieke, left, - the proud mentor - and Barbara, proud wife of James Timmerman.

(Right)-The Campaign Headquarters



(Left)-L to R-The new V.P. of G.C.S.A.A. - Mike Bavier and wife, Penny - Outgoing Past President of G.C.S.A.A. - Mr. George Cleaver

(Right)-The crowd greets the victor.

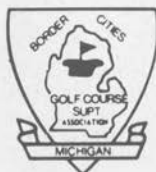


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1

Yes, GCSAA can help you become a better superintendent. One way it does this is through educational seminars and conference sessions it sponsors each year to help you become better informed about turfgrass diseases, pesticides, landscaping and management practices.

2

Yes, GCSAA is helping to further the advancement of the turfgrass industry. Through the GCSAA Scholarship & Research Fund, Inc., GCSAA provided more than \$13,500 last year in research grants to leading turfgrass programs. GCSAA also provides educational opportunities to turfgrass students through annual turfgrass scholarships.

4

Yes, GCSAA offers recognition for superintendents. Through its public relations efforts, its magazine, and its award programs, GCSAA helps promote the image and the professionalism of the superintendent. GCSAA also provides information to superintendents about how they can use public relations to promote their own image to their course, their community and their association.

3

Yes, GCSAA provides a meeting ground for superintendents. Each year, GCSAA sponsors an annual conference and show for its members. Last year more than 6,500 educators, industry representatives and members from all over the world attended. GCSAA's executive committee decided at its last board meeting that the conference experience is so valuable that first-year members should be encouraged to attend by being given free admission.

5

Yes, GCSAA provides each member with a life insurance program. Supplemental insurance, disability and pension programs also are available.

6

No, GCSAA can't help you with your golf handicap. You'll have to work on that yourself.



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Winter Injury, cont.

tance of remaining off turf during this stress period.

"So many more golfers play each course now in regular season that injury due to the increased traffic is mounting and off-season play can only add to the total traffic injury problems.

"In late fall or early winter when frost enters the ground, turf becomes frozen and the upper fraction of soil becomes moistened with frost. Traffic at these times will break or crack the stiff and frozen blades of grass, weaken them, and *Poa annua* or other weeds could subsequently encroach, and so the turf is generally weakened. Traffic imposed upon moistened soil results in a cementing of the soil due to the lubricating action of the moisture. This undoubtedly adds to compaction.

"In winter when the ground is frozen solid, turf blades would suffer only if play were allowed while the grass, too, was frozen. The danger here is that during the day while players are on the course, sufficient

thawing could occur in the upper fraction of soil to cause footprints and a cementing action of the soil. This occurs when air temperatures are higher than normal, and, of course, these are the very days when golfers prefer to play.

"The most difficult time for turf is in late winter and early spring, from mid-February through March when the top one inch of soil (or less) is thawing but the soil beneath is frozen. Traffic on greens at this time will result in severe compaction.

"Any time water stands on a green in winter, no play should be allowed. This results in extreme softness of the upper fraction of soil and turf.

"All told, any amount of play in winter generally means more rigid management during the growing season, especially more aeration and more topdressing to true and level greens. If play is allowed on regular greens, we cannot stress too vigorously that the days must be very carefully chosen; that someone must make these day-to-day decisions; and that your

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Crean & Myers Receive TUCO Turf Scholarships

Jeffrey A. Crean and Dennis B. Myers, both seniors in Turf Management at Michigan State University, have each received a TUCO Turf Scholarship for 1980. The awards were recently presented at the 50th Annual Turfgrass Conference by Russel H. Tiller, TUCO representative.

The annual scholarships are sponsored by TUCO, Division of The Upjohn Company, to assist turfgrass

students in meeting their educational needs. The scholarships are awarded for scholastic ability, personal integrity and professed career interest in turfgrass management.

Crean is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Crean of Rochester, New York, and Myers is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard B. Myers of Plymouth, Michigan.



Dennis B. Myers (left), and Jeffrey A. Crean (right), are presented with the TUCO Turf Scholarships for 1980, by Russ Tiller, Area Sales Representative, The Upjohn Company, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

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TWO RECEIVE AWARDS

DR. JOHN MADISON received the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Distinguished Service Award.

Dr. Madison, a professor at the University of California, Davis, is the author of two text books in the turfgrass management field, "Principles of Turfgrass Culture" and "Practical Turfgrass Management."

Madison came to the University of California from Cornell University, where he received his PH.D in 1953. His initial research interests centers on the way different management practices affected one another, but he soon began concentrating on the relationship of soil and water in turf. His later work centered on sand characteristics and on the practice of frequent light topdressing. This work was of great interest to golf course superintendents, and many courses have successfully adapted his techniques.

His two books published in 1971, reviewed turfgrass research in depth and presented a view of the principles of turfgrass growth and their applications in turfgrass management.

He has received research grants from a number of organizations, including GCSA of America, GCSA of Northern California and the United States Golf Association Green Section. Madison has been a frequent participant in GCSAA and GCSNC educational programs and has worked closely with other local, regional and national turfgrass organizations.

Dr. Madison was awarded an Honary Membership in GCSA of Northern California in 1978 because of the many benefits he had given to the Association. He is now retired but his research at Davis campus continues on a part time basis.

Manuel L. Francis, a golf course superintendent, architect, designer

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ATLANTA C. C. SUPERINTENDENT TO RECEIVE PGA TOUR - GCSAA CITATION OF PERFORMANCE

George Burgin, superintendent at the Atlanta Country Club, site of the annual Atlanta Classic, has been named the inaugural recipient of the PGA TOUR and Golf Course Superintendents Association of America CITATION OF PERFORMANCE.

Announcement of the award, made in commendation of Burgin's many years of outstanding service in the preparation of the golf facilities at the Atlanta Country Club, was made by PGA TOUR Commissioner Deane Beman and Charles Tadge, President of the GCSAA.

Formal presentation of the award will be made during the Tournament Players Championship in Jacksonville, Fla., where Burgin and his wife will be guests of the PGA TOUR, March 20-23.

Burgin, 51, is a native of Lincolnton, North Carolina. He entered the field of golf course maintenance in 1947 at the Lincolnton Country Club. Burgin was the superintendent at Quail Hollow Country Club in Charlotte, N.C., for four years before

assuming duties as superintendent at Atlanta in 1968.

Criteria for the award include knowledge and performance within his profession; cooperation with PGA TOUR officials in preparation for TOUR competition; and length of service.

"The PGA TOUR owes a great deal to the men who prepare the courses on which we play, and by initiating this award we publicly recognize the invaluable contributions made by men like George Burgin," Beman said.

"Burgin's contributions at the Atlanta Country Club have set a standard of excellence to which all superintendents around the country might aspire," Beman added.

A five-man selection committee for the award was comprised of Clyde Mangum, Deputy Commissioner for PGA TOUR Operations; TOUR Agronomists Allan MacCurrach and Terry Buchen; Tournament Director for the PGA TOUR, Jack Tuthill; and Charles Tadge, President of the GCSAA.

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Winter Injury, cont.

course must be treated as an individual problem. It should not be kept open or closed simply because a nearby course is open or closed.

"The only way to insure against possible trouble is to have temporary greens. It has often been suggested that the word 'alternate' be used in place of 'temporary' because the latter bears a negative connotation.

Second, drainage conditions must be at an optimum if sound turf programs are to be carried out and followed to prevent winter injury. And, third, an adequate budget, good source of labor and communication between the golf course superintendent and his immediate superior must become a reality when facing the winter injury problem in the cool temperate zone of the United States.

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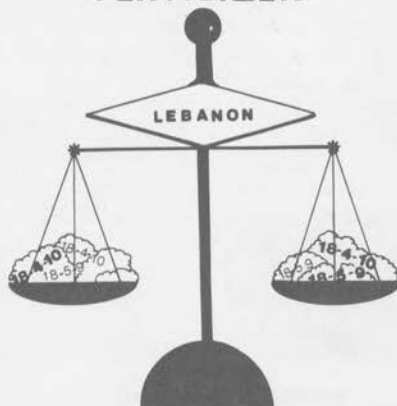


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Two Awarded, cont.

and consultant whose association with golf courses has spanned almost 60 years was also awarded a GCSAA Distinguished Service Award with Dr. Madison at the 51st International Turfgrass Conference and Show, St. Louis.

St. Louis - February 20 - James W. Timmerman, CGCS, superintendent of the Orchard Lakes (Mich.) Country Club, was elected director of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America at its 51st annual meeting held in St. Louis.

Timmerman has been a member of GCSAA for nine years.

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THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Beware of half-truths; you may have gotten hold of the wrong half.

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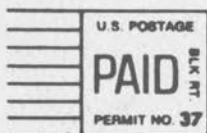
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