

James B. Beard

MARCH 1984



A PATCH of GREEN

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Official Publication of the
Michigan & Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association



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Gaeumannomyces Patches in Michigan

By J. M. VARGAS
Turfgrass Pathologist

Gaeumannomyces patch or "take all disease" (formerly known as *Ophiobolus* patch) is becoming a problem in Michigan. The disease has been a problem for many years in the Pacific Northwest and most people believed it was confined to this area of the country. In the past few seasons it has been reported on the East coast and we have found it in many states in the mid-west.

The disease attacks both creeping bentgrass and annual bluegrass greens and annual bluegrass fairways. On creeping bentgrass the disease first appears as faded straw colored patches or circles. Later the plants in the circle become purple in color resembling a phosphorus deficiency. On annual bluegrass the patches or circles appear yellow in color. Usually a brilliant yellow at first and a more bronze-yellow later. Anthracnose is often found on the foliage of senescing plants in the outer circle. However, it should be remembered that anthracnose is a disease characterized by a general thinning and *Gaeumannomyces* patch as the name implies is a disease that forms patches or circles. The reason I point this out is some people were confusing the two diseases this summer.

The *Gaeumannomyces* fungus primarily attacks the roots and the crowns of the plants. In addition to being internal in the crowns and roots it also produces runner hyphae which grow down the outside of the root. These structures can be seen with a hand lens or lower power scope. They appear as dark hairylike strands running parallel along the root surface. Because the fungus is internal and confined primarily to the

roots and crowns effective chemical management may be difficult to achieve.

We have no fungicide recommendations at this time. Superintendents have reported varying degrees of success with 8 oz. of Tersan 1991, 8 oz. of Daconil 2787 and 4 oz. of Chipco 26019. I would suggest you apply these three fungicides to a test area on your golf course to see which, if any, work best for you. The Tersan 1991 and Daconil 2787 should probably be drenched into the turf.

We will try to keep you informed of any new progress via the Code-a-phone.

COMMITTEES - 1984

Pres. Mike Edgerton announced the following Committee Chairmen:

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Membership - Clem Wolfrom
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DR. WILLIAM H. DANIEL NAMED RECIPIENT OF THE 1984 USGA GREEN SECTION AWARD

FAR HILLS, N.J. - Dr. William H. Daniel, Professor of Agronomy at Purdue University, has been selected as the recipient of the 1984 Green Section Award, presented by the United States Golf Association in recognition of distinguished service to golf through work with turfgrass.

Dr. Daniel will receive the award on Feb. 2, 1984, at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Annual Banquet and Show at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas. The presentation will be made by George M. Bard, Chairman of the USGA Green Section Award Committee.

The theme of the Green Section Conference will be "The Business of Golf Course Management." For the fourth consecutive year, the conference will be held as part of the GCSAA International Turfgrass Conference and Show.

The USGA established the Green Section Award in 1961 to honor those persons meriting special recognition for their distinguished service to golf in any phase of work with turfgrass, i.e., research, education, extension, superintendence, maintenance, management, etc.

In presenting the Green Section Award, the USGA wishes to identify, celebrate and hold up for emulation individuals, such as Dr. Daniel, who exemplify outstanding dedication to golf through their work with turfgrass.

Born in Sparkman, Ark., Dr. Daniel earned a bachelor of arts degree in social science from Ouchita College in 1941. In 1947 he was awarded a bachelor of science degree in agriculture from the University of Arkansas. Then he enrolled in Michigan State University where he received his master of science

CONTINUED PAGE 20



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Reflections on My Life With a Golf Course Superintendent

by Linda Caldwell

In May 1974 I met my first golf course superintendent. Prior to that time I didn't know such people existed because I had never been on a golf course and knew absolutely nothing about the game of golf. Since then I still know very little about the game; however, I feel I understand at least a little more about this person known as a golf course superintendent.

What could a golf course superintendent possibly have to do but cut the grass, I thought. No big deal, right? Wrong! I was soon informed during a tour and golf lesson from the golf course superintendent of the various duties and responsibilities involved. It was certainly eye opening to me. What does a golf course superintendent do in the winter, I wondered. If only I had a nickel for all the times I have been asked that question.

The lingo of a golf course superintendent is something else, too. It includes much talk about bentgrass, ryegrass and blue grass, topdressing, aerating and verticutting as well as those awful occurrences known as Pythium, Aetenius and that dreaded wilt. Then there is Milorganite. I've even been made aware of what that can do. Our Springer Spaniel, Thatch, who hangs out at the golf course, tasted some of it one day and later got sick and deposited it all over our living room carpet. What a mess! Not knowing what this thick black substance was I panicked, thinking for sure Thatch was doomed. She looked so sick and pathetic lying there motionless. After a few questions to the golf course superintendent, the mystery soon unraveled. Thatch survived the Milorganite but it certainly didn't promote any growth in her intelligence.

Soon after I met this golf course superintendent I became aware that our lives would revolve around the golf

season. Unlike our neighbors who would be leaving town for weekends during the summer, we would always be around to watch them drive away with their campers or other recreational vehicles pulling their boats and motors. What a bummer! Our summer vacation usually falls on a rainy day in late October. Oh,

Even on a rare weekend away from the golf course thoughts of it are always foremost in the golf course superintendent's mind. Also, being in the presence of more than one golf course superintendent means that any given topic of conversation is guaranteed to be golf courses. What furthered my realization of the total devotion that a golf course superintendent has for his profession became evident to me when a huge cardboard box containing a portion of the 16th green appeared on our dining room table one day this past winter. Unlike most people who may have common house plants on their dining room tables, we had something unique that proved to be quite a conversation piece. After a few weeks of TLC I was informed that the green had survived the winter and so had the golf course superintendent.

I have found the weather to be an important variable which influences the life of the golf course superintendent. A rainy day in July is always welcomed. I even find myself occasionally wishing for rain while others are planning various outdoor summer activities. I have learned that a good rain now and then can work wonders for the golf course superintendent's mood. If he lives through the golf season he still finds himself concerned over such situations as amounts of snow cover and the possibility of snow mold during the winter.

As a close acquaintance of a golf

CONTINUED PAGE 19



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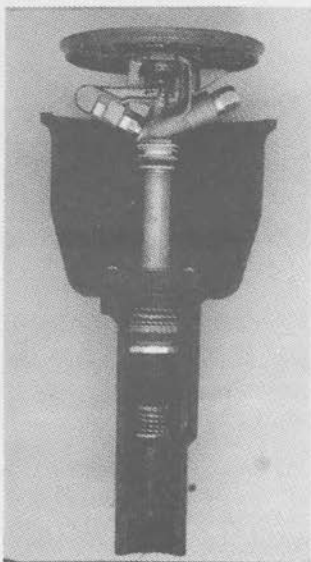
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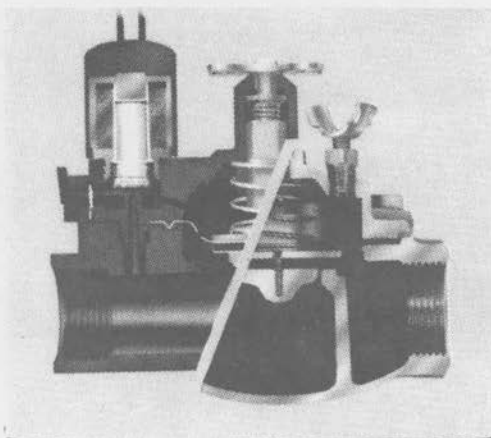


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Bits and Pieces

John Luther

Some years ago (or ages ago, depending on your point of view) I attended the Harvard Graduate School of Business. They used the case method of instruction, unique and different from most other schools. I still recall the powerful, distinctive impression it made upon me.

Business tools, such as accounting and statistics, were taught with the usual kind of textbooks. Aside from these two subjects, however, I never saw a textbook at HBS which outlined the principles of any business subject. All we had were cases, and more cases, in production, marketing, finance, and other business areas. The cases involved real business organizations and the problems they had actually faced. We were supposed to study each situation and make up our minds what we would have done if we had been in their shoes.

It was the most significant learning experience in my entire education. It taught me that knowledge doesn't originate in books. It comes from experience—and the logical analysis of that experience. In business, if you know how people are likely to react

CONTINUED PAGE 19

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Bruce Wolfrom

Outgoing President of Michigan & Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association. Bruce has been Supt. of Barton Hills Country Club in Ann Arbor since 1971. During this time he has been a very dedicated supporter of the MBCGCSA. Serving as director for six years, two years as Secretary-Treasurer, one year as Vice-President and two years as President.

Bruce was replaced by Mike Edgerton at the annual elections held at Maple Lane Golf Club on Oct. 18, 1983. Mike is the Superintendent at the Meadowbrook C.C. of Northville, Michigan.

Others elected were, Kevin Dushane, Vice-President. Kevin is Superintendent of Bloomfield Hills C.C. of Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

Secretary-Treasurer is Thomas Mason, Superintendent, Birmingham C.C. of Birmingham, Mich.

Newly elected Directors for three year terms are:

Ken DeBusscher, Superintendent of Wabeb, Country Club and Dan Uzelac, who was re-elected he is Superintendent of the Dominion Golf Club of Oldcastle, Ontario, Canada.

Elected for a one year term was Ed Heineman, Superintendent of Waters Edge Country Club, Grosse, Ile, Mich.

Remaining members of the Board are Clem Wolfrom, Superintendent,



Detroit Golf Club serving his last year. Craig Roggeman, Superintendent, Lakelands Golf and Country Club serving two more years.

Bruce Wolfrom remains on the Board as Ex Officio Member as the immediate Past President.

Retiring from the Board are Ted Woehrl, Superintendent, Oakland Hills Country Club and Jim Timmerman, Superintendent, Orchard Lake Country Club.

In addition we participated in the annual Softball games against Century Rain Aid. Once again the Superintendents were able to defeat the hard playing team fielded by Ernie Hodas and received \$250.00 towards our fund raising efforts for turf research at MSU.

Thanks again Ernie for much appreciated support.

Review of Meetings - 1983

Once again President Bruce Wolfrom and the Board of Directors for 1983 Presented a Busy and Productive Schedule of activities. Some of the highlites to be remembered:

Date	Place	Host	Activity
January -	Bag Pointe G.C.	Rick York	Nat'l Election
February -	Atlanta	GCSAA.	Jim Timmerman Elected V.P.
March 9	Salt River G.C.	Glenn Korhorn	Management of Chemicals
March	Detroit Golf Club.	Clem Wolfrom	GAM. Meetings
April 26	Roseland Golf & C.C.	Randy Hooper	Joint Safety Canadian mtg.
May 16	Detroit Golf Club	Clem Wolfrom	Special Olympics
June 20	Birmingham C.C.	Tom Mason	Employer Packages
July 26	Raisin River G.C.	Steve Vasher	Family Problems
Aug. 4	Bag Pointe	Fuller Brothers	The Invitational Fund Raiser
Aug. 9	Kensington Metropark	George Prieskorn	Family Picnic
Aug. 29	Red Run Golf Club	Bob Birdsall	Retirement
Sept. 1	MSU	Field Day	
Sept. 20	Burroughs Farm	Jim Vlassis	Time Distribution
Oct. 3	Oakland Hills C.C.	Ted Woehrl	Golf Day Fund Raising
Oct. 18	Maple Lane G.C.	Clarence Wolfrom	Elections
Dec. 2	Eddgewood G.C.	Ken McRoe	Christmas Party



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NEW MTF BOARD MEMBER

Dr. Al Turgeon has been appointed to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Tom Brune, Lawn Sprayer representative. Dr. Turgeon is employed by True Green Corporation, East Lansing office. Dr. Turgeon formerly was with Texas A and M University. The expertise of Dr. Turgeon is a welcome addition to your MTF Board of Directors.



Dr. Karl Dannenberger leaves MSU to become a Buckeye at OSU. Good luck Karl, we'll miss you.

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MIKE EDGERTON, left, PRESENTING
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In Memorium

Our sympathies and condolences go out to Thom Gray and his family on the passing of his father, Robert Gray, on Saturday, Dec. 31st, 1983.

Bits & Pieces, cont.

under various circumstances, you'll often find a better answer by thinking things through yourself than by looking for a solution in some textbook.

Business, no matter what the field - marketing, finance, or production - is primarily a problem of relations between human beings. Some technical know-how is obviously essential - like accounting, statistics, and computers. But these are merely tools. When you get to the heart of it, business is people dealing with people.

Success in most business careers demands the ability to understand and motivate other people. We noticed a little sign the other day on one executive's desk which said: "Announce of motivation is worth a pound of threats, ten pounds of pressure, and a ton of reminders."

Despite this, few American business schools care to spend much time on such a down-to-earth, unsophisticated subject as human relations. They leave that sort of stuff to Dale Carnegie and the Japanese.

My Super Life, cont.

course superintendent I feel that being a supportive listener and trying to be patient and understanding can help to ease some of the pressures on the golf course superintendent. Attempting to convince him to relax is another task I try to undertake. Even if I am not able to understand fully all of the stress involved with being a golf course superintendent, I can appreciate the hard work and resulting beauty of the golf course on a warm summer day. Although I don't regret having met this golf course superintendent, I'm sometimes very thankful that at least I have a "normal" job with "normal" hours. ●

Credit: **Hole Notes**, Minnesota GCSA, July 1983



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GENE JOHANNINGSMEIER

Dr. William H. Daniel, cont.

degree in 1948 and his doctoral degree in soil science in 1950.

Dr. Daniel began his career in turf management in 1950 as an assistant professor at Purdue University. In 1954 he was promoted to associate professor and in 1957 to professor.

Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Daniel has enjoyed a reputation as a dedicated researcher and educator. His long-term research projects have included the development of improved strains of grasses for the turf industry, the use of sands for golf greens construction and maintenance, moisture sensing to aid the golf course turf manager, and the uses of he slow-release forms of nitrogen. In addition, he has been active in the evaluation of plant growth regulators, herbicides and fungicides for turf professionals.

In particular, Dr. Daniel has been responsible for the development or improvement of agronomic programs, practices and products in the following areas: a) development of pre-emergent crabgrass controls and their application, b) use of calcium arsonate for the control of *Poa annua*, c) use of electric soil warming to maintain turf growth and survival, d) use of vertical turf thinners, vertical turf seeders and vegetative turf planters, e) introduction of soil conditioners for porous rootzones, g) introduction of Sodco bluegrass, Evansville bentgrass and Midwest zoysiagrass, h) introduction of plastic field covers to reduce heat buildup on covered turf such as athletic fields, and i) invention of the Prescription Athletic Turf System (PAT) for use on football and baseball fields.

In 1978, Dr. Daniel received a grant from the United State Department of Agriculture Pesticide Assessment Program to determine potential applicator exposure to site users. He is investigating pesticides currently under registration restriction by the Environmental Protection Agency.

He also is a member of the committee established by the USDA Science and Education Administration to evaluate arsenic relative to the EPA's concern about its effects as an environmental hazard.

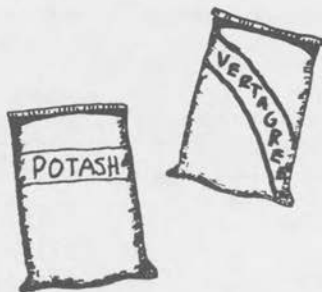
Dr. Daniel has served on the executive
CONTINUED PAGE 22

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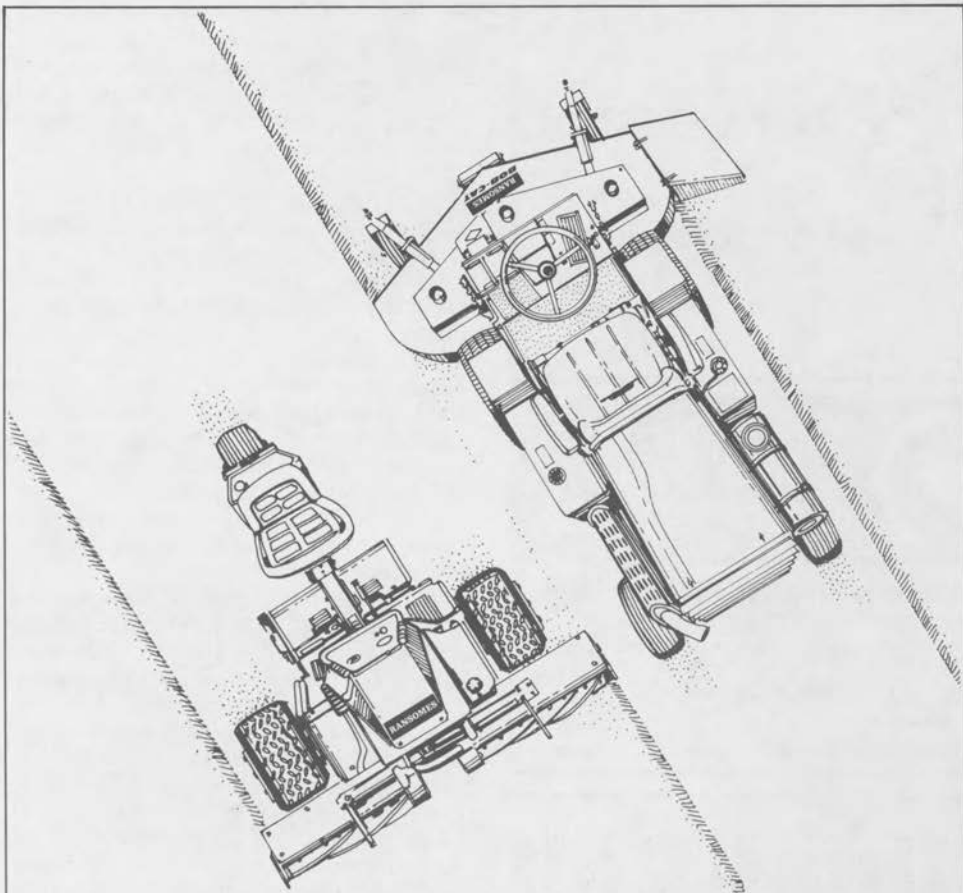
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Dr. William H. Daniel, cont.

committee of the International turfgrass Society and is a member of the board of directors of the Musser International Turfgrass Foundation. He has served on the USGA Green Section Committee since 1954.

As an educator, Dr. Daniel has taught agronomy courses and supervised graduate student programs at Purdue and has assisted more than 200 students seeking employment in the turf management field.

As an extension worker, he has served as the long-time executive secretary of the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation, coordinator of the annual midwest Regional Turf Conference and editor of the conference proceedings and author of **Turf Management Handbook** and of many extension leaflets on lawn care.

Dr. Daniel averages 40 out-of-state trips each year as a guest lecturer on a wide variety of turfgrass subjects. These extensive speaking engagements are indicative of his philosophy of rapid sharing of new ideas and information about improvements in turfgrass.

His peers honored him as a Fellow in the American Society of Agronomy in 1964 and as the Agronomic Service Award recipient in 1973. In 1975 the GCSAA bestowed upon him its Distinguished Service Award.

- 1961 John Monteith, Jr.
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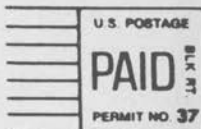
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