THE

CONN CLIPPINGS

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

APRIL 1968 VOL. 1 NO. 1

WINTER INJURY TO PLANTS AND TREATMENT

It is quite common for many shade trees and ornamental shrubs to be injured during severe winters. Injury may result from low temperatures, snow, wind storms and other causes. Varying with the cause, damage may occur directly to the roots, the stem of the plant near the ground line, or in the upper branches.

Most noticeable is injury to such popular evergreens as yew, juniper and arborvitae, revealed by browning and death of the foliage on one or more branches or over the entire plant in the spring. This results from more moisture being given off into the atmosphere through the foliage than the roots can replenish by absorption from the soil. Deeply frozen soil may prevent normal absorption of water; often the soil lacks moisture because of dry autumn weather. Most likely to be injured are plants that are fully exposed to the drying effects of the sun and wind. Evergreens on which all or most of the foliage becomes brown usually die; those showing less severe injury generally respond well to careful pruning, watering, and judicious use of fertilizer.

Cold weather frequently causes injury to deciduous trees and shrubs, but seldom are such injuries fatal to established plants except under unusual conditions. Typical symptoms of injury include late development of foliage, and the leaves often are small, pale in color and less abundant than normal. Branch tips may die back during the summer. Areas of dead bark may be found on the trunk or branches.

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THE HAPPENING

Today a seedling is popping its head out of the soil. The seed was planted last winter when the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents appointed an editor, authorized funds and said, "We need a newsletter." For the last couple of months the seed was nursed and with the help of many individuals it now is alive. But, we all know what will happen to that lonely plant if it gets no assistance from "Mother Nature" and the planter. The CONN. CLIPPINGS has been published for the first time and it will continually need nourishment in order that it might be classified as a worthy publication.

editor

THE GRASS CATCHER

By Charles G. Baskin

Yale Golf Course has installed a new watering system which is fully automatic. The system includes all greens, tees and fairways. The majority of the trenching had to be blasted out of rock. Harry Meusel is the superintendent at Yale. Harry spoke this past winter at the University of Delaware Turf Conference.

The 1968 Turf Conference in Massachusetts took another step forward. The conference site was moved to the White House Inn in Chicopee, Mass. and the program was lengthened to three days. The quality of information presented at this conference is always improving. Speakers for this year's conference came from Conn., Mass., R.I., N.J., Dela., Penna., Va., Ga., Ohio, Calif., and Oregon along with a speaker from Canada. Dr. Joseph Troll, Univ. of Mass., does an excellent job presenting this conference.

Richard Bator, Mill River C.C., reports that they have constructed a new green and rebuilt half of the fairway on their 7th hole. The green was sodded with C-1, C-19 creeping bent taken from their nursery. Their 15th men's tee was extended and resodded with Astoria-Seaside bent sod which was grown in their nursery. Dick had an article in The Thinking Superintendent column of our national publication. The story was about they built a steam cleaner out of a hot water tank.

Point to remember . . . The Sahara Desert embraces 3½ million square miles. Its elevation varies from 440 feet below sea level to 11,000 feet above.

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CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

The object of this association is to promote research, education and an exchange of practical experiences in the field of turf grass culture so that the increased knowledge will lead to more economic and efficient management of golf courses and related turf areas.

The CONN. CLIPPINGS is an official publication of the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents.

Charles G. Baskin, editor
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TIME OF DAY FACTOR IN INSECT CONTROL

The time of day insecticidal sprays are applied may affect the degree of control achieved, according to results of tests made by scientists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. In these tests flies and roaches were exposed to an insecticidal aerosol for a few minutes at different times of the day and night, and mortality results tabulated for each period. It was found that the death rate was greater among those exposed to the insecticide during the afternoon than among those treated in the morning or at night.

It is during periods of activity that insects in general seem to be most susceptible to insecticides. This has been observed frequently, particularly with respect to spider mites. These pests move about and feed actively during the warmth of the day, and it is then that spraying is most effective. There seems some doubt whether increased activity occurs in a daily cyclic pattern, or is simply a response to a rise in air temperature.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

After many year's of discussion about having a newsletter, it has become a reality. At this time I want to thank Charley Baskin for accepting the chairmanship of this publication. Charley will need the cooperation from each and every member to make this part of our association a complete success. This publication will promote fine public relations for our association with the press, green chairman and country clubs throughout the state.

At our recent Board of Governors' meeting, some changes were made and new ideas were adopted to be used in the future. Some of these are:

1. New and colorful membership card with name typed.
2. Certificate of membership to be displayed in your office or home.
3. Newsletter to be published four times a year.
4. Certificate of appreciation to our monthly guest speaker.
5. Letter of appreciation to be sent to each club president where our meeting was held.
6. New trophys for association and other division championships.
7. Setting up annual budget.

I think you will agree that these changes and new ideas are a giant step towards the upgrading of our association, but let us not stop here. The success of an organization is directly related to the total effort put behind it by all its members, not just a certain few. When any of you have suggestions to make to me or the Board of Governors feel free to come and make your views known.

In closing, I want to thank all the members for the honor you have bestowed upon me. I can only say that I am grateful to you all for giving me the opportunity to serve you. You may be assured that every action taken by me will be with the entire membership in mind.

I wish everyone a successful season, health and turfwise.

Michael Ovian
President

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

By John J. Perry

The Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents was well represented at the 39th International Turfgrass Conference and Show in San Francisco, California, February 18-23, 1968. Twenty eight regular and associate members were in attendance. 13 Connecticut wives were also in attendance. Rev. Harvey Hahn, an excellent and humorous speaker reminded these men that taking their wives on a convention was like going hunting with the game warden. Total attendance (2914) was only slightly lower than it was last year in Washington, D.C. (3008).

The lectures and exhibits provided the superintendent with an excellent opportunity to keep abreast with the advances in our field. Included in the program were a variety of subjects, such as, golf course beautification, proper chemical application, a small engine clinic, putting green construction and maintenance and even a talk on use of helicopter spraying. Each year the program provides the opportunity to learn more about turfgrass and it is surprising the number of clubs that recognize this point and require their superintendent to attend the conference. All but one Connecticut club paid the expenses of the attending superintendent.

I was privileged to play three of the golf courses on the Monterey Peninsula: Spyglass Hill, Pebble Beach and Cypress Point. These courses though spectacular in their natural beauty, in my opinion, were not maintained to any higher degree than ours in Connecticut.

The annual membership meeting was conducted very smoothly. James Brandt, Illinois, is the new president. Dick Blake, our friend from neighboring Massachusetts, was re-elected as a director. The two proposed by-law changes were voted down. They both dealt with the reclassification of those members changing profession.

Any member desiring a membership classification change should write to the national headquarters and request the change. This is the responsibility of the individual.

Remember next winter — 40th International Turfgrass Conference and Show at the Fountainbleau Hotel, Miami Beach, Florida, January 19-24, 1969.

WINTER INJURY
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Most serious injury is likely to occur when there is a sudden, drastic drop in temperature in early autumn while the leaves are still green and the stem wood is succulent. Then the roots may be killed, or the tissues under the bark near the base of the plant may die, partially or completely around the trunk. In grafted plants, sometimes there is a difference in climatic hardiness between the rootstock and the upper plant; then cold weather may kill the less hardy portion.

The more usual forms of winter damage include blighting of buds and leaves by unseasonably low temperatures in either autumn or spring; cankers, or localized areas of dying bark on the trunk and branches of thin-barked plants; frost cracks in the trunk; and, of course, branch breakage and other mechanical injuries that may occur during storms.

Proper treatment of winter-damaged plants varies with the nature of the injury. Trees with sections of dead bark at the base of the trunk may be aided by bridge grafting. Bark cankers should be cut back to living tissue and the surface coated with wound dressing material. Since poor drainage is a contributing factor to root injury, sub-surface soil drainage should be provided as a part of the treatment of affected plants. In most cases of winter injury, judicious pruning is needed to remove dead branches, or restore the balance between top and roots. Fertilizer application generally is advisable to stimulate growth of the plant.

SHADE TREE DIGEST

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

APRIL MEETING
April 16
Wampanoag C.C.
West Hartford, Conn.
LABOR WAGE LAWS

MAY MEETING
C.C. of Fairfield
LANDSCAPING

THE ANNUAL BLUEGRASS WEEVIL AND ITS CONTROL

John C. Schread, Entomologist
Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
New Haven, Connecticut

Although the annual bluegrass weevil *Hyperodes anthracinus* identified by Dr. R. E. Warner of the Insect Identification and Parasite Introduction Research Branch of the USDA was reported by him as a new record for Connecticut, the insect is in all probability a much older grass pest in the northeast than suspected.

For many years the summer decline of bluegrass *(Poa annua)* in golf course turf, especially noticeable in fairways and tees (however, occuring occasionally in putting greens) has, because of the fact that the grass is a cool weather species, been attributed to unfavorable hot, humid conditions during the summer months. It is now believed that in other years some of the loss of *Poa annua* was due to *Hyperodes*. The devasting activity of the insect pest in conjunction with unfavorable weather have resulted in die-out of *Poa annua* in many areas.

So far our experience with the bluegrass weevil has been limited to a single season. During 1967 only one golf course in Connecticut indicated serious trouble from the pest. All of the fairways at WeeBurn Country Club, Noroton, were to a greater or less extent infested. Several fairways were badly damaged by the pest.

At the time of our first visit to the golf course on June 29, 1967, an obvious decline in *Poa annua* had occured in these areas. The grass was dead or dying. The affected areas varied in size from less than one square foot in extent to many.

Weevil counts in the badly infested turf ranged from 50 to 100 per sq. ft. Upward of 90% of the individuals were in the pupal stage. About 1 out of 10 of the pupae had transformed to the adult stage; however, none was found above the surface of the ground. Larvae, pupae and adults were at a depth of one to two inches below the surface of the fairways. It was obvious that where thatch occurred (although quite shallow) all stages of the weevil were adjacent to its lower surface - none was found in the thatch.

Although the great majority of the weevil population belonged to the species *H. anthracinus* a very few clover weevil *(Hypera postica)* larvae were found in association with them. However, by no stretch of the imagination could any part of the visible or measurable injury to the turf be attributed to this species.

There may be only one generation of Hyperodes during the growing season. The adults emerge from the soil over a period of several weeks and perhaps longer. This was borne out by the fact that examinations made at WeeBurn on July 12 indicated 85% of the population had emerged. Most of the remaining individuals were in the pupa stage.

Eggs are deposited in the grass plants. After hatching, the larval stages feed on the foliage mining the leaves and sheaths. Some feeding may also occur at the crown of the plants and on the rootlets as the individuals burrow into the soil to pupate.

CONTROL

Owing to reports of disappointment, voiced by golf course superintendents on Long Island, in the use of certain chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticides for controlling annual bluegrass weevils, it was suggested that heptachlor be used as a spray on fairway turf at WeeBurn Country Club. The superintendent was asked to use heptachlor emulsion on July 5 so as to achieve 2.5 lbs. of technical insecticide per each acre of fairway turf. Tractor drawn hydraulic spray equipment was used to apply the treatment. A 22 foot contour boom fastened to the front of the tractor atomized the insecticide onto the grass foliage from a height of 10 inches. The boom had 16 fine spray nozzles spaced at 19-inch intervals.

A second treatment was applied on July 12 and a third one on July 19. One-half of the fairways were resprayed on July 26. The fairway watering system was turned on immediately following the July 5 treatment. This was intended to achieve greater penetration of heptachlor to the base of the grass plants and the surface of the soil. Subsequent treatments were not watered in, hence all of the insecticide was permitted to remain on the grass foliage where it would be in immediate contact with the adult weevils.

Examinations made on several occasions from mid-summer through mid-fall showed that all adult weevils had been killed by the heptachlor treatments — dead ones were found but no live ones were seen. Furthermore, examinations of the turf from the surface of the soil to a depth of 1 to 2 inches revealed no eggs not larvae of *Hyperodes anthracinus,* or unrelated species.

THE GRASS CATCHER
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Karl Knobloch, superintendent at Orange Hills C.C., reports that they have built two new tees and built a new 8th green. The tees were planted to Merion and Penncross was used in the construction of the green.

Michael Ovian, President of our association, took in the Hawaii tour after our national conference in San Francisco.

The National Golf Foundation reports 142 regulation golf facilities in Connecticut. In addition there are 14 par three golf courses. In Conn. we have a golf facility for every 18,750 persons. The average in the U.S. is 21,196 persons per golf facility. Since 1931, 59 new courses have been constructed in Conn. and 3,645 throughout the country.

Robert Tosh, educational chairman, is doing an excellent job lining up the program for the coming year for our state meetings.

Golf car sales rose 8% last year. Last year's manufacturer's figures show that 80% of the golf cars sold were electric powered. There are about 135,000 golf cars in use in the United States.

The Magovern Company put on an excellent display of turf equipment at their fourth annual Turf Equipment Show.

What's happening at your golf course? Drop a line to CONN CLIPPINGS and let us know. Any new ideas or ways to improve the newsletter will be welcomed by the Newsletter committee.

CONNECTICUT STATE GOLF ASSOCIATON GREEN SECTION

The Connecticut State Golf Association has formed a Green Section with Martin J. Moraghan, Jr. as chairman. Also on the committee are James H. Killington and Frank D. Ross. Mr. Charles Baskin, retired Superintendent at the Country Club of Waterbury, is not a member of the Green Section. The Green Section's press release erroneously stated that Mr. Baskin was a member.

The Green Section was organized this past winter as a result of action taken at the association's annual meeting at the Country Club of Waterbury. A golfer from the New Haven area warned of a turf disease appearing in the New York area and spreading into Connecticut. The Green Section was then formed to assist clubs in gaining counsel on turfgrass problems. Mr. Moraghan said that the committee will work as a referral agency to help clubs obtain expert advise.

Editor's note: The formation of this committee is an excellent example of the need for dissemination of information. The reported disease was instead an insect problem. Superintendents attending the monthly meeting were kept abreast of the problem and were told of possible control measures by one of the top entomologists, in my opinion the best, John C. Schread. In Connecticut we are very fortunate to have available to us a man like John. In another section of CONN. CLIPPINGS, John goes into detail about Hyperodes anthracinus.

This incident is an excellent example of the need for each superintendent to attend as many meetings and conferences as possible in order to keep abreast of the latest developments in our profession. It also shows the value of each club having an informed superintendent and of the club making proper use of this professional man. The superintendent is the man with the answers to golf course operations. If he doesn't have the answers, he knows where to get them.

IN CASE OF ILLNESS . . . . .

Please pass the word around anytime you hear about illness striking any of our members. Also, give our welfare chairman, Al Hawkins, a call. We would appreciate it if the wives would help us out in this project by notifying your neighbor superintendent or calling Al Hawkins if your husband is ill.

SPEAKERS BUREAU

The CAGCS has formed a speakers bureau which will provide speakers to organizations. Speakers will be well versed on a variety of subjects relating to golf and the growing of grass.

For further information, please contact any of our officers or our public affairs chairman:

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FIRST CLASS