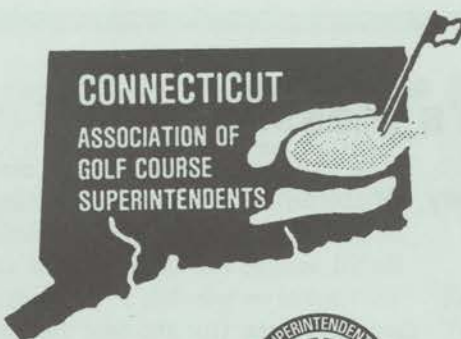


MAY 23 2001



CONNECTICUT CLIPPINGS

Volume 35, No. 2

May, 2001

Northeast News Update

Dave Oatis, Director,
Jim Skorulski & Jim Baird, Agronomists

Superintendents in the Boston region, western Massachusetts, Vermont, and western Connecticut report varying degrees of winter damage to annual bluegrass on greens.

Shaded turf, areas of poor surface drainage, and areas where ice/snow damming occurred have suffered the worst damage.

The same type of damage will likely become evident on annual bluegrass fairways as well.

The first indication of trouble became obvious in mid-February and early March when superintendents broke through heavy snow and ice layers and detected a foul smelling, anaerobic condition.

Anaerobic conditions are never a good omen and signal the need to take action.

Efforts were made to remove snow in order to expose the ice layer and hasten melting. Darkening agents or fertilizers were applied, and some superintendents physically removed

ice. Unfortunately, in many cases, the damage had already occurred, and annual bluegrass and perennial ryegrass, (the two species most prone to this type of winter injury) suffered extensive

The word around much of central New England and eastern New York is not good as the snow pack recedes and temperatures warm.

injury. Golfers will ask plenty of questions as they learn of the damage and likelihood of playing temporary greens.

We will try to answer some of those most-likely asked questions.

(continued on page 4)

Safety First!

by Mike Mooney
Golf Course Superintendent
Pequot Golf Club

As a new year begins, everyone is probably finishing up with his or her equipment overhaul. As responsible superintendents, we want to assure that all equipment is in proper working order. This is to ensure the longevity of the equipment as well as the safety of the operator on the equipment. I'm sure that the latter of the two is of utmost importance to all.

There is no doubt that with the hectic schedules and workloads of superintendents today that some facets of safety may be overlooked. Something so minuscule like a small safety sticker on a piece of equipment has the potential to cost the club tens of thousands of dollars. It sounds absurd until it happens to your club.

I have recently had an opportunity to participate in a program offered by the State of Connecticut, Department of OSHA. We automatically feel that OSHA is synonymous with poison. The father away from us it is the

(continued on page 8)



Brian Skelly
CAGCS President

President's message

Brian Skelly, President

The new year has started off well for CAGCS.

The National Convention was held in Dallas, TX, this year, and the show and educational courses were good. On behalf of all CAGCS members, I would like to congratulate Mike Wallace, CGCS, on his election as Vice President of GCSAA and Tim O'Neill, CGCS, on his election to a two-year term as Director. They have both put a lot of time and effort in and deserve the success.

The New England Regional Turfgrass Conference was again a success, well-attended, good talks, and a good equipment show. The show keeps growing and Providence is a great little city.

Again, thanks to Anthony Grosso and Phil Neaton and the rest of the committee for all their hard work.

Our March meeting was well attended, as everyone is interested in what is going to happen with the DEP and the Water Diversion Act. The recommendation from the DEP was for courses to continue to operate the way

they have been (for the near future, even if they do not have a permit) until the DEP comes up with a plan, sometime this year.

Just don't make any new changes to your water use without applying for a diversion permit. The DEP seems to want to work with us without nailing anybody.

For this, we can thank Peter Pierson and his committee for all their hard work, and for showing our willingness to cooperate. Nice job!

After a one-week delay (due to soaking rains), we had our first golf outing at New Haven Country Club. Jim MacDonald and his staff had the course in great shape. Despite a bad weather report, the rain held off and it was a nice day for golf—though you could tell it was the first time on the course for many of us. Thanks to Jim and New Haven CC.

We have a great schedule lined up for the rest of the year as Kim Heyl and her committee have done a fine job. However, we still need sites for NEXT YEAR and the following years, so volunteer your clubs.

Please consider hosting a CAGCS monthly meeting or event. Cut out and return the form on page 2 and send it along to the CAGCS office. It is never too early to think of next year and beyond.

Finally, I would like to announce that

"WE HAVE MOVED!"

CAGCS now has its own office at 27 Lucy Street in Woodbridge. After many years of operating out of a little office located in the basement of the Streeters' house, it was decided that it was more practical to find a regular office. This new site will give us

→

CAGCS Board of Directors

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Connecticut Clippings is an official publication of the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents

Newsletter Editor
Bob Chalifour, CGCS (Ret.)

Newsletter Committee
David Basconi, John Garcia,
Heather Garvin, Edward Goodhouse,
Mike Mooney, Ron Holcomb
and Jud W. Smith

The *Clippings* is open to all commentary. Please send your comments to Bob Chalifour, Newsletter Editor, 39 First Street,

New offices for CAGCS

more space and enable us to hold committee meetings at the office. On behalf of all of us at CAGCS, I would like to thank John and Pauline for all those years of allowing us to use their home for business.

Luckily, we were able to keep the same telephone numbers and mailing address. Nothing has changed, except for the physical location.

The hours of operation will remain somewhat the same (9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) as they have in the past. If there is no one in the office, leave your message on the answering machine, and Mary Jo or Pauline will get back to you as soon as they can. Here are the directions to the office so plan on visiting.

Have a great season with light rain every night, no humidity, temps between 50° and 80°, golfers obeying all the rules, Green Chairs agreeing with everything you say and do. Does that seem like too much to ask?

Take a minute and fill in the card below, cut it out, and send it to the office. Sites are needed for next year's schedule.

Directions to CAGCS Office
27 Lucy Street
Woodbridge, CT 06525

From Merritt Parkway North & South:
Take exit 59. Take left off the exit. You will go approximately 1/4 mile (through a few short lights). Take left on Lucy Street.

From Rt. 95 North & South: Take exit 47 (downtown New Haven, Rt. 34). This is an expressway with three exits. Stay on this expressway to the end. Stay straight through approx. 6 or 7 lights. At the end when you have to take a left or right, take a right. This is Ella Grosso Blvd. (Rt. 10). Cross Rt. 34 and stay on Ella Grosso Blvd. for approximately 1+ mile to Whalley Avenue. Take a left on Whalley Ave. and continue through Westville center. When you get to the fork of Rt. 63 & Rt. 69, bear right on Rt. 69. Go under overpass, through a few short lights and take a left on Lucy Street.

We are #27 (third floor) on the right-hand side. The building sits back a little, so when you see Amity Meat Center on your left, our building is directly across the street.



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Yes, I am interested in hosting a CAGCS monthly meeting. Please indicate your preference below, by either indicating the month you wish (April, May, June, July, Aug., Sept. or Oct.) on the blank line or circle the specific event.

2002	2003	Future
2002 Invitational 2002 S & R Annual Meeting	2002 Invitational 2002 S & R Annual Meeting	Invitational S & R Annual Meeting

Name _____

Affiliation _____

I would like more information about hosting a monthly meeting.

Please contact me. Tel. No. _____

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Northeast News Update

(continued from page 1)

What caused the injury?

A straight forward question that, unfortunately, does not have an easy answer. The damage observed in the field is limited primarily to annual bluegrass and perennial ryegrass most likely caused by a form of cold temperature injury, better known as crown hydration injury.

The damage is related to the ice, and probably occurred during one of the weather events where warmer temperatures were followed by an abrupt temperature drop and ice formation.

The process is complex, but it involves water freezing in open spaces around individual plant cells in the crown portion (growing point) of the plant. The ice crystals forming around the plant cell pull water out of the cell causing dehydration inside the cell.

The process causes irreversible damage to cell membranes and death to the individual cells. A hardened plant can tolerate this condition, but once a plant loses hardiness (a natural occurrence in late winter) individual cells lose the ability to combat the dehydration process and severe injury can occur. The process is still not fully understood.

Did the ice and heavy snow pack suffocate the turf?

The anaerobic or anoxic condition under the ice would lead one to this conclusion, but it is unlikely. Scientists have shown that annual bluegrass can tolerate a solid ice layer for 40 to 60 days without harm.

However, the toxic cyanide, hydrogen sulfide, and carbon dioxide gases trapped below the ice can lower a plant's cold temperature hardiness leaving it more susceptible to the injury described above. The gases may be a result of plant respiration and decomposition of damaged plant tissue.

Therefore, it is our feeling that steps should be taken if possible to remove impermeable layers of ice once the anaerobic condition is detected and/or the ice has been in place on annual bluegrass at or about 60 days. Creeping bentgrass can tolerate ice cover for 100 days.

Should the snow and ice have been removed earlier in the winter?

This is a loaded question, but it is our feeling that it is generally not a

good idea to do so; especially in the colder interior parts of the region where low air temperatures can become lethal. A layer of snow provides excellent insulation to the turf and can prevent some of the freeze/thaw cycles that are responsible for the loss of cold temperature hardiness and the damage itself.

Would geotextile covers on our greens have prevented this type of damage?

Absolutely not! Perforated covers alone would have had no effect on the type of winter injury that occurred this season since they provide little or no insulation and do not prevent hydration of the plant.

The covers are helpful for preventing desiccation from wind and will be useful in hastening the recovery. There are more extensive covering systems being used further north with good success, and some promising new covering materials are making their way into management programs to combat this problem.

What effect does shade have on winter injury?

Annual bluegrass populations are always higher in shaded areas, and since that grass species is most susceptible to cold temperature injury, it is likely that damage in those areas

(continued on page 11)



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New England Regional continues to be a success!

by Gary Sykes, Executive Director
New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation

The opportunity to view and talk with local sales representatives is a benefit that no other show can provide for turfgrass managers in New England and surrounding areas.

The bottom line is that the New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show continues to be a success! It is still growing in interest and attendance. To all those who attended between plowing and traveling through the snow, we know that the show is good for you or else you wouldn't have been there.

Each show has its own highlight, and this show probably would have been remembered most for its weather challenge. Because of this year's keynote speaker, Jim Nantz from CBS Sports, it will have something else for everyone to associate this year's successful event with.

While I had the opportunity to escort Mr. Nantz around the show floor to visit sponsor booths and to sign autographs, we were talking about his home course in Connecticut, The Stanwich Club.

As he was remarking about how much he appreciated the hard work his superintendent, Scott Niven, CGCS, put into making The Stanwich Club so well conditioned, he suddenly stopped,

turned and said, "This is what I want to do. I want to make a \$5,000 donation to your Foundation, and I want to make it in Scott Niven's name to be used as a scholarship. I want to show that we have a lot of appreciation for

his hard work and his profession. Please involve Scott in the selection process of the recipient. Can you do that for me?"

"Absolutely!" was my reaction. We are currently setting up a process to award two scholarships, one in 2002 and the

other in 2003 at the University of Rhode Island for \$2,500 each. Scott graduated from the University of Rhode Island in 1976.

Way to go Scott!! Hard work does get noticed.

The conference program comments have been fantastic and the Foundation will continue to focus on the highest quality educational speakers in the industry. Best of all, it provides research with the funding it needs in New England. This helps the industry as a whole in many ways and into the future.

The 5th New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show will be held March 5 - 7, 2002.

If anyone has a long-range forecast for that week, please call the show office!



Executive Board of the New England Turfgrass Assoc.
(L-R) Philip Neaton, Mark Richard, James Conant, Eric Newell and Bob DiRico

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* * * * *

Congratulations to Michael Wallace, CGCS, on his election as Vice President of GCSAA, and to Tim O'Neill, CGCS, on his election to a two-year term as GCSAA Director.

Congratulations to Barry Petrasko on his upcoming retirement from South Pine Creek GC. Barry and his wife, Joyce, are having a house built in Jupiter, FL, and will move there this summer.

Condolences to Mike Chrzanowski on the passing of his father; Mark Loper on the passing of his father, Jim and Jan MacDonald on the passing of Jan's mother; and to the family and friends of Tom Pelletier, former superintendent at Richter Park GC, who passed away on March 24th.

* * * * *

Joe Rustici, Elmridge GC, reports that the State Tourism Division has excluded golf courses from its tourist information brochure. However, there is a separate info sheet listing public golf courses with addresses and telephone numbers.

* * * * *

CAGCS members participating in the CT Lung Assoc. Golf Privilege Card:

- Airways, Blackledge GC,
- Blue Fox Run, East Hartford,
- Twin Hills, Pequot, Sleeping Giant,
- Putnam, Fairchild Wheeler,
- Fox Run @ Copper Hill, Goodwin,
- Grassmere, Laurel View,
- Miner Hills and Rolling Greens.

If anyone has past issues of the *Clippings* that they would like to donate or photocopy for our library, please contact Bob Chalifour (860/445-4688).

* * * * *

G H O
June 25 - July 1

CAGCS is again a Blue Sponsor of the Greater Hartford Open at the TPC at River Highlands in Cromwell, CT. With our sponsorship of the GHO, we receive two parking tickets, a quantity of daily passes (good for one day only) and ten sponsor badges.

The "Will Call" trailer will be at the Millane Nursery Garden Center on Rt. 99 in Cromwell. Parking passes and sponsor badges should be signed out and returned after use, so someone else can use them.

Your CAGCS membership card or your GCSAA membership card should be good for admission at all public access gates.

* * * * *

**CAGCS 2001
Membership Directory**

All members are urged to return their information sheets to the CAGCS office with any changes and/or corrections.

* * * * *

Deadline for the July issue of the *Clippings* is June 8th.

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Dogs of Summer

Meet AJ (Auggie, Jr.), the pup (now 60 lbs) that adopted Jud Smith, supt. at Orange Hills CC. AJ enjoys riding in a golf car and helping to run Orange Hills. A mixed breed of lab, Rhodesian Ridge Back and pit bull, AJ has all the papers (New Haven Register, Waterbury Times, Hartford Courant.)



AJ and Auggie get along fine. Auggie, by the way, is also a Rhodesian Ridge Back who was abandoned along with his sister and left in a box in a tenement house in West Haven. Auggie at 90 lbs. is still top dog around the house and course.

Aside from taking Jud to the course every day, AJ also takes Jud along to obedience school. We all

know he needs that. The trainer said that he is bright and tough, but did not say too much about Jud.

Give a dog, cat, bird a new leash on life. Call the Connecticut Humane Society in your area and give them a visit. If you need references, please call AJ at Orange Hills. The procedure is painless and easy and may be a very inexpensive way to rid your course of unwanted guests such as geese, mice and moles. For your convenience, the Connecticut Humane Society has four locations. Give them a call now. (Newington 860/594-4500; Bethany 203/393-0150; Westport 203/227-4137; New London 860/442-8583)

Auggie and AJ are two fine examples of good animals that can be found at the pound.

(Editor's Note: Rhodesian Ridge Backs were bred to hunt lions.)

Upcoming Events

June 18

CAGCS Monthly Meeting
The Connecticut Golf Club
Mark G. Fuller, CGCS

July 10

CAGCS Annual Invitational
Hop Meadow Country Club
Michael Wallace, CGCS

July 23rd

CAGCS Monthly Meeting
The Farms Country Club
Paul Sabino, Host Supt.

August TBA

CAGCS Family Day

September 24

CAGCS Monthly Meeting
Hunter Golf Club
Keith Angilly, Host Supt.

October 1

Scholarship & Research Tournament
Torrington Country Club
Edward Goodhouse, Host Supt.

October TBA

Superintendent/Assistant Tournament
Tower Ridge Country Club
Scott Ramsay, Host Supt.

New Haven CC Golf Results April 17th

1st Gross - Dukette/Weischett
Morrison/Pierson - 65

1st Net - Ramsay/Smith
Stent/Kennedy - 62

2nd Net - Welch/Fuller
Grenert/Beaudry - 62

3rd Net - Anderson/Wydra
Nolan/Ladd - 62

Closest to pin #2, Ladd 23"
#12 Griswold 35"

Long Putt #9 - Grenert 24' 10"
#17 Howland 13' 8"

Long Drive - Anderson, C.

Closest to Line - Johnson, E.

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"Safety First"

(continued from page 1)

frame offered for repairing any issues is very flexible and negotiable.

My visit with the consultant was extremely informative and proactive. I was given ample time to rectify any unsafe situations. The consultant informed me that the visit is really

demonstrating that your club is serious and proactive about safety for its employees. This speaks volumes to those who come to work for your club.

It was indicated to me that if Federal OSHA did happen to conduct a review at my club and found any infractions that they would be considerably much more lenient. In some instances, even waving all fines due to my proactive decision to partake in the safety program.

As superintendents, we are just more than stewards of the environment, we are responsible for the safety and well-being for every individual that reports to our maintenance building in the wee hours of the morning to work on our course. It is simply the right thing to do.

In Connecticut, you can find out more on this safety program by calling 860/566-4550. Those of you not in Connecticut may find that their particular state offers a similar program. The program is worth considering. I urge you to take advantage of this free, no risk program.

better — the “out of sight, out of mind” mentality.

I can honestly say that this program needs some recognition. Some good features of the program are that it is voluntary and completely free.

The safety consultant program in Connecticut is offered and supported through tax dollars. Okay, so it's not technically free, but there are no additional out-of-pocket expenses for your club.

The process is quite simple. You call the state OSHA and request a safety consultant visit. A safety consultant visits your club, provides you with a presentation of the program, and with your permission will conduct a walk-through of your premises with you.

The consultant will make recommendations with regards to safety issues that may have been overlooked. Of course, it is your responsibility to follow up and amend any safety issues that may have been discussed. The time

designed to protect the employer just as much as the employee. “Our attempt is to make your club virtually bullet-proof in the event you receive a visit from Federal OSHA.”

I was informed that Federal OSHA begins their fines at \$7,000 for each infraction. Suppose you have a triplex without a warning/safety label on each unit, your club is looking at a fine starting out at \$21,000. For the cost of three stickers that the unit came with, you could purchase a brand new triplex— maybe even with some bells and whistles!

For those of you who did the quick math, it is quite simple. Those who deal with low budgets know very well that money doesn't talk, it screams! Another benefit provided by this service is

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To celebrate GCSAA's 75th Anniversary



For more information
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at 1-800-472-7878

Water Diversion

by Bob Chalifour, Editor

At our March 20th meeting, Denise Ruzika, Assistant Director of Inland Water Resources for the CT DEP, gave information the Water Diversion Policy Act. Enacted in 1982, CT Public Act 82-402 required permitting of water diversions in excess of 50,000 gallons in a 24-hour period.

If you registered before July 1, 1983, you are o.k. or grandfathered. Any changes to this, then you must get a permit.

If you are purchasing water from a private or municipal entity, then they are responsible for registration or permit.

Now, 17 years later, Commissioner Arthur Roche, admits that the depart-

ment did not do a good job of following up on those that did not register on time.

Carla Feroni, Compliance Division, stated that they want to give those not in compliance a fair and equal chance to be permitted. The recommendation is to obtain the services of a qualified firm to file for a permit. This service does not come cheap — prices range from \$5,000 to \$16,000. In 1983, it was free—just register with the department.

Compliance officer, Feroni stated that the commissioner wants to work with the industry and will sponsor a seminar this Fall in conjunction with the Water Institute, the University of Connecticut, CAGCS and the CSGA. The seminar will be developed to aid those that need to meet compliance regulations. For now, do not expand any diversion without a permit.

Any questions, call 860/424-3853 for information.

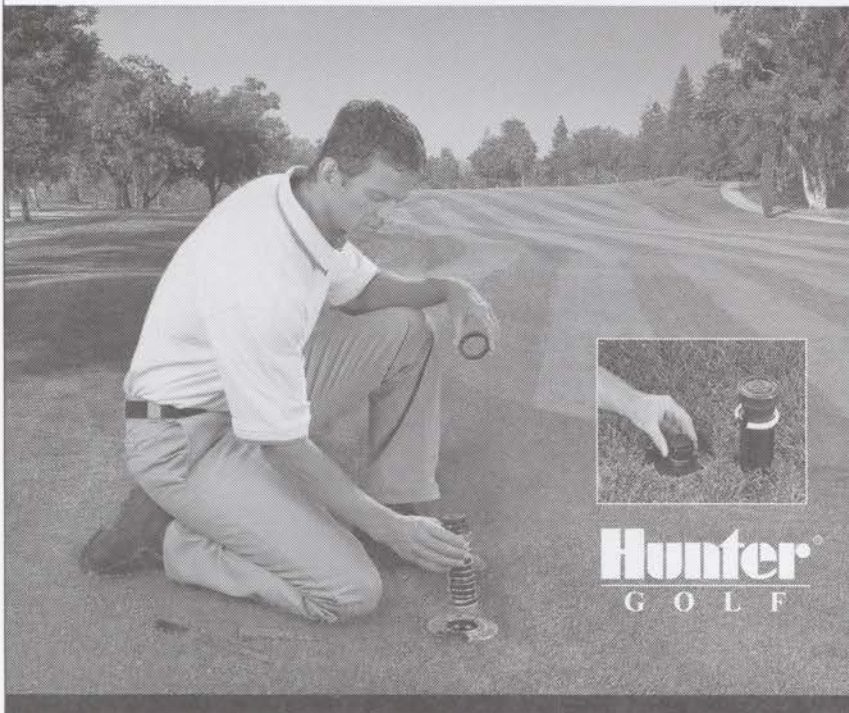
What should you do?

Ruzika recommends obtaining the services of a consulting engineer to get a permit, install totalizing meters to record withdrawals, irrigate efficiently, develop best management practices, become informed, request a permit.

CAGCS members working on Best Management Practices for Water with the DEP are Heather Garvin, Peter Pierson, Tim O'Neill, Bill Dest, John Ruzsbatsky and Steve Rackliffe.

There are three subdivisions that include storage management and technology, water quality, and water quantity.

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Ushering in a New Era in GCSAA History

by Tim O'Neill, CGCS
GCSAA Director

A Gala 75th Anniversary Celebration is Under Way

GCSAA's International Convention and Show gets better all the time. My personal highlight this year, of course, was the annual meeting, where I was elected to a two-year term on the GCSAA Board as a director.

Many, many thanks to all CAGCS members for your support—and to John Streeter and Peter Pierson, in particular, for all they did on my behalf.

I am, of course, looking forward to my continued involvement on the national board and am happy to report that I will serve again this year as the Membership Chairman and will assume a new post as Chairman of the 75th Anniversary Resource Group.

GCSAA already has many plans

brewing for a grand 75th anniversary celebration, which began at the conference and show in Dallas and will continue right through to the 2002 conference and show in Orlando, FL.

Among the celebration's special offerings and events:

- * A special dues rate of \$75 is now in effect for new members of GCSAA. The offer is good through the next show in Orlando. For more information, contact GCSAA at 800/472-7878 or call me at the CC of Darien 203/655-9726 ext. 222.

- * Two days of activities, programs and ceremonies are planned for September at the headquarters building in Lawrence, KS. All GCSAA members are

encouraged to attend the event. Chapters will be asked to find ways to send as many representatives as possible.

- * A life-size bronze statue of Old Tom Morris has been commissioned and will be unveiled at the September celebration.

- * GCSAA plans to build a brick walkway surrounding the new statue at headquarters and is sponsoring a "buy a brick" program. This program allows you to purchase bricks for \$50 with your name inscribed—and eternally etched into the history of our organization.

- * A golf ball collection drive has been started by encouraging members to donate three balls with their club's logo. One ball will be displayed while two others will be auctioned on E-Bay to benefit The GCSAA Foundation.

Editor's Note: More information from Tim regarding other GCSAA-related issues will appear throughout the year.

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Northeast News Update

(continued from page 4)

will be most severe. The shade reduces a plant's photosynthetic ability and thus limits its cold temperature hardiness in late fall. Thus, a shaded plant will always be more susceptible to this type of injury as compared to a plant growing in full sun.

What can we do to prevent this from reoccurring in the future?

Steps can be taken to reduce the chance of injury from cold temperature and ice, but it probably will never be prevented entirely if you have large populations of annual bluegrass.

Correcting poor surface drainage, eliminating shaded environments, and establishing more tolerant creeping bentgrass will help reduce the extent of the injury.

Proper cultural practices to allow the turf to gain maximum cold temperature hardiness, the use of new covering systems, and snow and ice removal programs all can help reduce the injury as well. However, it should be noted that there are no guarantees.

How long will the recovery process take?

The rate of recovery will depend upon the weather and temperatures this spring. Damaged greens, particularly where the damage is located in the primary cupping areas, should be closed and temporary greens used until the turf has regained density. Playing on the damaged greens during the recovery slows recovery and prolongs the duration of surface disruption.

Moving to temporary greens, however distasteful it may seem is your best means to initiate a rapid and suc-

cessful recovery effort.

Recovery Programs

The recovery process requires several basic steps.

- √ Evaluate the extent of the damage
- √ Determine a plan of action to complete the recovery
- √ Communicate the plan with the Green Committee or Owner
- √ Procure the necessary materials for the plan.

Communication is critical throughout the recovery process. Golfers need to understand the need to play temporary greens, your decision to choose seed or sod, the use of covers, the starting date for the recovery program, the added labor anticipated for the recovery work, the anticipated date of recovery, etc.

Use digital images or pictures to illustrate the extent of the damage that has occurred to help prepare golfers and avoid surprises. Images also are helpful in highlighting your efforts in removing snow and ice and in reestablishing turf.

When should you start?

It is true that bentgrass seed will not germinate until the soil temperatures reach 50°F. Initiating efforts before that point is questioned by some; however, initiating recovery work early (when soils are workable) will make sure seed is in place should warm

weather arrive early. The cultivation work also may help the soils warm more quickly.

Finally, clear plastic 4mm covers can be installed over the surface to artificially elevate soil temperatures and obtain earlier germination. The clear plastic material should be removed once the seed germinates. Geotextile covers can be applied at that point to try to maintain higher soil temperatures and avoid desiccation.

Seed can be pregerminated to get an early jump when soils are cool. Several pregermination systems have been developed for this purpose, and information concerning those systems is available through our offices. Primed bentgrass seed may also become available from local suppliers. It too can reduce time periods for seed germination in cold soils.

In conclusion

Winter damage is not that unusual in the Northeast. Regrettably, damage occurs somewhere in the region just about every year, and for some, it is the single biggest challenge we face in this part of the country. Winter injury is never easy to accept and the recovery can be painfully slow in a cold spring. Please feel free to contact our offices if you have any questions concerning the winter injury or while developing a recovery program.

(Additional information Dr. Danneberger, Ohio State Univ. (hcs.osu.edu/karl) and look up USGA.org.)

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