NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1984

Golf Course Superintendents Association

OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

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Super Shape Equals Super Scores

What's behind those super scores golf's touring pros pile up week after week in their non-stop search for gold and glory?

It didn't come as much of a surpise when veteran tour player Grier Jones put his finger on the continuous improvement golf course conditions as the main reason why pros are shooting the lights out of supposedly "tough" layouts with surprising regularity.

Jones offered the explanation last month while competing in the Bank of Boston Classic at Sutton's Pleasant Valley Country Club. Of course, the 38-year-old swinger was in a co-operative mood at the time - just having shot a three-under-par 69 and for a spot among the first-round leaders.

"This is a long course (in excess of 7,000 yards) and you'd figure scores would run high," he said. "Pleasant Valley has the reputation of being very demanding, especially on players who don't hit it out of sight. But you're going to see some low numbers here.

"Why? Because whoever's supposed to get this course in shape has done his job. The place is in excellent condition. The greens are putting true and you get what you put into every shot. It's only because of the physical conditions out there. But that's the way it goes most every place we play. The scores go down because the courses are in such good shape."

Obviously, the man behind the low scores on the tour is the golf course superintendent. That post at Pleasnat Valley is filled by Noel Fongeallaz who's been feeding and seeding the Sutton spread for most of its big tournament life.

The trend for lower scores on the tour has coincided with the gradual upgrading of grooming methods and the high technology emphasis the superintendent's profession has followed. As the know-how of the superintendent goes up, the scores go down.

Jones wasn't the only Bank of Boston Classic contender to bring up the importance of the superintendent and the connection his fruits of labor have with tour event results.

Winner George Archer, who came flaming down the stretch waith a seven-under-par 65 in the final round, echoed Jones' views which served as a deserving compliment to Fongeallaz and other superintendents who ready courses around the country for the world's greatest golfers.

"Believe me, there's no way I could have shot the scores I did here (PV) if the course hadn't been in the shpae it is," Archer told. "Never mind that I couldn't find a flaw in the greens, I don't remember having a bad lie all week."

Naturally, a superintendent sets his prime-condition schedule to fall on target on the week the tournament is played. Then, too, he usually is accorded the luxury of bending his maintenance budget to take him through the rough conditioning areas of preparing for the big event.

"Sure, I know those guys (superintendents) are given a little more money and more help to work with," Jones added. "But they still have to know what they're doing and they're always at the mercy of the weather. The guy here just did wonders with the greens.

"Putting really separates everybody on the course, anyway. You can go out to the practice tee and not tell a player making the top, ten every week from the one who never collects a paycheck, unless you recognize their faces. But put them on the greens and you soon know who the winners and losers are."

The Pleasant Valley putting surfaces bring to mind the year-in, year-out condition of the greens at the Wethersfield Country Club where the PGA Tour lived for over 30 years before moving the Greater Hartford Open to the 'monstrous' TPC of Connecticut course at Edgewood.

Wethersfield under the golden superintendent's touch of Fred Bachand, had given the pros perfect putting conditions - so much so that the course was lauded as having the best greens on the tour. That arrangement produced fantastic winning scores of 20 and more under par.

Supposedly, Wethersfield was too easy, so the tournament was transferred to the Peter Dye re-designed layout four miles away. Scores would balloon there, so they said. But, not so. The winning total in the first GHO at the TPC layout was 15 under par - and could have been better had it not been for a violent, second-day rainstorm.

Condition, then, backbones most of the flossy figures touring pros flaunt before galleries and TV viewers. As it is now, superintendents set up courses in such a way as to bring out the best in golfers of all abilities. Truly, super shape equals super scores. And the man to thank for it is a special kinds of "super" in himself.

Gerry Finn

OCTOBER 1984
GCSANE Meeting

October 2, 1984 (Tuesday)

THE COUNTRY CLUB OF BROOKLINE

Clyde St., Brookline, MA

Directions - From 128 take Rt. 9 east. Go past Longwood Cricket Club. Take right at Texaco to Clyde St. to club.

Host: Pierre Coste

Directors meeting - 10 am

Membership meeting - 11 am

Lunch - noon

Golf - 1 pm

TEAM OF TWO CHAMPIONSHIP

(make own Group)

Golf Course Superintendents Association

NOTICE TO GCSANE MEMBERS

All members who will be competing in the Pro-Supt Tournament at Brae Burn *must* have a GCSANE Handicap. Any member who plays without an established handicap will play at scratch.

GCSANE GOLF COMMITTEE

TO BE VOTED ON AT OCTOBER MEETING

Application for membership

Phillip A. Schultz
Assistant - Oak Hill CC

Mark L. Flagg
Assistant - Myopia Hunt

Position Openings

Woods Hole CC - Superintendent
Send Resume to: Mr. Frank Brown, Green Chrmn.
Box 663
Falmouth, MA 02541

Marshfield CC - Superintendent
Send Resume to: Mr. Steve Atwater
P.O. Box 635
Marshfield, MA 02050

Kirkbrae CC - Superintendent
Send Resume to: Kirkbrae CC
Box 436
Slatersville, R.I. 02895

All inquiries strictly confidential

SEPTEMBER MEETING RESULTS

Charles River CC.

We had another fine turnout for golf. The format was a blind draw team of four.

The winners - Dick Duggan, Joe Rybka, Bob Mucciarone, Bob Chalifour.

Our thanks to Steve Kristof and the staff at Charles River.

Superintendent - Club Offficial Tournament,

Wellesley CC

A wonderful day with a full field. The golf course was in excellent condition. Our thanks to Tom Schofield and Wellesley CC.

The winners - Low Net - Pine Brook Country Club
Doug Johnson — Rick Benditson
Peter Blum — Chuck Roazen

Low Gross - Worcester CC
Mike Nagle — John Owen
Flip Davis — Bob Kervick

Upcoming Events

Mark Your Calendar

Oct. 12, 1984 - Pro-Supt. Championship
Brae Burn CC
Hosts - Bob Grant, Jim O'Kelley

Nov. 5, 1984 - GCSANE Meeting
Segreggansett CC
Host - Chip Brearley
Directors Meeting - 10 am
Membership Meeting - 10:45 am
Lunch - 11:30 am
Golf 12 noon

Nov. 6-7, 1984 - GCSAA Seminar
Golf Course Design Principles
Natick Hilton Natick, MA

Oftanol* and Triumph* Field Trials

Pat Vittum, University of Massachusetts

Those of you who have been reading this newsletter regularly have seen occasional reports on field trials of Oftanol* and Triumph* on Japanese beetle grubs. During 1983 we conducted a large test to determine how quickly both materials work and what is the optimum date to apply the insecticide. The results of that study are summarized in this report.

We applied insecticides on five dates in the Spring (1 April, 21 April, 5 May, 20 May, or 2 June) and on six dates in the Summer (14 July, 29 July, 10 August, 24 August, 8 September, and 21 September). Each plot received an application only once. The insecticides tested were diazinon 5G (6 lb ai/A) (used as a standard for comparison), Oftanol* 5G (2 lb ai/A), Oftanol* 2F (2lb ai/A), Triumph*1G (2 lb ai/A), and Triumph 1E (2lb ai/A). Triumph* is a new organophosphate insecticide produced by Ciba Geigy, still in the experimental stage, which looks good as a soil insecticide. All applications were made to 10 feet by 7.5 feet plots by shaking granular formulations from glass jars with perforated lids or by watering cans (3 gallons water per plot) for liquid formulations. Applications were made to five randomly selected plots so that statistical analysis could be conducted later. Applications normally were made in early afternoon, and ½ inch of water was applied through an automatic irrigation system 12 hours after application. Plots were sampled 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, and 10 weeks after application by cutting one square foot of sod and counting all the grubs from that square foot sample. Once a treatment reached 95% control, that treatment was no longer sampled, simply because, logistically, it would have been impossible to sample all plots all summer. All tests were conducted at The International Golf Course, Bolton, with the co-operation of Superintendent Ron Milenski.

Table 1 summarizes the results for two of the spring applications, 28 April and 5 May. As it happens, these seemed to be the most effective spring application dates, but the trends seen here were repeated in other application dates. The numbers in the table give the PER CENT CONTROL for each insecticide. The numbers in parentheses after "Untreated Check" give the average number of grubs per square foot for that week of sampling in an untreated plot. The letters after each number are derived from a statistical test called Duncan's Multiple Range Test. Any numbers which are followed by the same letter are not significantly different from each other. NS indicates no significant difference in any of the tests on that date.

As you can see, there was no significant control one week after application for any of the materials applied in the spring except Oftanol* 2F applied 5 May, but from then on, every chemical reduced grub counts significantly compared to the check. According to this test, none of the treatments was significantly better than any other on the same date.

Table 2 summarizes the results for the first three summer applications. In each case Oftanol* 5G took at least four weeks to produce a significant reduction of grubs, while the liquid formulation acted more quickly. This was consistent with the reports we had been getting that Oftanol* has a three week lag period between application and taking effect. Generally, Triumph* 1E acted very quickly in controlling grubs, and Triumph* 1G was almost equally effective. Again, this was consistent with reports we had been given concerning Triumph* - it has the potential to be an excellent soil insecticide, but does not have the residual activity of Oftanol*.

While there often was no statistically significant differ-

ence in per cent control of the various insecticides compared to each other in the summer, some trends remained constant throughout the year. Generally, Triumph* 1E performed quickest, while Oftanol* 2F was not far behind. Triumph* 1G was slightly slower and/or less effective (although not necessarily significantly) followed at a distance by Oftanol* 5G. The latter performed less effectively than we had expected, based on past experience. Apparently, the weather conditions in the summer of 1983 were perfect for maximizing difficulties, and the granular formulation was adversely affected by the drought conditions. Also, because of the very dry conditions, the irrigation system was used to apply five to ten minutes of water every night from mid July through August. This practice protected the turf, but it may have negated the effect of the granular insecticide. Light water applications soon after application drive the material into the soil, where the grubs are.

The last three summer applications (24 August, 8 September, and 21 September) were very straightforward. Every application reduced grub populations significantly compared to the check one week after application. However, the grub counts in the untreated checks of the late summer test were much higher than those in the test described in the table and, while control was "significant," it usually was in the 50 to 70% range.

The residual activity of soil insecticides - how long will it last? - is of major concern to users. We sampled each of the spring plots once on 31 August or 1 September 1983 to see if there was any carry over activity. Since the spring applications had been directed toward recently overwintered large grubs, and they had subsequently pupated and emerged as adults, a fall sample would determine the effect on the new generation. Table 3 summarizes the results, which include a few surprises. For example, the diazinon application made on 1 April reduced the fall grub population significantly! However, you can see that either formulation of Oftanol* reduced the grub population significantly, regardless of the date of application. The same was not always true for Triumph* or diazinon.

Finally, we sampled all plots (all insecticides, all eleven application dates) in June 1984 to see whether there was a full season carry over. For all five spring application dates, the untreated check was never significantly different from any of the treated plots. This was consistent with previous reports that Oftanol* has a residual activity up to several months, depending on the season it is applied, but does not have a full year of residual activity.

Table 4 summarizes the results of the Spring 1984 sampling of the Summer 1983 applications. As you can see, every material treated in late summer reduced the subsequent spring grub populations significantly. However, Oftanol* 5G or diazinon applied in early summer did not reduce subsequent spring grub populations significantly, while liquid Oftanol* and either formulation of Triumph* did.

This test confirmed many suspicions we had had concerning soil insecticides. Oftanol* 5G has at least a three week lag period betwen the time it is applied and it starts to work. Oftanol* 2F does not seem to experience the same sort of delay. Triumph* is a very good looking soil insecticide with a quick knock down, reducing grub populations very effectively even when applied late in the season. The biggest surpirse in this study was that Triumph* seemed to demonstrate a residual activity, so that its effectiveness continued longer than expected. However, this may have been an artifact of the test design. More field trials, conducted slightly differently, will have to be run to determine whether Triumph* in fact is active for several months.

Field conditions during 1983 maximized difficulties for effective control of soil insects. Other trials, conducted in different settings, indicate that a *thorough* application of water right after an insecticide application will improve the effectiveness of any insecticide directed toward grub control.

Finally, the optimum date for applying an insecticide for grub control appears to be between 1 and 15 August. This makes sense, since the grubs are still very small and most susceptible to chemical control at that time. Applications made in late August or September are less satisfactory, because the grubs are getting larger and the weather is turning cooler, so the insecticides work more slowly. Spring applications, if necessary, should be made between 15 April and 10 May, but keep in mind that spring applications often are less successful than corresponding fall applications because the spring grubs are larger. In any case, if an application can be made just before a heavy rain, grub control should be maximized.

Table 1. Japanese beetle grubs per cent mortality - two spring applications.

Date of application	Sampling Date: 28 April	5 May	13 May	20 May	26 May	2 June
21 April						
Diazinon 5 G	36 NS	78 b		85 b	91 b	96 b
Oftanol* 5G	43	72 b		95 b	x	x
Oftanol* 2F	5	94 b		98 b	x	x
Triumph* 1G	29	85 b		97 b	x	x
Triumph* 1E	50	83 b		100 b	x	x
5 May						
Diazinon 5G			3 a	78 b	81 b	94 b
Oftanol* 5G			49 ab	76 b	84 b	86 b
Oftanol* 2F			78 ab	90 b	97 b	x
Triumph* 2F			54 ab	87 b	90 b	99 b
Triumph* 1E			54 ab	92 b	94 b	92 b
Untreated Check	(14.0)	(13.0) a	(7.4) a	(21.2) a	(18.2) a	(16.0)a

Table 2. Japanese beetle grubs: per cent mortality in three summer applications (1983)

Date of application	Sampling Date: 10 Aug	17 Aug	24 Aug	31 Aug	8 Sept	22 Sept	4 Oct
14 July							
Diazinon 5G	31 ab		95 c		x	x	x
Oftanol* 5G	83 b		54 abc		52 b	11 ab	42 b
Oftanol*2F	97 b		x		x	x	x
Triumph* 1G	69 b		100 bc		x	x	x
Triumph* 1E	83 b		82 bc		70 ab	80 cd	74 bcd
29 July							
Oftanol* 5G	33 ab	31 ab	49 abc		55 ab	58 bcd	56 bc
Oftanol* 2F	72 b	76 b	95 c		x	x	x
Triumph* 1G	92 b	83 b	87 bc		92 b	86 cd	69 bcd
Triumph* 1E	89 b	72 b	97 c		x	x	x
10 August							
Diazinon 5G		86 b	51 abc	0 NS	47 ab	44 abc	45 b
Oftanol* 5G		55 ab	49 abc	23	15 ab	44 abc	67 bcd
Oftanol* 2F		59 ab	72 bc	91	89 b	99 d	x
Triumph*1G		93 b	92 c	74	82 b	92 cd	92 cd
Triumph* 1E		79 b	97 c	x	x	x	x
Untreated Check	(7.2) a	(5.8) a	(7.8) a	(7.0)	(14.6)a	(19.2) a	(17.6) a

Table 3. Japanese beetle grubs - residual activity of spring applications. Sampled 31 Aug or 1 Sept., 1983

Insecticide	Date of Applications - Percent mortality: 1 April	21 April	5 May	20 May	2 June
Check	(20.6) a	(20.6) a	(20.6) a	(39.8) a	(39.8) a
Diazinon 5G	80 c	7 ab	9 ab	48 b	67 b
Oftanol* 5G	79 c	95 c	70 c	54 c	95 b
Oftanol* 2F	83 c	83 c	77 c	75 b	81 b
Triumph* 1G	68 c	60 bc	48 abc	57 b	60 b
Triumph* 1E	-	79 c	52 abc	48 b	57 b

Table 4. Residual insecticidal activity on Japanese beetle grubs of 1983 applications. Sampled 12 or 14 June 1984.

Insecticide	Application Date: 14 July	29 July	10 Aug	24 Aug	8 Sept	21 Sept
Untreated Check	(8.4) a	(8.4) a	(8.4) a	(13.0) a	(13.0) a	(13.0) a
Diazinon 5G	50 abcd	-	45 abcd	85 b	-	89 b
Oftanol* 5G	26 abc	12 ab	79 bcd	83 b	83 b	69 b
Oftanol* 2F	71 bcd	98 d	91 cd	92 b	95 b	92 b
Triumph* 1G	69 bcd	81 bcd	81 cd	98 b	97 b	92 b
Triumph* 1E	67 bcd	67 bcd	81 cd	95 b	86 b	86 b

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