

James B. Beard

NORTHERN MICHIGAN TURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22nd, 1983
GARLAND GOLF CLUB
LEWISTON, MICHIGAN

FRANK HEMINGER, SECRETARY-TREAS.
1147 SANTO

TRAVERSE CITY, MI. 49684

PHONE: 616-947-9274

The above date and location are very special in that it is our seventh annual benefit day for THE MICHIGAN TURFGRASS FOUNDATION, at one of the finest golf layouts in Northern Michigan. This year it is something new as they now have 36 golf holes and we are going to play the new course.

Garland Golf Course is owned by Garland Manufacturing Co. and was built about thirty three years ago by Mr. Herman Otto, President and owner with Mr. Ossie Pynnonen as the superintendent. This was a private golf course at that time and had only 9 holes. In 1972, the back 9 holes was started under the direction of "Snuffy" Bunting and opened June 1, 1973. He has also built a third 9 holes plus started the fourth 9 holes which will be the course that we will play. We are fortunate to be able to play this golf course and it is a real test of golf requiring many fine shots to the greens and avoiding the water.

Starting times are necessary and carts are a must. We suggest that you get together a foursome, make your starting time by phoning 517/786-2274. The complete package for the day including dinner will cost you \$30.00. Breakdown of this, a donation to Michigan Turfgrass Foundation, 1/2 cart and dinner. The game that will be played will be a "Scramble" and the "Best Ball of the Foursome". Everyone will drive, then a choice of which ball every one will hit from where that ball lies, this continues until everyone has holed out.

Dave Longfield is the Superintendent of these 36 holes and he has informed us that starting times will be from 10:30 A.M. until 2:00 P.M. He has reserved this period for our group so please make your reservation early. Alex Redman is the Golf Professional and together, they make a fine team. When you make your reservation for starting times, you will be calling the Pro Shop. That number again is 517/786-2274.

Dinner will be served at 6:30 P.M. promptly and we are fortunate in having as our speaker, Mr. Stanley Zontek, U.S.G.A. Representative from Crystal Lake, Illinois. There will be no business meeting other than giving of golf prizes prior to introduction of our speaker.

As usual we must have a count of the number that will be there so we are enclosing a postcard for you to return. Please list on this card, the number that will be in your group. Don't wait to mail this card, get your group together and fill out the card plus MAIL. Your cooperation on this will be greatly appreciated. Thanks.

The USGA has once again extended complimentary grounds and clubhouse privileges at all USGA Championships, to GCSAA members with Class A, B and retired A and B cards. Presentation of your Gold membership card at the "will call" booth will gain you admittance on a day-to-day basis. This procedure must be repeated each day you wish to attend.

This privledge includes the U.S. Open and all other USGA sponsored Championships.

SNOW MOLDS: WHAT'S NEW

by Dr. Lee Burpee
Assistant Professor
Dept. of Environmental Biology,
University of Guelph
Guelph, Ontario

Canadian golf course superintendents probably know more than any other group of turfgrass managers about the biology and control of snow molds. Therefore, I'll refrain from discussing the basics of diagnosis and management, and I'll try to outline some of the research findings that have come to light in the last few years.

Fungicide Resistance

In 1980, strains of *Fusarium nivale* (the pink snow mold fungus) that were resistant to benzimidazole fungicides (eg. Tersan 1991, Easout, Benomyl) were isolated from turfgrass in Germany. In 1981, iprodione (Rovral) resistant strains were isolated from creeping bentgrass in the state of Washington. What significance does this have for Canada?

When we consider late-fall fungicide applications for snow mold control, the information on fungicide resistance is of minor significance because Rovral and the benzimidazole are seldom used when control is required under months of snow cover. However, we all know that in addition to pink snow molds, *Fusarium nivale* causes Fusarium patch disease, a common disease of creeping bentgrass during fall and spring. Since Rovral and the benzimidazoles are frequently recommended for control of Fusarium patch in Canada, the possibility of encountering fungicide resistant strains cannot be overlooked. Can resistance be avoided?

The simplest answer to this question would be yes, fungicide resistance can be avoided by simply eliminating Rovral and the benzimidazoles from a Fusarium patch control program. Unfortunately, if a turf manager chooses **not** to apply these fungicides, he must forfeit the benefits of long-term systemic activity (eg. spraying every 10 to 20 days as opposed to every 7 to 10 days). I believe that Rovral and the benzimidazoles can, and should, be retained in a Fusarium patch management program in Canada. It is quite obvious however, that repeated use of these fungicides should be avoided. Alternating the use of Rovral or the benzimidazoles with application of PCNB (Quintozene, Terraclor, Scotts FF II), PMAS, and/or mancozeb (Fore) is recommended.

PCNB Controversy

Field tests with PCNB fungicides for control of Fusarium patch have provided inconsistent results. Some reports indicate that PCNB provides excellent control, others indicate just the opposite, and two articles that I've read report an **increase** in the incidence of Fusarium patch after PCNB application. This probably explains why, out of four lists of fungicide recommendations for turfgrass, two recommend PCNB for Fusarium patch control and two do not. I guess we'll all end up flipping coins on this one.

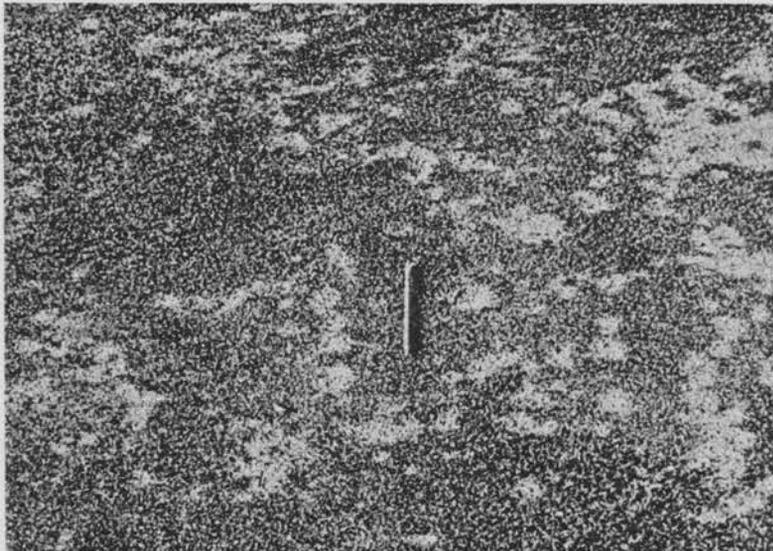
Personally, I have not tested PCNB for fall or spring Fusarium patch control (spring, 1983 will be the first attempt). However, the handful of superintendents that I've talked to, who have used PCNB, are pleased with the results.

What's in a Name

Occasionally, scientists decide to change the scientific names of living things. These decisions are not made lightly. They are usually based on hours of close examination during which time the examiner may discover that an organism does not really fit the original description on which its name was

based. This is exactly what has happened to *Fusarium nivale*. Recently, researchers have found that this fungus does **not** possess all the characteristics that are normally associated with the genus *Fusarium*. Therefore, it has been removed from *Fusarium* and given the name *Gerlachia* (gur-lak-ee-ah) *nivalis*. As golf course superintendents and plant pathologists, name changes such as this really shouldn't bother us; because after all, even though the name of an organism may change its biology does not. And that's what we're really interested in, right? Right!

A problem can arise however, when a disease is named after the organism that causes it (eg. Fusarium patch, Ophiobolus patch, Fusarium blight). Are we obliged to change the name of the disease when the name of the pathogen changes? This could lead to chaos. Fortunately, most turfgrass diseases are **not** named after the organisms that incite them (eg. brown patch, dollar spot, anthracnose, fairy ring). For the few diseases that **are** so named, pathologists probably should opt for name changes. Hopefully in the future as new diseases are described, they will not be named after the organisms that cause them.



105. *Gerlachia* patch of *Poa annua* golf green. (Courtesy S.G. Fushtey)

(continued on next page)

Snow Mold Sleuths

We are fortunate to have some of the worlds top authorities on low-temperature-tolerant fungi working right here in Canada. Agriculture Canada scientists such as James Traquair from Harrow, Ontario and J. Drew Smith from Saskatoon have made significant contributions in increasing our knowledge of snow molds. In 1981, Jim Traquair discovered the true identity of the snow mold known for years as LTB (low temperature basidiomycete). The fungus is a cousin of the inky-cap mushroom that we've all seen in fairways, roughs and home lawns.

Drew Smith has devoted many years to the study of snow mold fungi. He has made us aware of the many different types of snow molds that actually exist. In a recent review article, he discusses seven different snow mold diseases of turfgrasses. I'm afraid that the days when snow molds were either pink or grey are long gone.

Dr. Lee Burpee

1971-BA, Gettysburg College - Biology
1974-Ms, Penn State University - Plant Pathology
1976-Ph D, Penn State University - Plant Pathology
1978-1982-Plant Pathologist, Bermuda Dept. of Agriculture
1982-Present-Assistant Professor, Dept. of Environmental Biology, U. of Guelph.
Specializing in diseases of turfgrass and cereal crops.

TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR LIVING WITH PEOPLE

1. **Speak to people.** Nothing is so nice as a cheerful greeting.
2. **Smile at people.** Takes 72 muscles to frown, 14 to smile.
3. **Call people by name.** Sweetest sound is one's own name.
4. **Be friendly and helpful.** If you want friends, be a friend.
5. **Be Cordial.** Speak and act to prove everything you do is a genuine pleasure.
6. **Be genuinely interested in people.** Just try and you can like almost everyone.
7. **Be generous with praise**—and courteous with criticism.
8. **Be considerate** with others. There are often three sides to a controversy; yours, his and the right side.
9. **Be alert** to give help...what we do for others lives and is immortal.
10. **Add to all this** a good sense of humor, loads of patience, a dash of humility and you will be rewarded many fold.

John S. Swift Co., Inc.

The caravan moves no faster than the slowest wagon.

Harry C. Mabry

"How Fast Is Fast?"

By Sherwood A. Moore

Superintendent of Golf Courses, Winged Foot Golf Club

In the English language the word fast has many meanings, such as you can run fast, hold fast, go on a fast, have fast women and have fast greens.

The topic of conversation around the locker and grill rooms of golf clubs these days is "how fast are the greens today?" In some areas of the country it is referred to as "the roll of the green." It all boils down to the speed of the ball on the green. Lost is the art of stroking the ball — today a tap is all that is required. I think some of the golfers want the ball to roll into the cup just by looking at it. At some clubs they post the speed of the green on the bulletin board for the day.

Are we becoming victims of the stimpmeter, fast greens and tournament play? When big tournaments are on T-V all we hear about is how fast the greens putt, that they double cut the greens daily, even triple cut, and yes, on some greens quadruple cut to increase the speed.

Whenever a group of golfers or superintendents congregate, golf and turf are naturally discussed, greens speed for the average club is a favorite topic. Seven, eight, nine, ten or more feet is suggested.

Has the superintendent contributed to the dilemma? Yes, in a way. He probably has perfected his course to the point where only incredible fast greens will save par. Also the competition to have faster greens than your neighbor is not helping the situation in any way.

In any event, an increasing amount of pressure is put on the Superintendent to increase the speed of the greens. Every Superintendent has heard the following remarks: "Are the greens going to be mowed today?" "When are you going to lower the height of cut?" "The greens at such and such a club are faster than ours."

Seriously, I am concerned about this trend of "fast greens." Can we afford to maintain greens of this caliber — that require frequent topdressing; frequent verticutting; daily cutting or double cutting of greens; close, close mowing — even to the point of grinding the underside of already thin bedknives.

And in all my conservation and reading and listening, I have never heard anyone mention a thing about the little grass plant. How is it standing up under all this abuse? I was tutored under the late Professor Lawrence Dickenson of Massachusetts and one of his often quoted phrases was "Give the grass plant half a chance. It wants to live." Under these conditions of shaving the grass plant to 1/8" or less are we giving it "half a chance?" I do not think so. We are giving it very little chance. Sooner or later we are headed for trouble.

We all know that the root growth of the grass plant is in proportion to the top growth. That the grass plant needs leaf surface for survival — for transpiration, respiration, the manufacturing of carbohydrates to maintain life and growth. It also needs nitrogen and other nutrients that we are withholding so as to increase speed by limiting plant growth.

I predict that in the not too distant future we will get back to the basics of a good putting green surface — that the demands of the grass plant will be given equal or more consideration than the demands of the golfers. A firm, true, healthy green with reasonable speed is much more pleasurable than putting on dead grass and plain soil. We will return to stroking the ball, not tapping it.

CREDIT TEE TO GREEN

Your Portable Handicap

When our courses are rated under the new system, golfers from courses of differing difficulty may compete on equal footing.

HANDICAP PORTABILITY may sound like a fancy phrase describing a wheelchair's function, but such is not the case; rather, it defines a player's ability, under a new procedure, to carry his handicap with him and have it adaptable to any course he may play, regardless of its easiness or difficulty.

Under this procedure, scores may be adjusted upward or downward, depending on the course's degree of difficulty, to the standards of a mythical average course. This portability is an essential element in creating the best possible equalizer of players, the Handicap.

If American golfers played only one golf course and competed only against other players at that course, handicap portability would be meaningless. Golfers, however, move from one town to another, and from one state to another; they play inter-club competitions; they play at resort courses during vacations; and they enter local, regional, state, and national tournaments. American golfers, like their countrymen, enjoy variety.

Enter handicap portability, stage right.

In matches between players from different courses, the handicap golfer from the more difficult course will usually win. Courses traditionally have been rated by a method using distance as the major factor. Obstacles may influence the rating, but because ratings are based on the scratch player, obstacles confronting most of us haven't been given much weight. They do not affect the scratch player's average score very much. Yet, hazards, trees, and rough can ruin the average golfer's round.

Less than one-half of one percent of our golfers play to scratch; most of us are in the 14 to 17 handicap range. It may not matter as much to the scratch player whether he plays the tough Panther Mountain Country Club, with its small, fast greens, jungle-like rough, and recurring out-of-bounds areas, or the Open Flats Country Club, where the nearest out-of-bounds is somewhere in the next county. It matters greatly, however, to our average players.

Handicap players from rugged Panther Mountain would welcome the chance to take on Open Flats golfers; they would even send a limousine for them — what might be called (privately, of course) the Pigeon Express.

Panther Mountain and Open Flats represent extremes, of course; however, errors in the system may be as great as 12 strokes at the average golfer's level of ability when comparing handicaps developed at different courses.

ASOLUTION, developed over the past several years by the USGA Handicap Research Team, involves two steps: re-rating each course, using a degree-of-diffi-

culty factor to cover the different levels of ability, then developing a USGA Handicap/Strokes-Received Table from the degree-of-difficulty factor.

Courses would be rated for the scratch player and for the average golfer, weighing the influence of obstacles on performance by players of various levels of ability. Ratings might look like these: 70.2/125 or 70.4/94. The added factors, 125 and 94, are the degree of difficulty.

For example, Golfer A plays Panther Mountain, and enters his 96 score for handicap. This score will be adjusted downward by the computer from 96 to 90, this adjustment based on the degree of difficulty factor that Panther Mountain was given by the rating team. If the same player turns in a score of 84 from Open Flats, the degree-of-difficulty factor will cause the computer to adjust his score upward from 84 to 90.

In fact, each of these scores has been adjusted to what the golfer would have shot at a mythical Perfect Valley Golf Club, which represents something close to an average course (although it is likely that less than half of the nation's courses fit this category).

The problem is half-solved; every golfer now has a handicap, and the adjustments have, in effect, turned all the players into members of Perfect Valley. This is fine only if golfers with the same handicap play a match, regardless of the venue.

Golfers of differing abilities — and, thus, differing handicaps (for example, 5 and 15) — cannot use only the 10-stroke difference in these handicaps to play both Panther Mountain and Open Flats and expect to have an equitable competition.

The 15-handicapper will shoot approximately 93 at Panther Mountain and the 5-handicapper approximately 78, a difference of 15 strokes. At the easier Open Flats course, the probable difference would be only seven strokes.

To resolve this disparity, each course would have a specific USGA Handicap/Strokes Received Table. For example, at Panther Mountain, the 15-handicapper may get 23 strokes and the 5-handicapper eight strokes, a difference of 15 strokes if they play each other at that course.

Two associations have already re-rated the courses in their state, and seminars are continuing throughout the country. For further information, contact the Handicap Director, Golf House, Far Hills, New Jersey 07931 [tel. (201) 234-2300].

For many golfers who are baffled by the current system, this may seem even more complicated; it would also seem more fair. The only players who may be disappointed by this procedure are those who have been happily exploiting the Pigeon Express Limo Service.

FLOWERING ANNUALS BRIGHTENS COURSE PLANTINGS

Everything that grows on a golf course are not necessarily green. Flowering plants add a bright touch to the clubhouse and course areas, and some superintendents, use potted flowers as tee markers on ladies' days.

Two of the most popular flowering annuals in the United States are zinnias and marigolds. Unlike the ever popular petunias and snap-dragons, which are usually transplanted as bedding plants, marigolds and zinnias can easily be grown from seed. Michigan State University floriculture specialist Lowell Ewart points out that they are quick to flower and persistent, providing bright splashes of color until frost.

"One of the best things about these plants is that they need almost no care," Ewart says. "Toss the seeds on the ground, kick some dirt over them, give them a little water and watch them grow."

Both marigolds and zinnias come in a wide range of flower types and flower and plant sizes. Varieties are available that can be used as tall hedges or screens, as intermediate plantings and as low-growing borders. The range of flower color in zinnias goes from white and cream through pinks and reds, yellows and oranges. There are even some green-flowered varieties. Marigolds come in various shades of yellow, orange, gold, rust and dark red. Variegated flowers are available in both.

Zinnias and marigolds, like most flowering annuals, do best in a bright sunlit area. For shade, Ewart recommends coleus, and the white, pink, salmon, red and variegated blossoms of impatiens provide color to brighten a shady corner. He notes that the newer varieties of impatiens that have variegated foliage need more sun than the standard shade-loving varieties.

A sunbaked spot where many flowers fail in midsummer is ideal for portulaca, or moss rose. This ground-hugging annual can be seeded direct in early spring or set in May as transplants. It quickly covers an area with blossoms in a rainbow of colors.

Alyssum is another popular flowering plant. Compact and low-growing, it is often used as a border plant. Like portulaca, it can be seeded into the garden or planted as transplants. It grows best in full sun, where it remains covered with tiny white, rose-pink or purple flowers from early summer through frost.

For dry, sunny areas with poor soil, consider nasturtiums. White, red, yellow, salmon and variegated flowers appear in about six weeks after sowing and continue until frost. Climbing, semitrailing and upright varieties are available.

For foundation plantings or a low decorative hedge, try four o'clocks. This old fashioned plant gets its name from its habit of opening its flowers in late afternoon. It blooms all night, then closes up its blossoms in midmorning. It is easy to grow and very fragrant.

The best way to get good results with these and other annuals from seed is to follow the directions for planting and care on the seed packets and in the seed catalogs, Ewart says. With good quality seed and a minimum of care, any of these plants should perform well.

A patient waiting to be pushed into the operating room said to the nurse, "I'm nervous. This is my first operation." The nurse replied, "So am I. My husband is the doctor and it's his first, too."

The National Golf Foundation announced the establishment of a new two-year Golf Management School at Oglebay, a resort and municipal park operated by the Wheeling, W. Va. Park Commission. The basic intent of the school is the operational skills for managers of public golf facilities. We believe there is a need for such a school and that the combined expertise of Oglebay and the Foundation will make the venture successful. The first five day session is scheduled for Jan. 8-12, 1984. A \$200.00 fee will cover tuition, books and supplies. Registrants are expected to participate in both the 1984 and 1985 sessions. More information is available from Randy Worls, Oglebay, Wheeling, WV 26003, phone 304/242-3000.

WANTED, Slit seeder, 24 or 36 inch width, in good working order. Contact Robert E. Miller, Box 64, Acme, Mi. 49610, phone 616/938-1290.

A report dated May 17th, stated that Stripe smut symptoms are now becoming evident on golf course greens and home lawns. The symptoms are thinned areas with stunted, clumpy appearing turf. On golf greens the disease may appear as turf that has not broken dormancy. Most susceptible cultivar is Toronto creeping bentgrass. Examination of the individual plants will reveal black streaks running lengthwise in the grass blades and sheaths. Fungicide treatment at this time will not be effective. A dormant application of Bayleton, Tersan 1991, Fungo, Cleary's 3336 or Rubigan, next spring will help control this disease.

Stripe smut is a systemic disease and can only be controlled on semi-curative basis. Once a plant is infected it will remain so for life.
Rieke

GRASS AROUND TREES INHIBITS GROWTH, BUT NOT FOR THE REASON YOU MAY THINK

Turfgrass growing close to the stem or trunk of a woody ornamental can inhibit the plant's growth, and two scientists looking for the exact cause of the suppression have found that it is due, in part, to chemicals exuded from the grass roots — the process of allelopathy. Until now it was supposed that the growth suppression was caused by competition for moisture and nitrogen, with the grass taking up the nutrients before they percolated down to the roots of the tree or shrub.

To conduct their research, R.C. Wakefield, a professor of plant and soil science at the University of Rhode Island, and S.L. Fales, a research associate, grew flowering dogwood and forsythia plants in plots both with and without turf cover. They were not surprised to find that the plants with no turf cover performed better, but additional water and fertilizer didn't help the suppressed (turf-covered) plants increase their growth rate. To see if allelopathy was partially to blame for the differing growth rates, the scientists leached some chemicals from the roots of various species of grass (perennial ryegrass, red fescue and Kentucky bluegrass) and applied the leachates to potted forsythia plants growing in greenhouse sand culture. Very shortly the liquid slowed the growth of the plants, demonstrating that allelopathy was at least partially to blame.

Crops and Soils Magazine, June-July, 1982

SPECIAL NOTE

For this special benefit day for The Michigan Turfgrass Foundation, we would welcome contributions, donations, gifts, prizes or anything which might be appropriate for prizes. Would you please contact Tuck Tate, 616/352-4101 of your intent so that we can also give you or your firm the appropriate credit in our next newsletter plus inform The Michigan Turfgrass Foundation of your kindness. Any contribution is fully tax deductible under 501 (c)(3). We thank you.

Please mail that POSTCARD

Our next meeting is July 8th, 1983 at HIDDEN VALLEY, Gaylord. Make a notch on your calendar

Many a man spans his children for things his own father should have spanked out of him.
DON MARQUIS