

James B. Beard

# NORTHERN MICHIGAN TURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5th, 1983  
MICHAYWE HILLS GOLF CLUB  
GAYLORD, MICHIGAN

FRANK HEMINGER, SECRETARY-TREAS.

1147 SANTO  
TRAVERSE CITY, MI. 49684  
PHONE: 616-947-9274

Be prepared to play a fine golf course located south of Gaylord and just off old U.S.27, turn east on Charles Brink Road. We have been at this location for meetings and social parties so frequently, that everyone should be familiar with how to get there. Should you run into any trouble, call either of these numbers:

Pro Shop 517/939-8910  
Club House 939-8919



The General Manager and Director of Golf is Mike Husby, Jim Sparling is the Golf Course Superintendent and both invite you to play this beautiful 18 hole golf course.

Tee times will be blocked off from 12:00 Noon til 1:30 P.M. and you should have starting time for your group. There will be plenty of golf carts available for everyone to ride. For starting time, please call the Pro Shop.

We will use the same procedure which we adopted for our last meeting, namely that you will procure a ticket for your golf cart, your entry golf fee and dinner payable at the time that you register for golf. The purpose of our meetings is not to play golf nor entertain friends by bringing them to fine golf courses without paying green fees, it is for the express purpose of continuing education through the fine speakers that we bring you. This meeting, our speaker will be Dr. Jos. M. Vargas, Michigan State University Plant Pathologist and internationally known authority on turfgrass diseases. He come at a time when most of us are thinking about preserving and preventing disaster by winter diseases. The advise that we will get is fresh out of the so called, "Horse's Mouth" or the latest information available from research scientists on the subject. How anyone can efficiently serve as a golf course superintendent with last years knowledge, with so many changes taking place, is interesting and not what we are being paid for.

Those of you coming for dinner and the meeting, dinner will be served at 6:45 P.M. We sincerely hope that you will schedule your time to be there for "Happy Hour", if you so desire.

As usual, we must tell Michaywe Hills of the number that will be there for dinner and I think it will be "Prime Ribs". As usual, a postcard is enclosed if you are a member. Please get this in the mail with your answer as early as possible. Like today. The winner for sending in post cards at our last meeting was Leo Peterson even though he was not present. This time we will also give a prize to the person whose postcard is received first. So get your answer back immediately. Thanks.

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A SPECIAL LETTER WILL BE COMING OUT ON THE SOCIAL PARTY SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, GIVING DETAILS, TIME, PLACE, COST, ETC.



## Cooperative Extension Service

Durham, N.H. 03824

University of New Hampshire

Plant Science Dept.  
Nesmith Hall  
Tel. (603) 862-1200

June 16, 1983

Mr. C. E. Tate  
Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association  
P. O. Drawer 472  
Frankfort, MI 49635

Dear Mr. Tate:

Enclosed is some information that you requested about different materials that will help protect the greens during the winter and provide an earlier spring greenup. At the University of New Hampshire we have worked with various protective covers for the last two winters and I am going to include the product that I consider to be the most promising. The product is called Reemay which is produced by the DuPont Company and is comprised of a spunbonded polyester. The weight of the material is 1 oz. per sq. yd. and the cost will be approximately 4¢ per sq. ft. You can expect to get two to three seasons use out of this and it will fold nicely after you are done using it in early spring.

The Reemay will come in widths of approximately 15 by 100 ft. and is secured into the ground by placing wire pins every 2 to 3 feet. DuPont is interested in utilizing this product for the use of putting greens and is in the process of completing a survey of 150 golf courses which tried it last year.

I am currently in the process of summarizing the data from the last two years and hope to publish this in one of the popular magazines. At this time, I will send you the summary of Reemay's performance during last winter's conditions; and I hope this will give you some idea of its potential. The superintendents who have used Reemay in New Hampshire have found it to be promising, and we are quite excited about its use in the future.

If you are interested in obtaining more information and a sample of this material, you can contact Gary Anderson, E. I. DuPont de Nemours & Co., Inc., Textile Dept., Centre Road Building, Wilmington, Delaware 19898.

Sincerely,

John M. Roberts  
Extension Specialist, Turf

JMR:cam  
Encs.



## Cooperative Extension Service

Durham, N.H. 03824

University of New Hampshire

Plant Science Dept.

Nesmith Hall

Tel. (603) 862-1200

September 28, 1982

William L. Garrett  
E. I. duPont de Nemours & Co.  
Centre Road Building  
Wilmington, DE 19898

Dear Bill:

This past winter, we evaluated Reemay as a protective cover over golf greens in New Hampshire. Wind and ice damage is severe in this area as it frequently is in colder climates. Our objective was to determine if a light weight, inexpensive cover would minimize winter desiccation damage to golf greens.

The results are exciting as you can see from the photograph, providing greens with a higher quality turf up to two weeks earlier in the spring than would have otherwise been the case. A protective putting green cover of Reemay accomplishes several beneficial functions:

- \* Reduces turf desiccation - Reemay shields the turf from drying winds and keeps moisture in the plant and soil surface.
- \* Speeds spring green-up - Reemay captures the sun's energy increasing soil temperature (up to 15° F.) which allows late fall fertilizer to release quicker in early spring and hastens the rate of turf growth (roots and plants) and color by 5 - 14 days.
- \* Keeps traffic off - Reemay prevents golfers from trampling the turf and soil surface in those days shortly after the snow melts and air temperature rises.
- \* Faster germination rates - When Reemay is placed over early spring seedings, the increased soil temperature increases germination rates by 7 - 10 days.

To install Reemay over golf greens and other critical areas on the course:

- \* Time of Application - Apply Reemay as soon as possible before snowfall or after the course is closed for the winter.
- \* How to Pin Reemay Down - Cut fencing wire (14 guage) into 10-inch lengths and bend in half (into a U shape). Place one pin every 4 feet through the cover holes provided along the reinforced edge of the cover.
- \* Date of Removal - Leave Reemay on until you are ready to mow or open the course. In other words, as long as possible.

Sincerely

John M. Roberts  
Extension Specialist, Turf

JMR:cam

The New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Service's programs and policies are consistent with pertinent Federal and State laws and regulations on non-discrimination regarding race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or handicap.

College of Life Sciences and Agriculture; New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development; County Governments; United States Department of Agriculture cooperating.

### Procedure

On Nov. 24, 1982, Reemay was applied to an Emerald bentgrass putting green turf at the University of New Hampshire's research facility (Kingman Farm). The putting green would be considered to be in satisfactory condition and is maintained under golf course conditions. Reemay was pinned down with the use of metal pins which penetrate 5 inches into the soil surface. These pins were placed every 3 feet along the edge of the Reemay and I found them to be very successful in holding the blanket down during the winter months.

All the data taken in the tables presented occurred during mid afternoon on sunny days. This is important to keep in mind in terms of soil temperature readings because Reemay acted no differently than an untreated control on cloudy days. The blankets were removed 1 week after spring was "in the air" (3-23-83) and the second removal of Reemay occurred two weeks later (3 days before local golf courses opened). The idea here was to look at the effect of time of removal of the Reemay.

### Discussion

As you can see from table 1, the turf conditions entering the winter under Reemay were very satisfactory. A primary concern to the grower when using a protective blanket is when to apply and when to remove it. The data in Table 1 shows that the turf entered the winter with improved leaf and soil moisture which I consider to be very important. This additional moisture content did help the plant from dessication during the winter months. There was some additional growth of the turf under Reemay entering the winter period; however, the amount would not be considered excessive. In the field I would recommend to growers that the putting greens be mowed immediately prior to the application of Reemay to counter balance any additional growth after the blanket has been put on.

The importance of Reemay in protecting the turf can be seen in Tables 2 and 3. In Table 2 notice that the turf came out of the winter with improved and leaf moisture in particular. The soil moisture content was surprisingly similar and actually less than the control which is difficult to explain. Notice also while there was some addition in the amount of clippings removed, the amount of growth under the Reemay was not excessive. We do not want a material that produces excessive growth under the blanket too early in the spring and fortunately Reemay does not do that.

Approximately 3 weeks after spring had arrived (Table 3) we can see that there had been some cold weather occur since the early removal. Notice that the color ratings of the control have dropped during this 2-week time period; yet, turf still under Reemay was substantially greener. Early removal of Reemay reduces turf color and growth, so it is best to leave Reemay on as long as possible in the spring. Notice also that the soil temperature was 17 degrees warmer than the control which is beneficial not only to plant growth but also to the release of Nitrogen which is put on in late fall. Of importance also is the increase in root length that occurred under the Reemay and also there was no incidence of disease under the treatments.

In terms of seed germination rates, we can see that in Table 4, Reemay will help increase the rate of germination approximately 7 to 10 days ahead of an untreated seeding. I think the potential use of Reemay in hastening of late fall and early spring seedings is something to be excited about and also the fact that Reemay helps promote growth of damaged turf during this critical early spring time period.

(continued on next page)

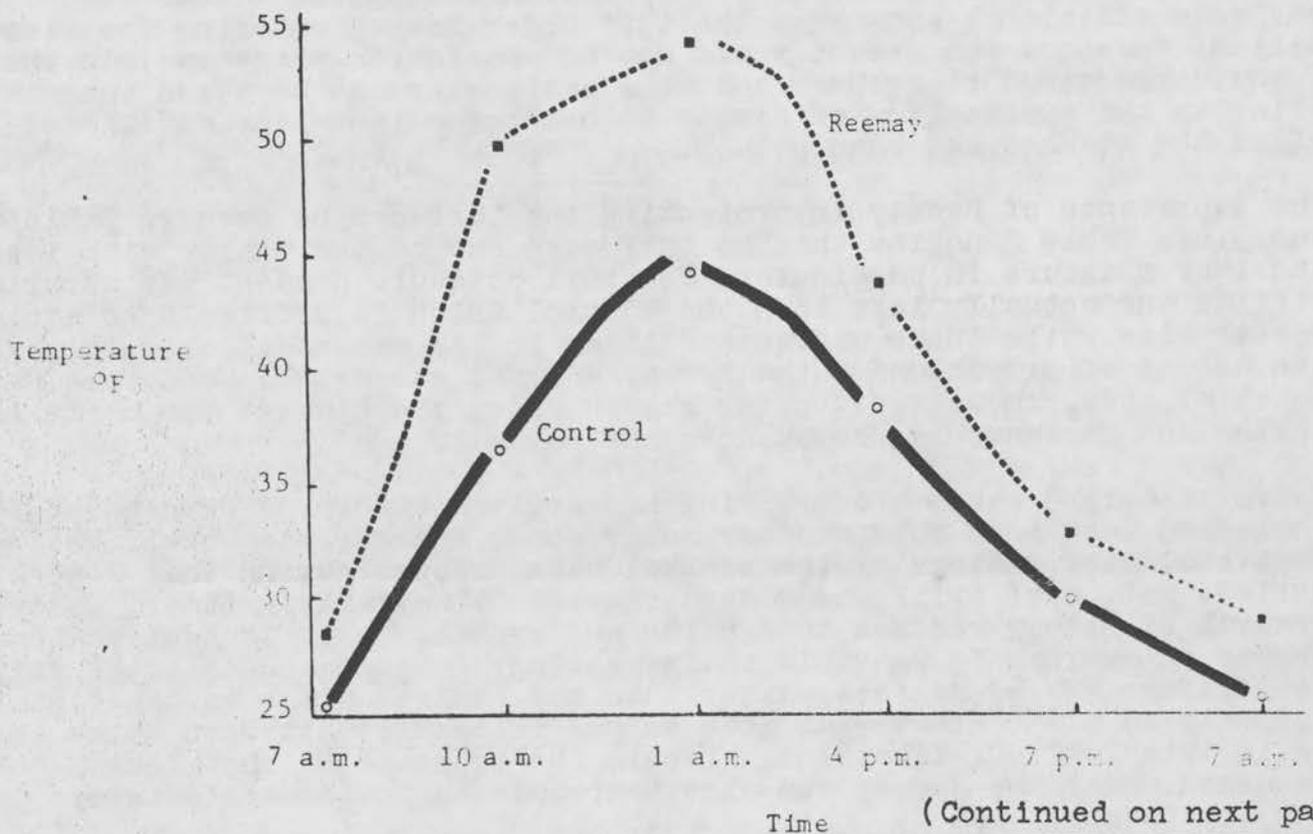
Discussion continued

Notice in Figure 1 how Reemay increases the soil temperature on a sunny day. During midday we could see increased temperatures up to 15 to 17 degrees F warmer under Reemay. There was some retention of soil temperature during the evening of approximately 3 to 4 degrees F but as we can see the majority of heat was lost when the sun went down.

Summary

In summary, I was very encouraged about this year's results and feel that Reemay will definitely be successful in the turf market for the protection of turf during the winter period. Still, more information needs to be obtained about the effectiveness of Reemay under ice; but preliminary indications show that Reemay helps protect the plant from drying winds after ice has melted. The growers who have tried Reemay in this area have been extremely pleased with its performance. I would be interested in pursuing the development of Reemay for turf uses with DuPont in the future.

Figure 1. The influence of Reemay on soil temperature on a sunny day.



(Continued on next page)

The minister of a rural church deep in the Ozarks suggested to his parishioners that they purchase a chandelier. It was put to a vote and all the members voted it down. "Why do you oppose the purchase of a chandelier?" asked the preacher. "Well," drawled one of his flock, "first we can't spell it, so how can we order it? Second, even if we get it, no one can play it, and third what we really need is more light."

Cathedral Chimes

(Continued from page 5)

Table 1. The influence of Reemay on turf entering the winter months (12-31-82).

Treatment	Color*	Surface Temperature	Soil Temperature	Plant Height	Leaf Moisture	Soil Moisture
		°F	°F	cm	% Wt	% Wt
Reemay	8.6	39	36	1.4	23.5	22.4
Control	8.1	34	32	1.0	19.2	21.9

Table 2. The influence of Reemay on turf in early spring (3-23-83).

Treatment	Color*	Surface Temperature	Soil Temperature	Clipping Weight	Leaf Moisture	Soil Moisture
		°F	°F	g/sq. m	% Wt	% Wt
Reemay	7.5	58	54	31	40	21.4
Control	6.0	40	42	22	25	23.2

Table 3. The influence of Reemay on turf during the spring (3 days before local golf courses opened, 4-7-83).

Treatment	Color*	Surface Temperature	Soil Temperature	Clipping Weight	Leaf Moisture	Soil Moisture	Root Length	Sr. Mc
		°F	°F	g/sq. m	% Wt	% Wt	cm	
Reemay	7.8	76	70	35	60	25	9.0	
Control	4.0	73	53	27	24	23	7.4	

\*Color rating 1-9; 1 = yellow, 9 = green

Table 4. The influence of Reemay on germination rates of early spring seedings (seeded 4-28-83).

Treatment	Time Required to Germinate	
	Kentucky bluegrass	Velvet Bentgrass
	days	
Reemay	15	11
Control	22	19

If there is righteousness in the heart,  
there will be beauty in the character.

If there be beauty in the character,  
there will be harmony in the home.

If there is harmony in the home,  
there will be order in the nation.

When there is order in the nation,  
there will be peace in the world.

Chinese Proverb

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A New England grade school teacher is saving one test paper answer to the question: "Why did the Puritans come to this country?"

One tyke replied: "To worship in their own way and make other people do the same."

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## SAND TOPDRESSING OF PUTTING GREENS MAY BE BEST TO BEWARE

Golf Course Superintendent, Warren Bidwell (Olympia Fields Country Club) states that caution should be used for those considering or already on sand topdressing of greens. Working more than 53 years in the turfgrass industry, Warren has made it a point to discuss topdressing mixes with many turfgrass advisors at the PhD level. Research information through work completed a various experimental turf plots has shown that sand topdressing is not all sunrise.

Dr. Elliot Roberts, formerly of Iowa State University, proved in the laboratory and in the field that a healthy and strong root system is directly related to top growth development which can be accomplished without sand topdressing. At the Canadian Conference, Dr. Roy Goss, from the University of Washington told me that we haven't seen the end results of this sand topdressing work. When you overlay a sand, soil, and peat mixture (which we all have done going back to the 1920's) with 100% sand could have ending results on our putting greens 20 to 25 years from now.

While on a sand topdressing program you are not to aerify because you do not want to mix the sand topdressing with the soil underneath. You are stuck topdressing right over already compacted soil and then you expect excellent results. Sand topdressing originated with the touring Golf Professionals. They are never satisfied with the speed of the greens unless they're as fast as a bullet passing a train. The Golf Pro's want pool table surfaces. When superintendents are preparing for a tournament the putting green cut is lowered to 9/64" in order to increase the speed on the greens. When the tournament is over, the height of cut is back to 3/16" for plant protection and stability. During the tournament the members get used to those faster than normal greens. So when you walk through the men's grill you are likely to hear "when the hell are you going to cut those greens". Top growth and root growth are directly related. I find it very difficult to accept lower and lower cutting heights. The younger generation, who I do respect, must please its members. For a superintendent to survive at a club for any given tenure, he must follow the directives of the locker room agronomic experts. This is the way of life around our many private and publicly owned golf courses.

Working as a superintendent at two golf clubs where major golf Championships were played the putting greens were never topdressed with 100% sand. The putting speed and turf quality remained excellent.

"The Driving Should Be Left To Us". The Golf Course Superintendent has the expertise, good judgment, research data, and education that allows him to make professional decisions in manicuring turfgrass. Club members have to start confiding in their Golf Course Superintendents and not other neighboring clubs. Soil modification is a solution but 100% sand could only be a quick fix.

Warren Bidwell, C.D.G.A.  
Greens Seminar - April 5, 1983

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Seems funny how we are all wishing  
for things we don't have. But then, what  
else is there to wish for?  
\* \* \*

## HOW PLANTS KILL EACH OTHER

The lowly but beautiful sunflower may soon become one of our most potent weed killers.

Scientists have long known that certain plants and trees have the ability to poison neighboring plants with toxic secretions from their leaves or roots (a process called allelopathy). Such common flora as the black walnut tree, creosote bush and wild cherry tree possess the trait.

Now scientists at the U.S. Department of Agriculture are testing the highly allelopathic sunflower to see just how it can knock out such insidious weeds as Johnson grass and ragweed and how, through crossbreeding, this ability can be enhanced.

U.S.D.A. plant physiologist Gerald Leather said that it may be possible one day to extract the key weed-killing chemical directly from the sunflower or, more likely, to develop a synthetic compound that's similar. Or sunflowers could be planted along with certain immune crops to help control late season weeds.

### PRESS NOTICE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The 18th Annual Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium will be held at the Pfister Hotel, Milwaukee, on October 26 and 27, 1983. The subject will be,

#### "FACTS AND FALLACIES IN POA ANNUA MANAGEMENT"

Subject matter will range from protection of Poa Annua through new methods of suppression to replacement with other species. The program is expected to give an update on all angles of Poa Annua production or control (?).

James M. Latham, Manager  
Marketing and Agronomy  
Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage  
District.

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Back in the days when Victoria was queen, a pompous professor at an English medical college wrote this on the blackboard between classes: "Your esteemed professor wishes his students to know that he has this day been appointed physician to Her Majesty Queen Victoria."

When he returned to the classroom later, he found these words neatly printed below his announcement: "God save the Queen!"

To refresh your mind about our fiscal year, October 31st, ends our fiscal year and the new year starts with November 1st. Therefore dues for 1984 should be paid as early as possible. If you feel that there should be a change in your classification, now is the time to remind us of this and it should be in writing. Verbal suggestions or statements relative to such an important subject should only be in writing. If there is any change in your address, telephone number, club affiliation or whatever, now is the time when we should have it for bringing our records up to date. Everyone will get an invoice for their dues and for the record, a dues increase of \$5.00 per person was approved at our August Board Meeting. This was the first dues increase in many years and the second increase since we started. It breaks down to:

Class "A" Membership	now	\$20.00
"B" "		15.00
"E" "		10.00
"F" "		15.00
"G" "		30.00
"S" "		12.50



If there is any question or you do not understand the various categories of membership, please feel free to contact any of the Board members.

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Our September meeting was our Annual Meeting and the election of new members of the Board of Directors. Elected to the Board for a term of three years were Dave Longfield, Garland Golf Club, Bob Rieschl Crystal Lake Golf Club and Steve White, Traverse City Golf & Country Club. Also elected to fill out the term of M. Jos. Yoder, for one year was Tom Courtemanche, Green Hills Golf Club. To bring our Board up to it full capacity, Jim Bogart, O.M. Scott & Sons, was elected to a term of two years.

Officers for the coming 1984 fiscal year, will be elected by the Board at their October Meeting at Michaywe Hills.

Retiring from the Board are Frank Heminger, Claude Marcus and Erich Sleder. To these men, our sincere thanks for your time, help, input and the giving of your fine effort on behalf of our Association. We are most grateful for your continued support.

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Several By-Law changes have been recommended by that Committee and they are listed for your viewing and will be voted upon at the next meeting.

1. Class "AE" and "BE" members will be permitted to vote but not hold Office.
2. No member may serve more than two terms on the Board of Directors without a break of one year off the Board.

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It has been brought to our attention that many country clubs, golf courses are not receiving notices from Michigan State University of such events as Field Day or Seminars through the U.S.Mail. If your location does not, then it is because you are not listed on their mailing list. You can either write MSU, Department of Crop & Soil Science or join the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation. Applications for the Foundation are available from Tom Reed.