



GCSAA AFFILIATE

# Turf Times

The newsletter from the Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association

Bi-Monthly  
Update  
May/June 1997  
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## President's Message

"Children are our future", this is a phrase we've heard a number of times over the years. I would agree with this, and feel we all need to do our best to help children reach their potential.

Recently, I've had two groups of children tour the golf course. I found these experiences to be enlightening and enjoyable. Both of these groups were made up of nine and ten year old children. What amazed me most was their enthusiasm to learn. It also seems that once they comprehend a thought, they don't forget it.

The first group to visit was the Cub Scouts. The club donated lumber (cut from trees harvested off club property) to build bluebird nest boxes. After building the nest boxes, the scouts came to the course to install them. As we went around the course installing the nest boxes, we were able to talk about bluebirds and their habitat.

The second group was a school class. This field trip reviewed a science unit they had worked on for a number of weeks. This was arranged after I spoke to the class during a career day. The children impressed me with their knowledge and understanding of wild life. We talked about wildlife, but also turf and trees. They saw the machines and techniques we use to mow the golf course. They were able to view a putting green (they were amazed grass is cut that short) and also to actually putt on the green. The children also had a scavenger hunt, collecting items such as feathers, acorns and plants to take back to school to talk about. However they were most excited when they had the chance to look for golf balls in the woods.

I really enjoyed having both groups tour the course. I hope I taught them something, because they taught *me* something. I feel children are an excellent way to pass on information about the benefits of golf courses and the duties of the golf course superintendent. I would encourage all of you to take advantage of passing on information about our profession anytime you have the opportunity.

Brian Holmes



BEARD  
COLLECTION

## Thank you

TO: N.M.T.M.A. TURF TIMES

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Directors and the members of the N.M.T.M.A. for all of your help and support during my campaign for Director of G.C.S.A.A. While I was not successful in winning a seat on the board, the support I received was better than expected and **WE WILL** do it next year.

I would especially like to thank Mark Wildeman, who as president wrote the nominating letter to G.C.S.A.A and Karen Gray, who as voting delegate (for the first time) worked hard to learn and help try and get me elected. It was indeed an honor and privilege to represent you the members of N.M.T.M.A. and friends. Seven years ago, you welcomed me back to Northern Michigan and having served on other boards, this association is exciting and great. With support like this it makes the effort of running all worth it and very humbling.

To close, thank you just does not say enough to express my gratitude. If there is anything I can do, please do not hesitate to call me. See you at a meeting soon. Have a great 1997 season.

Sincerely,  
Jon D. Maddern, C.G.C.S.



# Irrigation Water Quality

What is water quality, and how is it classified? Water quality is determined by its intended use. For instance, a pure source with no mineral or organic contaminants would be ideal for drinking purposes, but a poor choice for golf course irrigation. Alternatively, a water source high in calcium, magnesium, potassium, nitrate, and liberally laced with microbes, might be a great irrigation source, but completely unsuitable for drinking purposes.

Generally, water is evaluated in terms of its mineral and biological components and classified based on intended application. There are numerous sources which classify plants with respect to their tolerance of, or sensitivity to, salinity and specific mineral toxicities. Unfortunately, the superintendent does not have a choice of the quality of water available for his course. And, to an increasing extent, is being forced to accept water that may not be fit for other domestic uses, e.g. effluent water. The growing trend in mandating the use of recycled water on golf courses is further reducing the choices of water quality.

When making decisions on irrigation sources one should be reminded of the summary of all irrigation scripture.

**“As water is,  
so then shall be the soil”**

*The simple fact is that if a given soil is irrigated with a given water quality over an extended period of time the soil will assume the characteristics of that irrigation source.*

Most of the problems encountered with irrigation water are associated with the direct and indirect effects of excess total salts (TDS), excesses of specific mineral ions (sodium, boron, chloride etc. ) and excesses of bicarbonate and associated elevated ( alkaline) pH.

Excessive bicarbonates can result in the closing in pore spaces in the soil that allow water to penetrate. Water infiltration is the most important factor in managing salinity, alkalinity and nutrient availability.

The following chart can help in determining whether your irrigation water is adversely affecting the growth and health of your turf grass please fill in the following for your course:

pH	_____
pHc	_____
Ca	_____ ppm
Mg	_____ ppm
K	_____ ppm
Na	_____ ppm
Bicarbonate	_____ ppm
Total Salts (TDS)	_____ ppm

1. Is the pH above 7.0? Y or N
2. Is the pHc below 8.4? Y or N
3. Is the sodium more than 5% of the Total Salts? Y or N
4. Is bicarbonate more than 15% of the Total Salts? Y or N
5. Are the total of the carbonate and bicarbonate levels greater than the total calcium and magnesium levels? Y or N

If you answered yes to two or more of the above questions, your irrigation may be adversely affecting your turfgrass. Contact your chemical dealer to find out what you can do.

## 1997 Calendar

<b>July 15</b>	Green Briar G.C., Lupton
<b>August 18</b>	Eagle Glenn, Farwell
<b>September 9</b>	NMTMA Fundraiser Belvedere G.C., Charlevoix

### Remember:

Mark your calendars:  
Michigan Turfgrass Field Day  
Hancock Turfgrass Research Center  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, MI

**Thursday, August 28, 1997**

Information will be mailed out in early July.  
Contact Kay at 517-321-1660  
if you have any questions.

## Safety Message

### Be on Guard for skin cancer !

Type 1 - Non Melanoma - affects 800,000 people per year in the U.S. alone.

#### Risk factors:

- Cumulative exposure to ultraviolet radiation.
- Fair skin.

Common location: Head, neck and back of hands.

#### Primary Protection:

- Sun screen with a SPF greater than 15.
- Hats that shield ears and back of neck
- Long - sleeved shirts and pants

Type 2 - Melanoma - affects 34,00 people in the U.S. each year often is fatal.

#### Risk factors:

- Brief intense exposure to UV radiation may contribute.
- Cumulative exposure to UV radiation
- Fair skin.

Primary Protection: Same as for non-melanoma.  
Early diagnosis can usually prevent fatality.

#### What to look for:

- Moles that change size, shape or color.
- An unusual growth on the skin.
- Skin changes color in certain spots.
- A sore that won't heal.


Check yourself regularly. Use and encourage co-workers to use sunblock. Although fair skinned people are at higher risk, everyone is susceptible.

### For Sale

F-10 Jacobsen Fairway mower in working condition, 8 blade cutting units.,

\$3,500.00. Phone (517) 356-4298

Alpena Golf Club

 Do you have an address change, or do you need some information on NMTMA, or do you need to call in your reservation for a meeting?

You can do all of this now by calling Kay Patrick at:  
(517) 327-5474

Write this number down, it will come in very handy!

## Editors Note

Please remember we need articles from *you* for the newsletter. Submit any articles or information that you feel might be of interest to your colleagues. If you are too busy now - jot down the idea and write something over the winter. Anything concerning our profession, human interest or stories of a humorous nature are welcome. If you are concerned about your writing skills, the resident English expert (Lisa Hohn) can proof read it and make recommendations. Please also send me stories or articles you have read that are worthy of reprinting. This is your chance to contribute to the N.M.T.M.A. My Fax number is 616-533-7067

Pete Hohn

## Field Day

Valley Turf Inc.'s third annual Turf Management Field Day, will be on July 22, with a rain date of July 23, 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. This will be held at the Old Kent Park, home of the West Michigan White Caps. Major affiliate of the Detroit Tigers, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This event is set up so that the newest equipment available may be seen close up by everyone in the parks, municipalities, golf, sports field complexes, schools, commercial landscapers, and the professional lawn care users.

This event is a great way for the entire crew to see the newest in commercial and turf equipment and its uses. Meet the Manufacture Representatives from Bunton, Scag, Bob Cat, Ransomes, Jacobsen, Gravely, Land Pride, Ty-Crop, National, Red Max, Smithco, Rain Bird and more.

Morning coffee and rolls will be available, lunch will also be available. Please call Leslie at 616-532-2885 or fax at 616-532-5553 to RSVP and more information.

### Farmers Almanac Forecast for the Great Lakes Region

**August 1997:** The month will start out with the appearance of what seems to be a long, hot summer, but temperatures will average only 72° - slightly below normal for the month. This will be due to a big increase in precipitation, and by August 20 dry conditions will no longer be a problem anywhere in the region.

*The NMTMA appreciates the support from the following businesses...*

• **IRRIGATION** •

**Thielen Turf Irrigation, Inc.**  
Golf Course Installation  
(517) 773-3409

**Century Rain Aid**  
Now There's A Third Option - Legacy Golf  
800-347-4272

**C.J. Colein & Associates, Inc.**  
Irrigation Design and Consulting  
(810) 656-6805

• **SOD, SOIL & CONSTRUCTION** •

**Beck Sod Farm**  
George or Lois Beck  
(517) 864-3549 • Fax (517) 864-3055

**Huggett Sod Farm**  
Bent & Bluegrass Sod, Bulk Peat & Shade Trees  
800-432-2763 • 517-635-7482

• **CONTRACT SERVICES** •

**Mechanical Soil Technology**  
Contract Verti-Drain Aerification Service  
800-743-2419 • 309-342-2419

**Commercial/Environmental Turf Services**  
John Kirtland  
800-231-5296 • 810-858-7700

• **FERTILIZERS, CHEMICALS & SEED** •

**Benham Chemical Corporation**  
Serving Michigan and Ohio  
800-482-6520

**Tri-Turf**  
A Warehouse on Wheels  
(616) 943-8343

**Chipco**  
Bob Dugan  
(313) 782-0323

**Turfgrass Inc.**  
We Serve You Better  
(800) 521-8873

**The Scotts Company**  
Ed Carmody  
(616) 946-6594

**Lebanon-Seaboard Fertilizer & Seed**  
The Best Agronomics/Value Available  
Randy - 810- 673-7146

**Sweeney Seed Company**  
It Pays to Plant The Best  
(800) 344-2482 (517) 773-5391

**Turf Chemicals, Inc.**  
Fertilizers For Better Turf  
517-725-7145 Fax 517-723-7410

• **EQUIPMENT, SERVICE & SUPPLIES** •

**Spartan Distributors, Inc.**  
Your Full Line Toro Distributor  
800-822-2216

**D & C Distributors, Inc.**  
Your One Stop Shop  
800-888-7779 • 248-349-7779

**Tire Wholesalers Company**  
Dan Cress - Tires & Tubes  
(616) 775-6666

**Turf Services, Inc.**  
Matt Heiss  
(616) 842-4975

**W. F. Miller Company**  
Your Cushman, Ransomes, Ryan Connection  
(800) 555-8189

• **GOLF CART SALES & SERVICE** •

**Boylan Sales Inc.**  
Yamaha USA  
(616) 685-6828

*...and we encourage you to support them.*

**Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association**  
P.O. Box 80086  
Lansing, Michigan 48908



Dr. James Beard  
International Sports Turf  
Box 10065  
College Station TX 77842

**NMTMA Executive Committee**

Brian Holmes - *President*  
Doug Kendziorski - *Vice President*  
Jon Maddern - *Secretary/Treasurer*  
Tom Reed - *Executive Secretary*  
Brian Conklin - *Recording Secretary*



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