

Northwest TURFGRASS TOPICS

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PUYALLUP, WASHINGTON

SEPTEMBER 1977

31st Annual Northwest Turfgrass Conference

Sponsored by

Northwest Turfgrass Association and Washington State University

Salishan Lodge, Gleneden Beach, Oregon

October 5-7, 1977

Program Chairman - Clayton Bauman

PROGRAM

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4

Handicap Golf Tournament - All Conference participants

Late Conference Registration

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5

8:00 and after Late Registration

Morning Session #1

Chairman — Clayton Bauman, Supt., Meridian Valley Golf and Country Club, Kent, WA.

8:30- 8:40 Welcome, Introductions and Announcements - Joe Lymp, President, Northwest Turfgrass Association, Supt., Sunriver Properties, Sunriver, OR

8:40- 9:20 "Different ways to water turf" - Jim Latham, Milwaukee Sewerage Commission, Milwaukee, WI.

9:20-10:00 "Practical uses of turf-type perennial ryegrass in the Pacific Northwest" - Dr. Bill Meyer, Turfseed Inc., Halsey, OR.

10:00-10:15 Discussion

10:15-10:35 Coffee

Morning Session #2

Chairman — Dick Malpass, C.G.C.S., Supt. Riverside Golf and Country Club, Portland, OR.

10:35-11:35 "Topdressing - experiences, successes, methods and problems" Panel Discussion: Charlie Nolan, Kevin Van, Tim Manion

11:35-12:35 "Trees - establishment and maintenance for golf courses, parks, etc." - Dr. Dale Bever, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR.

12:35-12:50 Research reports

12:50- 1:00 Discussion

1:00 Free time

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6

Morning Session #1

Chairman — Joe Lymp, Supt., Sunriver Properties, Sunriver, OR.

8:30- 9:00 "Correcting wet spots on established turf" - Roy L. Goss, Washington State University, Puyallup, WA.

9:00- 9:40 "Management in turfgrass programs" - Sam Angove, Director, Parks and Recreation, Spokane County, Spokane, WA.

9:40- 9:55 Research reports

9:55-10:10 Discussion

Morning Session #2

Chairman — John Monson, C.G.C.S., Broadmoor Golf Club, Seattle, WA

10:10-10:25 Coffee

10:25-11:15 "Poa annua - It can be controlled" - Tom Cook, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR.

11:15-11:55 "Turfgrass nurseries" - Bill Bengueyfield, USGA Green Section, Tustin, CA.

11:55-12:10 Research reports

12:10-12:25 Discussion

12:25- 1:00 General Membership Business Meeting

THURSDAY EVENING

6:30 No host cocktails

7:30 Banquet

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7

Morning Session #1

Chairman — Dick Fluter, C.G.C.S., Oswego Lake Golf and Country Club, Lake Oswego, OR

8:30- 9:00 Research reports

9:00- 9:40 "Water, an exhaustible resource" - Jim Watson, Director of Research, Toro Company, Minneapolis, MN.

9:40-10:00 Research reports

10:00-10:20 Coffee

Morning Session #2

Chairman — Sam Angove, Director, Spokane County Parks and Recreation, Spokane, WA.

10:20-11:00 "You're the difference" - Andy Bertoni, W. A. Cleary Co., Somerset, NJ.

11:00-11:40 "Equipment maintenance for all turf" - Babe Brinkworth, Toro Company, Cupertino, CA.

11:40-12:00 Discussion and adjournment

**SEE YOU AT
SALISHAN**

From the President's Corner



by Joe Lymp

It's Conference time again and we look forward to seeing all of you at Salishan Lodge. Your directors have worked hard to provide you with a different and most interesting educational opportunity. We will have about four hours in the Conference room each day and the remainder of the day will be yours for Committee Meetings, private sessions, or recreation, relaxation, and sightseeing on the Oregon Coast.

Salishan is a beautiful lodge that offers a wide range of recreational activities including golf, tennis, swimming, and many more.

You will note from the program attached that a wide variety of subject matter is being presented, hence there is something for everyone.

An interesting program is planned for the ladies, so be sure to bring yours.

See you at Salishan.

Tom Cook Moves to Oregon State University

Friday, September 9, will be Tom's last official day at the Western Washington Research and Extension Center at Puyallup, Washington. Tom has accepted a position at Oregon State University to teach Turf Management and Ornamentals in the Horticulture Department at OSU. He will be responsible for developing both teaching programs and will begin teaching the first courses in September of this year.

Tom promised in January of 1975 that he would solve all our problems in six months, and his six months period is just about up and he has succeeded in all but a few minor areas. On the serious side, Tom's persistence with *Poa annua* pre and post emergent control investigations have paid off. Unquestionably, his program with endothall and bensulide applications will definitely and safely control *Poa annua*. Safe control implies that little or no damage is incurred to the bluegrasses or ryegrasses while removing *Poa annua*. This program will be continued and results written up during the winter and spring of 1978. In the meantime, negotiations are under way with Pennwalt Corporation to include dosage recommendations on their label for the control of *Poa annua* more effectively. A great deal more must be learned about *Poa annua* control with the endothall program, particularly in areas east of the Cascade mountains, but we have every

confidence that the program will work equally effectively in those regions.

In addition to his own investigations in *Poa annua*, Tom has played a significant role in helping to establish and maintain all other turfgrass research areas during his tenure. Our research plots have never been in better condition and certainly this is a credit to Tom's hard work and persistence. Of course, due credit also goes to Stan Orton, Experimental Aide, who has worked closely with all of us in maintaining our turfgrass research program.

Tom's departure will create a great deal more work for those of us remaining but it is hoped that we can find a suitable replacement for him in our program for as long as we are able to generate outside funds for his support.

Tom's leaving can be viewed with mixed emotions — First, we are sorry to see him go, and secondly, we are very happy to see him obtain this position at Oregon State University. With Tom's enthusiasm, energy, and imagination I am sure he will develop a first class program for Oregon State and close cooperation can be maintained between the two Universities.

Tom will continue to remain in close contact with the total turfgrass industry in the Pacific Northwest and I am sure that we will all see him from time to time.

We wish you every success, Tom, and the best of luck to you.

**31st Annual
Northwest Turfgrass Conference
Salishan Lodge, Gleneden Beach, Oregon**

Turfgrass Field Day at Agassiz, BC

Dr. Doug Taylor, Canada Department of Agriculture, Research Station, Agassiz, British Columbia, will host a turfgrass field day at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 28 at the Experiment Station in Agassiz. Dr. Taylor has greatly expanded his turfgrass research program at Agassiz over the years and has developed a very interesting and productive program. If you will take the time to put this date on your calendar and drive up to Agassiz, you will observe some excellent turfgrass variety trials, wear resistance trials, fertility trials and a number of other interesting investigations.

Let's all join with our BC friends and associates at Agassiz, BC on September 28.

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31st Annual Northwest Turfgrass Conference

The Turfgrass Conference for 1977 has a slightly different atmosphere than the previous conferences. The first major change is the beginning time for educational sessions set for 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 5. Since most conference attendees usually arrive the night before, it was decided to start the conference on Wednesday morning in order to allow free time for most of the afternoon by the conference participants. Salishan Lodge and the Oregon Coast offer numerous opportunities for sightseeing and recreational activities; hence, a few hours in the afternoon will allow the attendants time to get rid of the conference room kinks and enjoy the surroundings as well. We will try to finish the educational session each day by 1:00 p.m. so you may have lunch and do whatever you wish thereafter. This will be an excellent opportunity for you to meet with industry representatives, have private conferences, or indulge in relaxation or recreation. The conference will adjourn promptly at noon on Friday, October 7.

Early registration for Northwest Turfgrass Association members is \$12.00 provided that you followed the instruction in the mailing to have your registration in by September 1. All registration at the Conference will be considered late registration and will cost members \$16.00. All non-members of the Northwest Turfgrass Association will pay \$25.00 for registration which will include the Conference and Proceedings.

Salishan Lodge is holding a block of 130 rooms for Conference participants. You must send your reservation and one night's lodging for at least \$38.00 to insure your reservation. There may be other rooms available after September 15, but you will be taking your chances. In case you wish to call your reservation to the Lodge, you may phone Gleneden Beach, OR (503) 764-2371 and be sure to indicate you will be participating in the Northwest Turfgrass Conference.

There are a number of other accommodations between Lincoln City and Newport where you may obtain accommodations as well and is in reasonable driving distance of the Conference site. All checks for registration and lodging should be made payable to Salishan Lodge. Do not include your Conference registration and one night's prepaid lodging in a single check. Make separate checks for Conference registration and the lodging.

Your Conference Program Chairman, Clayton Bauman, and his committee have tried to put together an interesting and useful educational program for your benefit. Be sure to tell someone about the Conference and the program who may not have gotten the word in your respective areas. Many parks, schools and cemetery turfgrass managers will not receive word about the conference and your calling a few will help to increase the attendance.

A valuable door prize will be given away at a drawing during the Conference for all early registrants who sent in their pre-registration fees. Pre-registration helps avoid long lines and delays of registration at the Conference, therefore, send in your registration even if you will not be eligible for the door prize drawing so your receipts can be made out and avoid the lineup.

A golf tournament will be held on Tuesday, October 4, at the beautiful Salishan Golf Links. An entry fee will be charged and prizes will be awarded.

The banquet will be held on Thursday evening preceded

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by a no host cocktail hour. The banquet committee has come up with a great dinner and you will learn all about that when you arrive.

The ladies program has been well planned with many interesting activities. There will be a ladies registration desk set up at the lodge where you girls can pay your fees and enjoy this interesting program. All of you guys be sure to bring your wives along. They'll hate you if you don't. Frank Zook, one of your directors, has been working closely with President Lymp and Salishan personnel to coordinate most of the conference activities.

We'll see you at Salishan.

Summer Woes

By Roy L. Goss

Early warnings back in the spring about summer water shortages unfortunately became a reality for many turfgrass managers during the summer of 1977. Inadequate water was sharply felt by many golf courses, parks, cemeteries, schools and home lawns. In most cases, grass that went completely dormant will revive now that we have had some rain and with the onset of cooler and more moist fall weather. Now is an excellent time to proceed with overseeding thin or weak areas and those that you feel have burned out — principally areas dominated by *Poa annua*. If you have a Rogers seeder in your collection of equipment, blow the dust off it and get it in gear. You will be surprised how much grass you can establish between now and November with this machine. Turf-type perennial ryegrasses alone or in mixtures with bluegrass and bentgrass or fine leaved fescues can lend a lot of wear resistance and greater drought tolerance to areas you may have lost this year.

In general, most turfgrass areas have weathered the hotter than usual and dryer than usual summer quite well. Some problems have developed, particularly on golf course putting greens, from excessive water application to keep the grass cool, but end results were saturated soil with poor rooting. Saturated soils induce shallow rooting through the loss of deeper roots caused by lack of oxygen in the soil. Some areas were lost due to heat stress during the extremely hot days of mid-August. These areas may be developed due to faulty sprinklers, excessive runoff, droughty soils, or a combination of all.

It is extremely important to maintain high infiltration of the surface through aerifications, spikeing or the use of surfactants and carefully examine the soil at regular intervals with a soil tube to determine soil moisture. An excellent article was written by Jack Jagur in the July issue of the U.S.G.A. Green Section Record with regard to the drought in Northern California. He has summed up what we have talked about for years with regard to conditioning turf for heat and drought stress. It would pay you to run down a copy of this article and read it thoroughly.

Some summer diseases have shown up ranging from fairy ring, unidentified basidiomycetes fungi, brown patch (caused by *Rhizoctonia solani*), Ophiobolus patch, some Helminthosporium, and more recently an unidentified spotting condition on putting greens. No organisms have been isolated from these small yellow spots the size of a dime or slightly smaller; therefore, we are working on it. These spots can develop by the thousands over a green surface and when they run together, extensive turf loss can occur. The leaves eventually die completely and the roots are stubby or nonexistent. Nematodes may be a contributing factor and samples are being tested at the present time. One case of a high nematode population has emerged and nematicides were recommended in this one case.

We feel that anthracnose (caused by *Colletotrichum graminicola*) may be causing more severe damage than most people are aware. We have suspected this fungus as a threat for a number of years but the problems seem to be increasing.

We hope you were not too hard hit and that your grass will recover quickly if you were.

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En Garde for Fall

Now that we have some cool, moist weather, you have another set of problems facing you instantly. No. 1 is Fusarium patch disease in all areas of the Pacific Northwest. You should have already made your first application or two of fungicides prior to reading this article. If you do not practice preventive maintenance of applying fungicides once each month, then you should have made an application in August to prevent massive attacks of Fusarium. You have a good arsenal of fungicides to select from, so be sure to stock up now. If Fusarium patch disease hits hard and fast, it may be necessary to come back with applications of fungicides on 5 to 10 day intervals as opposed to 2 to 3 week intervals. Since mercury is available, one of the best ways to knock Fusarium down quickly is to treat with PMAS or Caloclor at recommended rates and then maintain good fungicide schedules. Observe your areas early in the morning when dew is present and then you will be able to detect the first beginnings of Fusarium and can initiate your program the same day. If you wait until the spots are already brown, you can lose a significant amount of grass before you get it stopped.

Fall is one of the best times for weed control and you should be geared up to spray major turfgrass areas in September and up to the 15th or 20th of October if weather conditions are still suitable. Cool, moist weather, shorter days and fall regrowth of weeds makes this period particularly ideal. For the most part, mixtures of Banvel, MCP, and 2,4-D are best since they will control a broad spectrum of weeds. Silvex may be substituted for one of the ingredients of the mix just mentioned if desirable. The usual precautions should be followed with regards to root absorption by susceptible ornamentals when these materials are used and, of course, avoid drift by spraying only when there is no wind. *Veronica filiformis* (creeping speedwell) can still be treated up to the first part of October with good success with Dacthal at the rate of 16 lb. of 75% wettable powder per acre. Don't expect fast results from the Dacthal but you should observe a good kill within three to four weeks.

Use that sand! Sand has proven its value in numerous cases and should be among your standard practices for wet putting green surfaces as well as wet ball fields west of the Cascade Mountains. You may continue light sand topdressings every 3 weeks on into early November. Light sand topdressings would be very useful to most golf courses east of the Cascade Mountains as well. Your cutoff date would be perhaps a month earlier than west of the Cascades. This will significantly aid in drier surfaces, prevention of layering and in thatch control. Be sure to pay particular attention to the sand particle size. Most of your sand particles should fall between a No. 16 and 100 mesh screen, preferably somewhat finer than the No. 16 and try to limit the amount finer than the 100 to a very low percentage. By all means, avoid the use of gravelly sand mixtures since the gravel does you absolutely no good and can do significant damage to turf maintenance equipment.



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Turfgrass Plant Pathologist Being Sought

Your efforts in preserving the turfgrass plant pathologist position at the Western Washington Research and Extension Center have paid off. The University administration has agreed to maintain the research position at Puyallup. Requests for application for the position were sent out earlier in the summer and the application date was closed on August 31. To date, approximately 30 qualified individuals have made application for the job and the selection committee is now in process of screening the applicants and reducing the list to the top five or six candidates. It is anticipated that a qualified person will be selected by the end of October.

The duties of this plant pathologist will be 75% in the turfgrass area and 25% in the ornamental industry. As you are well aware, Dr. C. J. Gould developed disease control programs and significantly contributed to the understanding of turfgrass diseases for many years here at Puyallup. Although we would all like to think that Chuck solved all the problems, there are still many that plague us and answers are needed as soon as possible.

Among the unsolved problems are the following:

1. Low temperature rhizoctonia.
2. Unidentified basidiomycetes causing small green depressed circles and sometimes with brown margins.
3. Investigations into anthracnose to determine its pathogenicity.
4. Unidentified losses of turf in eastern Washington and presumably eastern Oregon, from what appears to be *Ophiobolus* patch or possibly *Fusarium* blight.

As soon as this new man is settled in, you will be making his acquaintance and feel free to present any disease problems that you are now having problems in controlling. We will be working closely together in the Agronomy and Plant Pathology programs to help solve these problems. We hope the next issue of *Turfgrass Topics* will carry an announcement regarding the filling of this position.

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