

Northwest TURFGRASS TOPICS

VOL. 21 - NO. 2

PUYALLUP, WASHINGTON

SEPTEMBER 1978

32ND ANNUAL

NORTHWEST TURFGRASS CONFERENCE

PROGRAM

PROGRAM CHAIRMEN — Clayton Bauman, Roy L. Goss

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 25

Golf Tournament and Equipment Demonstrations, Meadow Springs

3:00- 6:00 Registration open

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Morning Chairman: Sam Angove, Spokane County Parks, Spokane, WA

8:30- 8:45 Welcome

8:45- 9:25 Soil amendments for turfgrasses - Dr. Paul Rieke, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

9:25-10:00 Soil cultivation in established turf - Dr. John Roberts, Washington State University, Puyallup.

10:00-10:20 Break

10:20-10:55 Research Reports - Dr. R. L. Goss and Dr. John Roberts, Washington State University, Puyallup, WA

10:55-11:30 Aquatic weed control - an update - Dr. R. D. Comes, USDA/Washington State University, Prosser, WA

11:30-12:05 New ideas for turfgrass maintenance - Mr. Larry Gilhuly, Assistant Superintendent, Seattle Golf and Country Club, Seattle, WA

12:05-12:35 Research Reports - Dr. R. D. Ensign, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID and Mr. A. G. Law, Washington State University, Pullman, WA

12:35- 1:00 Questions and answers for morning session

1:00 Adjourn

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Morning Chairman: Cliff James, Supt., Tri-Cities Golf & Country Club, Kennewick, WA

8:30- 9:10 Slide presentation - Bob Wick, Capilano Golf and Country Club, West Vancouver, BC

9:10- 9:55 International Turfgrass Research Conference - Dr. D. K. Taylor, Canada Dept. of Agriculture, Agassiz, BC.

9:55-10:15 Break

10:15-10:50 Micronutrients in turfgrass management - requirement, sources, and application - Dr. Paul Rieke, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.

10:50-11:30 Research Reports - Mr. Tom Cook, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR and Dr. D. K. Taylor, Canada Dept. of Agriculture, Agassiz, BC.

11:30-12:00 PURRWICK and P.A.T. systems in turfgrass management - Dr. John Roberts, Washington State University, Puyallup, WA

12:00-12:25 Questions and answers for morning session.

12:25-1:00 Northwest Turfgrass Association General Membership Meeting

1:00- 6:30 Free time

6:30- 7:30 No Host Social Hour

7:30-10:00 Conference Banquet

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Morning Chairman: Joe Pottenger, Suntides Golf Course, Yakima, WA

8:30- 9:05 The place of gypsum in turf management - Dr. Donald H. Kocher, U.S. Gypsum Company, Orange, CA

9:05- 9:45 G.C.S.A.A. - Richard Eichner, CGCS, Director GCSAA, Lakeside Golf Club of Hollywood, N. Hollywood, CA

9:45-10:00 Research Report - Dr. D. K. Taylor, Canada Dept. of Agriculture, Agassiz, B.C.

10:00-10:20 Break

10:20-11:00 Maintenance pruning of trees and shrubs - David W. Halstead, Halstead's Tree Surgery, Oak Grove, OR

11:00-11:35 Research Reports - Dr. R. L. Goss and Dr. John Roberts, Washington State University, Puyallup, WA

11:35-12:00 Questions and answers for morning session

12:00 Adjourn

Win Two Free TV Sets

Two free television sets will be given away at the Turfgrass Conference. One TV set has been donated by an undisclosed donor for anyone bringing in the most new members during 1978 up until the time of the Conference. This is an easy opportunity for you to win a TV set because at this point, the individual who has brought in two or three members will probably win the set. If you get out and hustle and sign up 4 or 5 new members, your chances are good of winning this set. The winner of the set will be announced at the general membership meeting, the last thing on the program Wednesday morning.

The winner of the second TV set will be announced at a drawing at the banquet on Wednesday evening, September 27, as a prize for early registration. Only those who have registered by September 15 will be eligible for this drawing. This set will be given away by the Northwest Turfgrass Association.

The winner of the TV set to be given away at the general membership meeting must be there in attendance at the meeting to win.

You'll never win a TV set easier, so let's all get in there and hustle.

Conference Program Highlights

Early arrivals at Richland will have an opportunity to play golf at Meadow Springs Golf and Country Club on Monday any time during the day in the annual golf tournament. You should plan on teeing off no later than 2:00 p.m. There will be some equipment demonstrations and displays at Meadow Springs Country Club during the afternoon of Monday as well for those of you who wish to observe any new equipment.

The registration desk will open at 3:00 p.m. and will stay open until 6:00 p.m. on Monday to accommodate those who did not pre-register. Those of you who did pre-register can drop by and pick up your registration packets or they can be picked up on Tuesday morning.

The Conference format will be the same as it was in 1977. We will begin the educational program at 8:30 a.m. and continue on until 1:00 p.m. with a brief morning break. The afternoons will be free for whatever purpose you wish to use it and will bring you back refreshed for the Wednesday morning session which will be run the same way. The general membership meeting will be held at 12:25 p.m. on Wednesday to take care of the Association business.

See you at the 32nd Northwest Turfgrass Conference — RICHLAND, WASHINGTON —

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Early Registration Closes September 15

All of the membership of the Northwest Turfgrass Association have been notified of early registration and the savings you can make as well as winning a free TV set by getting your registration in early. Those of you who are certain you will attend should send in your registration to John Monson, Treasurer of Northwest Turfgrass Association, by September 15. I am sure John will accept all early registrations that were postmarked by the 15th. Your registration packets will be ready for you to pick up at the registration desk between 3:00 and 6:00 p.m. on Monday or on Tuesday or Wednesday morning at the Conference. You can avoid standing in long lines and waiting for registration by accomplishing this task early.

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President's Corner

by Sam Angove



I have been working with the fellas at the Tri Cities on this year's conference and things look super. The ladies' programs are excellent and Cliff James has done a lot of work to insure a good time.

The golf Tournament this year is going to be a good one. It is being played at Meadow Springs. Greg Higgs has the course in super shape, but let me warn you to bring your long clubs.

As my year as president winds down, I have found the work of the board to be lacking in applause. I appreciate you as board members and the great efforts and work done by you. Being president is fun when you have such an outstanding group to work with.

I still believe that our organization can only improve if you participate. I hope each member will make an effort to contact someone in their area and get them to join for the betterment of themselves and their profession.

See you in Richland!

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New Research Projects For 1978

Your help in the support of a research associate has allowed us to establish a number of new research projects in 1978. Dr. John Roberts is not only technically capable but is also a very serious, dedicated, and hard worker. Without his input, these projects could never have been undertaken and we feel they will contribute significantly to our knowledge and your benefit to the turfgrass management program.

LYSIMETER PROJECT: John Roberts designed and installed a lysimeter plot designed specifically for turfgrasses for the study of the movement of various substances through turfgrass soil profiles, especially those established on sand or highly permeable materials. We have been able to predict nutrient removal or even pesticide removal from soils through tissue analysis that we have never been able to predict what was lost through deep percolation or leaching. Several investigations will be conducted with these lysimeters including the movement of sulfur, nitrogen, potassium, calcium, as well as pesticide movement. Extensive data from this project will be gathered between now and 1979.

OVERSEEDING METHODS FOLLOWING ENDOTHALL TREATMENT: WSU's *Poa annua* control programs supervised by Tom Cook from 1975 through 1978 have been expanded by John Roberts to include efficacy of endothall applications and establishment methods including aerification, spiking and grooving with the Rogers slicer-seeder. Plots were also planted following endothall without any mechanical treatment as a check against the tillage treatments. These tests were initiated on Highland bentgrass with over 50% *Poa annua* population before endothall application. Endothall was uniformly applied and within one week, the tillage treatments and overseeding were made. Certain plots within these treatments were also treated with bensulide to inhibit any further germination of *Poa annua*. Plots were mowed at approximately 7/32 and 5/16 inches respectively to determine the effect of mowing height on seeding establishment. Our assumptions were based on the fact that a putting green can be played with the grass as long as 5/16 inch (although slow putting) and seedlings may be killed at first mowing when mowed as close as 7/32 inch.

After seeding the plots were maintained with adequate light frequent irrigations to insure excellent surface germination and mowed on a regular basis. The endothall application was very effective in selective post-emergent control of *Poa annua* and the overseeding program was highly effective with all plots showing 100% recovery within

Cont'd from Page 5, Column 1

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Cont'd from Page 2

There will be a no host social hour at the Holiday Inn from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday and the banquet will begin promptly at 7:30 p.m.

All speakers for the Conference have been confirmed and as you will note from the program printed on page 1, a wide variety of topics will be covered. Your program committee has mixed the research reports throughout the Conference program so you will be able to take advantage of as many research reports as possible in case you must leave early. The conference was designed specifically to end at noon Thursday in order to hold the attendance throughout the last half day session. This will give everyone an opportunity to easily return home before the weekend without having to rush out on Friday morning.

Without singling out any particular program speaker, I think you will find this to be a very interesting program since all of these people are well qualified in their areas of assignment. There will be something in this program for everyone who manages any sort of turf and ornamental plantings.

Cliff James, Greg Higgs, Sam Angove, Tom Wolff and others have worked very hard to come up with some interesting activities to keep you entertained in your off hours and should be complemented for the work they have done. We think you will find this one of your most interesting and exciting conferences in several years so don't miss it and pass the word to anyone you think would profit from this conference.

32nd Annual

Northwest Turfgrass Conference

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Cont'd from Page 4, Column 1

a period of 30 days. The mature bentgrass without **Poa Annua** competition began spreading and filling rapidly and helped to support the young seedlings to give this total cover in a period described.

It is our feeling that this program is highly successful and can be adapted to practical applications with almost any population of **Poa annua**.

As a matter of speculation, any turfgrass area that contains over 75% **Poa annua** should probably be overseeded with bentgrass two or three times to increase the bentgrass population and then initiate endothall applications when the grass is strong enough to withstand treatment. Areas with 50% or less **Poa annua** can be initiated with the endothall immediately and overseeded but not with bensulide included. Follow-up applications of endothall can be applied when the seedlings have matured and bensulide applications initiated at that time. These last details have not been completely worked out but there are some good alternatives here that we feel are very viable.

We are working with the Pennwalt Corporation at this time to secure a State registration for endothall for the removal of **Poa annua** from turfgrasses selectively post-emergently at rates higher than those currently on the label. We have found in the past as well as present that the labelled rate is not effective against **Poa annua** to any successful level. As quickly as this label can be obtained, we will publish complete details with regards to rates and timing.

We should further mention that the endothall was applied twice during the summer of 1978 to 29 bentgrass varieties and cultivars with excellent **Poa annua** kill with little or no phytotoxicity to the bentgrass varieties. This leads us to believe that this program will offer a safe and reliable method of post-emergent removal of **Poa annua**.

SLOW RELEASE NITROGEN STUDIES: A rather large-scale slow release nitrogen study was initiated on putting green and lawn-type turf on the Research Station at Puyallup and Hangman Valley Golf Course at Spokane, WA. We are principally investigating rates and intervals between applications of IBDU as compared to urea formaldehyde, sulfur coated urea, urea and ammonium sulfate. All nitrogen treatments receive uniform

Cont'd on Page 6, Column 1

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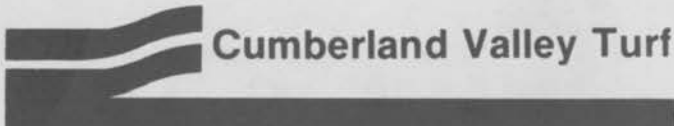
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applications of phosphorus and potassium in a predetermined ratio.

At this point it appears that IBDU is performing very satisfactorily with normal growth response at both locations. These plots will be tissue-sampled periodically to determine the uptake of nitrogen from all treatments. The experiment is designed to continue for a three-year period. There has been no phytotoxicity or burning from any of the formulations at this point.

REGIONAL VARIETY TESTS: The Western Regional Coordinating Committee on Turfgrasses which covers all of the western states as well as Hawaii and Alaska have taken on a project of uniform evaluation of bluegrasses, fescues and ryegrasses. Extensive programs will be conducted at Washington State University's Western Washington Research and Extension Center at Puyallup, Washington; Colorado State University at Fort Collins, Colorado; University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho; University of California at Riverside, possibly Washington State University and University of Idaho cooperating in the Spokane area, and possibly an additional test in Nebraska. This study would continue for 3 years minimum and uniform data assimilated from each location and combined to determine the best performing grasses at all locations and those that are superior at individual locations for local use.

Cont'd on Page 7, Column 1



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By the time you receive this edition of Turfgrass Topics the seed will probably be in the ground and is composed of approximately 5 bluegrass varieties and cultivars, 50 varieties and cultivars of fine leaved fescues, and approximately 35 turf-type ryegrasses. Since *Poa annua* is a major competitive problem in western Washington, the area to be established will be fumigated with methyl bromide and will be irrigated as needed from an automatic irrigation system.

By the time we conduct our annual Field Day in the summer of 1979, these plots should be well established and should offer some interesting comparisons to the field day attendees.

GROWTH REGULATORS: Interest has revived somewhat more recently in growth regulators; therefore, three separate tests were established in 1978 to investigate new materials coming on the market. Materials applied during the first test included Sustar, Embark, and an experimental product from Maag Agrochemicals Company. The second test was conducted with Embark, Maag Agrochemicals and a new experimental product from the 3-M Company. Embark showed the greatest growth retardation and the least amount of phytotoxicity in the first test although the Maag Agrochemicals material was not phytotoxic but at the rates tested was not as effective as Embark. In the second test the 3-M experimental material reveals some very interesting responses. There was no loss of color and in fact there was an intensification of color without any initial loss of color indicated.

The third test will include different rates of all of these materials as a late summer test. Additional information will be provided later when all data are tabulated.

VERONICA (SPEEDWELL) TESTS: For several years we have relied on Dacthal (DCPA) for the control of speedwell. In general when the material is applied at the proper rate and timing, Dacthal has performed very satisfactorily for the control of this weed. There have been some failures reported and the exact cause of failure is not specifically known. We are interested, however, in any other materials that will effectively control speedwell selectively post-emergently; hence the reason for establishing new tests. Preliminary tests with a Maag Agrochemicals herbicide indicated some good activity against speedwell and tests will be continued. The new experimental product will be tested against Dacthal and possibly one or two other compounds as a late summer test. Additional tests will be established in the spring of 1979 to round out a full year of data.

The only objectionable feature with the use of Dacthal today is the slightly higher cost per acre for the material; hence, if an emulsifiable concentrate with a much lower per acre cost is effective, it will be a useful tool to the turfgrass manager. The other objectionable feature of Dacthal is that it is available in most cases in minimum quantities of 5 lb. This practically eliminates the homeowner from making his own applications since most of them don't know what to do with 5 lb. when they generally only need a few ounces.

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