

Northwest TURFGRASS TOPICS

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PUYALLUP, WASHINGTON

April 1981



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Crane flies, crane flies, crane flies. Everywhere there are crane flies. At one time, two years ago, I had a problem with grubs. They were so thick per square foot that divots would no sooner hit the ground than they could get up and crawl back to their home without the golfer's help. Now the divot hits the ground and the crane flies eat it for lunch.

We are now in the process of treating our 165 acres for crane fly control with Proxol and Diazinon. My poor budget gets nailed again. It's like my old professor said, "Cheer up, man, it'll get worse before it gets better."

Questionnaire??? Every year at our annual membership meeting we hear members grumbling, complaining, and criticizing all phases of our conference. Why don't they do this? or how come they don't do more for the ladies? or why not go here or go there? Well, folks, you had your chance and you BLEW IT! In the January issue of *Turf Topics* we inserted a questionnaire to try and obtain feedback regarding your choices for conference sites, ladies' programs, golf tournament, types of accommodations, prices, speakers, and banquet procedures. To this date, we have received **only** 18 forms back from the several hundred mailed out. We, the board members of the N.T.A., are extremely honored to know almost the entire membership is totally in agreement with our conference procedures.

N.T.A.'s conference is to be held at Whistler Village, British Columbia, in 1983. Bob Wick, along with a little help from Arnold Palmer, is in the process of building a new 18 hole golf course at Whistler Village. A few of us met with Bob at the Canadian Turf/Grass Show the first week of March in Vancouver, B.C., to firm up the 1983 conference. Bob says he enjoys working with Arnold Palmer and they guarantee us good weather, an excellent golf course, and a good time to be had by all.

N.T.A. Conference Sites: Olympia - 1981
Yakima - 1982
Canada
(Whistler Mt., B.C.) - 1983

1981 NORTHWEST TURFGRASS CONFERENCE

This will be your second notice announcing the 1981 Northwest Turfgrass Conference. The conference headquarters will be the Tyee Motor Inn at Tumwater, Washington, right off Interstate-5, about 2 miles south of Olympia city exits. The dates for the conference are September 22, 23, and 24, with pre-registration on Monday 21, and the men's golf tournament. As in the past, the conference will run from 8:30 A.M. to 1 P.M. on all three days with the exception of Thursday when it will close at 12 noon.

Jim Chapman, chairman of the program committee, and his committee have come up with a full, well-rounded program for the educational sessions. It is a complete and varied program that will serve the needs of anyone involved in the green industry. Speakers are being confirmed at the present time and everything will be in order for a mid-summer mailing.

Pre-registration forms for the conference, ladies' program, and golf tournament will be in your hands more than one month before the conference. There will be reduced registration fees for pre-registration and we urge everyone possible to pre-register. This will save a considerable amount of time standing in registration lines since your packets will be complete and ready to hand out at the registration desk.

Put these important dates on your calendar now and plan to attend and bring along anyone who should be attending this conference. Make it your responsibility to call people who are nonmembers and obtain a membership application form and get them signed up as a member in the association. Any director of the Northwest Turfgrass Association shown on the back side of this publication has a supply of membership forms and they are generally close to you.

Olympia should prove to be an interesting conference site since it affords a wide variety of recreation and accommodation facilities. The directors urge everyone possible to register for the Tyee Motor Inn, but it is your choice to stay anywhere you wish. When pre-registration forms are mailed out, there will also be a selection of other motels complete with addresses and phone numbers for you to choose from.



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IN MEMORY OF CLIFF EVERHART



Cliff Everhart died in his home overlooking Lake Pend Oreille at Hope, Idaho, on October 24, 1979, where he had been living since he retired as golf superintendent at Manito Golf and Country Club in Spokane, Washington, in 1975. He was buried at the Hope Cemetery. News of his passing was received with sadness by all who knew Cliff personally. We are consoled by just knowing a really great fellow like Cliff. He always greeted you with a smile and good humor and you would think he was the essence of good health although he was a brittle insulin diabetic his last 42 years.

Cliff always kept himself in top physical condition which accounted for his supremacy on the golf course — few could beat him when he was in top form. While playing an occasional golf game with Cliff, John Harrison, and Norris Beardsley at the superintendents' meetings we would ask how much we were playing for and Cliff would reply, "May as well make it \$1,000 per hole - for nobody pays up anyhow."

Cliff was always regarded as one of the top golf course superintendents in the Northwest and kept Manito Golf and Country Club in Spokane in top condition at all times. This was evidenced by the fact that he was their superintendent for 28 years until he retired in 1975. He was respected and admired by the membership who honored him with a "Good Ol' Cliff Day" after 25 years, complete with a golf tournament, banquet, gold watch, and a scrap book for Lucille, his wife, filled with twenty-five 1, 5, 10, 20, etc. dollar bills (never knew how big the etc. bills were, but hope they were 100's).

Cliff always took an active role in his professional associations - the Inland Empire Association of Golf Course Superintendents, the Northwest Turfgrass Association, U.S. Golf Association Green Section, and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. He served both the Inland Empire Association and the Northwest Turfgrass Association as director and president and rarely, if ever, missed a meeting. In addition, Cliff served on the United States Golf Association Green Section Committee from 1959 through 1975 and was so honored. He was president of the Northwest Turfgrass Association in 1974-75 having previously

served as a director and was awarded his quarter century club lapel pin from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America posthumously in 1981.

Cliff was born November 27, 1914, in Marcus, Iowa, and married Lucille on June 10, 1936, in Omaha, Nebraska. They moved to Spokane in 1936 where they stayed happily married for 44 years. For all of us who know Lucille, this is not difficult to understand. She has always been a beautiful lady, cheerful and outgoing and an ardent supporter of 'good ol' Cliff.' Cliff named his golf car "Good Ol' Cliff," his boat "Double Bogey," and his wife "Charlie Brown." Both Cliff and Lucille were active square dancers in the Spokane area and Cliff is pictured in their square dance dress.

Cliff was the prime mover in enlisting support of the Inland Empire Golf Professionals who played regularly in the Chronicle Pro-Am to contribute funds for turfgrass research. This program is still most successful and a fine tribute to a fine friend.

We could go on and on with Cliff's contributions to the turfgrass industry, but the *Turfgrass Topics* wouldn't be enough.

Our deepest sympathy to you, Lucille, and we know you will take strength in the memories of a great guy, "Good Ol' Cliff."

NORTHWEST TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Northwest Turfgrass Association established a Research and Scholarship Fund in 1973 to provide more funds for Washington State University and other Northwest agricultural schools with turfgrass research and education programs. The program has met with moderate to good success through contributions, mostly from golf clubs, but from other allied turfgrass industries such as the equipment and fertilizer industry, sod producers, professional golf associations, and private individuals. This type of program requires continued efforts on the parts of every member of the Association to continue generating funds to materially aid in better and more research and to encourage young people to enter the turfgrass management profession.

An interesting article was written in the Newsletter of the Florida West Coast Golf Course Superintendents Association and contains some good information on their views for the need to support research and educational programs, as follows:

Lewis C. Powell Jr., President of the North Florida Golf Course Superintendents Chapter reports, "It was my opportunity at the recent Florida Turfgrass Association Conference in Gainesville, to present a check for \$500 to the Scholarship and Research Fund of that association. The presentation was made in the name of the North Florida Golf Superintendents Chapter. Our contribution, along with that of other chapters, clubs, businesses, and the proceeds from the S & R Golf Tournament, totalled in the thousands of dollars.

(continued on page 3, column 1)

SCHOLARSHIP AND RESEARCH FUND

(continued from page 2, column 2)

"Frequently over the past years the question of what we can do about EPA's systematic process of removing our much-needed chemicals from the market arises. Questions about how to afford fertilizing when the cost is so high, what we can do about the energy shortage and so on, have and will continue to be discussed.

"It appears to me that directing funds to scholarship and research holds the answer for us. With proper funding these people can find answers for us. Some of the problems that need to be addressed are: better mole-cricket control, better grasses that need less fertilizer and less mowing, and better understanding of diseases and insect problems.

"Many opportunities exist for channeling funds in this direction. At the recent conference one club contributed \$450 by assessing itself one cent for each round of golf played in the last year. This, in itself, will not go far, but it is an example for the rest of us. If 600 clubs did this, it would amount to \$270,000. Now that would really do something!

"It is time for us to quit waiting for someone to solve our problems for us. We have the mechanism for getting our problems solved if we can channel some much needed funds in that direction. Certainly discovery of better mole-cricket control could save each of us thousands of dollars very quickly. The money for this research must come from those of us who stand to benefit directly from the discoveries.

"Much discussion is needed on what should be a club's fair share, but I think we should start at the \$500 per year range for an 18-hole course. That is not much money when you really think about what is at stake. In the long run it could make the difference between us continuing to be capable of providing golf quality turf or playing on cow pastures.

"I challenge each of you to give this some thought and discuss with your management. If we can all come together on this we can control our destiny and we will not have to sit idly by and watch all the tools we have to do our jobs with taken away from us with nothing to replace them."

You can substitute any pest problem in the Pacific Northwest for those described in Florida and come out with the same answer. It takes money to conduct research programs, and it takes personnel. Contributions to these research funds are very significant in face of the continually reduced appropriations by legislature for University research and educational programs.

We, too, feel that it is the responsibility of everyone in the turfgrass industry including schools, parks, cemeteries, agribusinesses, as well as individuals to help in these programs if we are to make the progress that you require.

Come to our Turfgrass Field Day at the Western Washington Research and Extension Center at Puyallup, Washington, on June 23, at 10 A.M. and a General Public Field Day on Thursday, June 25, beginning at 10 A.M. You may choose the one that is most appropriate for your needs. You will see some of the programs mentioned in this newsletter article already in progress.

TURFGRASS FIELD DAY

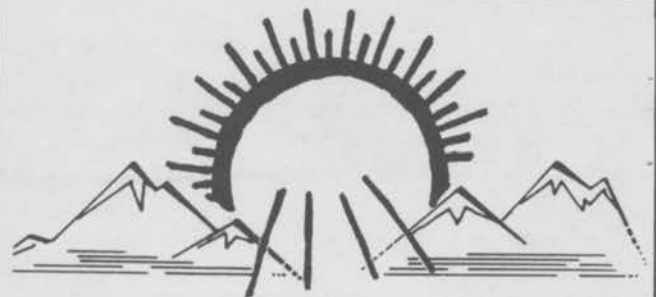
The annual Turfgrass Field Days will be held at Farm 5 of the Western Washington Research and Extension Center at Puyallup, Washington, for golf course superintendents on Tuesday, June 23, beginning at 10 A.M. All other categories of turfgrass managers will be invited to attend the Thursday Field Day, June 25. Only specific subjects relating to golf course turf will be discussed on Tuesday, June 23, while the entire spectrum of turfgrass management problems and research will be shown and discussed on Thursday, June 25. Mark these dates on your calendar and plan to go directly to Farm 5 where all Field Days will begin at 10 A.M. for a period of approximately 3 hours each.

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SEVERE DAMAGE FROM EUROPEAN CRANE FLY

Apparently due to an excessively mild winter in western Washington, the larvae of the crane fly, *Tipula paludosa*, have been voraciously feeding all winter. Severe turfgrass damage was reported to the Research Station as early as January, 1981. Usually the larvae of this insect should be very small at that time and producing no symptoms due to the small amount of grass they are consuming. In January they were up to 3/4 inch long and feeding heavily, causing serious injury to bentgrass lawns and perhaps others of which we have no record.

The range of the European Crane Fly has extended southward and is now considerably advanced southward of the Kitsap Peninsula with reports coming in as far south as Belfair. Areas in Seattle, Redmond, and Bothell have been hit quite hard. Populations of larvae have been reported up to 150 per sq. ft. where lawn grasses have been almost annihilated.

Entomologists have estimated that populations up to possibly 50 per sq. ft. can be tolerated by the turfgrasses if they have any regrowth potential whatsoever. If, however, the plants are semidormant or in very poor nutritional vigor, even this number could cause serious damage.

The recommended control for the European Crane Fly is diazinon 25% EC (emulsifiable concentrate) at the rate of 8 fl. oz. in 30 gallons of water per 1000 sq. ft. Normally the treatment should be applied between April 1 and April 15; however, this year it would have been best to apply the treatment by January 15.

The European Crane Fly larvae vary from year to year and it is always recommended that no treatment be made for the control of these larvae unless damage is being observed or if high populations are present, generally around April 1. It does no good whatsoever to make any application to the adults in the autumn during the egg-laying period - the larvae are what we are after.

There may be other materials available and registered for the control of European Crane Fly larvae, so follow the manufacturer's recommendation.



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TURF FIELD DAY
JUNE 23 and 25
Farm 5 - Puyallup

INTERNATIONAL PESTICIDE APPLICATORS ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

The next conference for the International Pesticide Applicators Association will be held at Valley River Inn, Eugene, Oregon, from September 30 through October 2, 1981. Dr. Edward Smuckler, University of California School of Medicine, will address the health hazards of pesticides and current survey systems to detect hazard and prevent disease. This is only a part of the program, and there will be many other good items on the agenda which are most pertinent to any of us handling pesticides.

Anyone interested in learning more about the conference and the remainder of the program can contact the International Pesticide Applicators, Inc., P.O. Box 157, Northgate Station, Seattle, WA 98125.





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SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT PHENOXY HERBICIDES

(Credit for Article: *Agrichemical Age*
January 1981, by Dick Beeler)

If you want to know what effects a chemical has on humans, doesn't it make sense to study a large group of people who have had close contact with that chemical for a long time?

That's exactly what has now been done to answer questions about the effects of 2,4,5-T and 2,4-D on human reproduction. Thanks to the cooperation of members of the National Agricultural Aviation Association, and members of their families, and to some fully-recognized scientists who conducted the study, we know at last that heavy, long-term exposure to either or both of these phenoxyes has no effect on the incidence of abortion or birth defects. All of the details of this complete, professional study are now available. They actually show a slight improvement on both scores - live births and normal babies - among the persons with long-term high exposure to phenoxy herbicides.

This exhaustive, scientific study stands in sharp contrast to the idiotic "investigations" at Alsea, Oregon, on which EPA based its 2,4,5-T action.

This new study has messages for all of us, the most important being: Rescind the ban on 2,4,5-T, fire anybody who had anything to do with the promotion of the Alsea fiction,

especially those in EPA, and base future regulatory actions only on fact and science.

It may even have some good advice for the unfortunate ladies of Alsea: If you really want to reproduce, quit smoking that stuff and marry a good healthy ag pilot.

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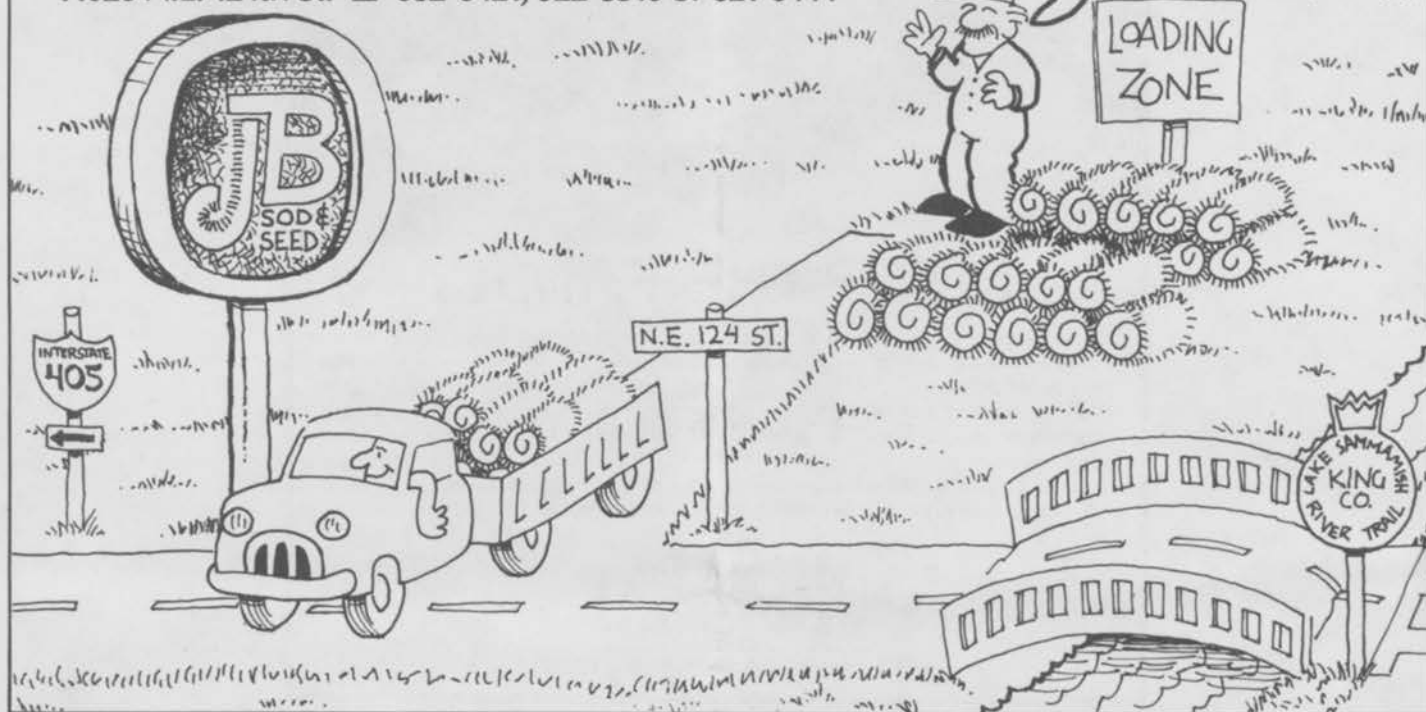
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NORTHWEST TURFGRASS CONFERENCE SURVEY

All persons receiving the December issue of *Northwest Turfgrass Topics* found a questionnaire relating to most matters of the Turfgrass Conference. You were asked to fill out the questionnaire and return the results for tabulation. Based upon approximately 280 members of the Northwest Turfgrass Association, 6 percent of all mailings were completed and returned. In other words, 18 members out of 280 returned their forms. This response is well below the normally expected return from a questionnaire, but nonetheless, there is an expression of interest.

There were five areas for response and these will be presented as follows:

1. Conference Site. The question was whether the membership wished to continue holding a number of the conferences at resort areas such as Port Ludlow, Sunriver, Salishan, Alderbrook, etc. Eighty-four percent of the returned questionnaires indicated their preference to continue in the present form of changing around and going to any site including the resort areas. Only 16 percent indicated they did not prefer the resort sites. The objections were based upon higher costs at the resort sites, but this did not deter 84 percent.
2. Conference Banquet. There was some expression by members while attending the conference that the banquets were all the same and highly overpriced for a less than desirable quality meal carrying a high price tag. The expression of the membership regarding this question was 66 percent in favor of the continuation of the banquet and 33 percent did not wish to continue the banquet. It has been the feeling of the board of directors and much of the membership that the banquet should be an important feature of the turfgrass conference. It is the only time that special recognition, special awards, recognition of officers and directors, and other features can be brought before a great number of conference attendees and their families. Your expression indicates that the banquet will continue.

3. Ladies' Program. This was the only portion of the questionnaire that received 100 percent approval. Although there is a little grumbling from time to time with respect to the ladies' program, 100 percent of the responses indicated that the ladies' program was adequate at all conference sites.
4. Golf Tournament. There was more dissatisfaction with the golf tournament than with any other aspect of the conference. Thirty-nine percent of the responses indicated that the golf tournament needed some major revisions while 61 percent thought it was okay the way it is being handled. I am sure the tournament committee will take these suggestions to heart and will strive to improve in this area.
5. Of the 18 responses received, only 4 (or 22 percent) travelled without expenses to the conferences while 78 percent travelled to the conference at the employer's expense, either totally or mostly reimbursed. We were very pleased with the response about the quality of the conference program and the contents that are of interest to the attendance. We shall continue to strive to maintain high quality in our educational programs because, after all, this is what it is all about.

Again, we wish to thank those of you who took the time to fill out the questionnaire and return it to us for tabulation, and we assume that all the members who did not respond feel that everything is being run smoothly by the directors at present and will abide by the decision of your elected board of directors.



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BE PREPARED FOR SUMMER

The summer of 1980 was quite mild with lower temperatures and higher rainfall than is normally experienced in the Pacific Northwest as a rule. In order to be properly prepared to avoid major summer problems, we must consider the average years rather than the exception like 1980. Normally the summers in the Pacific Northwest are quite dry and with variable ranges of temperatures up to very hot. There are four major areas that have plagued turf managers of all sorts over the years that should be considered now and plan ahead for them. These will be briefly summarized as follows:

1. Localized dry spot. We can predict that all areas constructed from sands such as golf putting greens and sand-built athletic fields will develop some localized dry spots. It is foolish to overwater large areas simply to try to wet a few localized dry spots without the aid of surfactants. Historically, we know where most of these spots usually occur each year and you should begin your program of wetting agent application before the dry spots turn brown. We can be fairly sure of our predictions that these applications should be commenced by May 1, and continue as needed throughout the summer. If we can start the turf off in the beginning of the dry season with field capacity moisture, that is, maintaining good infiltration rates of water in all areas, you can get by with significantly less water and fewer management headaches. There are a number of good surfactants available from local distributors that will produce positive results.

If you wait until the serious problems have occurred, wetting, even with surfactants, is a more tedious job than if you treat these spots before the major problem occurs.

2. Avoid overwatering. It is much simpler to add water as a routine practice than it is to carefully examine the soil moisture reservoir. We tend to rationalize that at least with a little overirrigation we don't have brown turf. However, with a slight amount of underirrigation we will lose certain areas of turfgrasses where soil problems occur which may include slopes, shallow soils, hardpans, etc. It is totally unwise to try to keep every square foot of grass green on large turfgrass areas such as golf courses due to extreme variability in soil conditions. We should pay particular attention to the amount of water applied to high traffic areas and strive to keep them on the low side of application rather than excessive. Excessive water will cause soil structural decomposition and mud holes will develop where the heaviest traffic occurs. Overwatering will tend to encourage annual bluegrass and a number of other weeds to say nothing of the leaching of expensive plant nutrients, formation of algal scums and a number of other problems.

3. Anthracnose. We have no positive data to assess the degree of pathogenicity for this disease in the Northwest, but we can definitely say that we have a significant amount of it in our turfgrass areas. This plant disease has been most specific for annual bluegrass while most of the time bentgrasses, bluegrasses, fescues, and ryegrasses have been pretty well unaffected. It may be that if all

Nutrient deficiencies, weeds, diseases, thin turf, insects.

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factors of management which includes elimination of severe stress factors and/or the judicious use of fertilizers may help to significantly reduce the damage caused from this fungus disease. You may wish to consider carefully checking the surface pH around May 1, and if it is below 5.3 or 5.4, light applications of agricultural lime at the rate of 25 to 30 lb. per 1000 sq. ft. may help to raise this surface pH and may have some effect on anthracnose. One trustworthy individual indicated that they had used hydrated lime at the rate of 5 to 7 lb. per 1000 sq. ft. and significantly reduced anthracnose symptoms. If you should use hydrated lime, be sure not to exceed these rates per application since you can lose all of your turf through overapplication of hydrated lime. It will severely burn. Several applications of 5 lb. per 1000 sq. ft. can be safely used if you space them 10 days to two weeks apart. The systemic fungicides such as Tersan 1991 or 3336 and possible others have relieved the symptoms for anthracnose. If yours was a situation of high anthracnose damage in 1980 it may pay you to apply these fungicides at three-week intervals at least beginning in June to avoid severe damage.

4. Fertilization program. Avoid overapplications of nitrogen and phosphorus and keep potassium levels adequately high. The greatest demand for potassium in this area occurs during the period of most rapid growth which is generally May through July. Make sure that you have adequate levels of K during this period. Light applications of nitrogen are more beneficial than heavier applications, particularly of soluble sources. Our goal should be for minimum nitrogen applications to main-

tain the conditions we require. Our goal should not be for the deepest green color and the most lush turf, but to maintain density and reasonable growth rate of the area depending upon the amount of traffic. The reduction in the use of nitrogen during the summer months will result in reduced turfgrass stress to heat conditions and may help to relieve certain disease problems as well.

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Communications concerning content of this paper should be directed to Dr. Roy Goss, Editor, Western Washington Research and Extension Center, Puyallup, Washington 98371.

NORTHWEST TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

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NOTHING

I am using this time while I have nothing to do to let you know that I have nothing to say.

People tend to look at the word nothing and belittle its importance; however, it can mean life or death, success or failure, joy or sadness. Mountain climbers have died when they stepped on it.

Parachutists are upset when they pull the ripcord and it comes out. Farmers have lost their farms when they grew it. Ballplayers and coaches have lost their jobs when they score it. Women have been whistled at when they wore it as a girdle or bra, and many women make a good living when they dance in it. It is also a reason for joy when it represents the sum total of your debts.

It is what you earn when you do it. I have saved it over the years and now have it in my bank account. It is what you generally learn from a politician making a speech. It is often discussed at meetings and arguments and fights start over the subject. I often find it in my mailbox and only last night received it from the milk machine. I could go on, but it would mean nothing. I just want you to be aware as you go through life that when you get some time to relax you should think about this subject.

Don't try to thank me. It's nothing.