



## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

by Dick Malpass

Not long ago, we visited an Oregon golf course where we had the opportunity to play golf for two days. It is a fine course and the golf course superintendent has done much to improve the golf course by overseeding with improved varieties of turfgrasses and controlling turf disease outbreaks with timely chemical applications.

During the course of our visit we met and talked with the manager. He questioned the value of maintaining membership in the Northwest Turfgrass Association, doubting that they received much benefit from such membership. We spent the next half hour telling him of the many research projects promoted and sponsored by the Association; of improved turfgrasses evaluated for use on athletic fields, golf courses, parks, and for home lawns; of turf diseases identified and control measures tested and recommended; of drainage and construction methods evaluated for Northwest application on athletic fields and golf courses. We told of the facilities with which we have cooperated in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. The Annual Turf Field Day, at Puyallup, for turf managers to observe fertilizer and chemical applications and various combinations of grass mixes, was explained. We invited his participation in our annual three-day Turf Conference held at varying locations in the Northwest.

At the conclusion of our visit, he indicated his intention of maintaining his course membership in the Association, for which we thanked him.

This year, 1982, we changed the format of our annual Conference. The first day subjects considered turf problems and maintenance which were of general interest to all turf managers. The next two days we had split sessions with parks and athletic field managers in one session and golf course superintendents involved in the other. We expect to continue with, and improve, this type of format. We feel we have much to offer all who are responsible for the maintenance of turf facilities.

We encourage membership in our association, and particularly need contributions to our turf research program so that all who use our parks, athletic fields, and golf courses (as well as home lawns) might continue to benefit from our work.

## **RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS — 1982**

The Northwest Turfgrass Association extends a warm thank you to 52 individuals and organizations who contributed nondesignated funds to the Special Research Program during 1981-1982. All gifts, grants, donations, and contributions to the Northwest Turfgrass Association are tax deductible. The following list of beneficiaries of the turfgrass research programs represents only a small fraction of those who benefit from research programs. Many individuals and firms are probably not even aware of this program and would contribute if they were made aware of the value of the program. When you really stop to think that a \$200 contribution amounts to a little more than a couple of cups of coffee a day, it seems very small indeed when compared to research accomplishments.

The Northwest Turfgrass Association membership dues and contributions are stretched thin over a wide project area. Your participation is helping to support research and scholarship programs at Oregon State University and Washington State University, who have active programs in all essential areas that benefit the turfgrass industry.

Look around you and let this worthwhile cause be known at every opportunity. Your contributions are an important key to the future of turfgrass progress.

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(Continued P. 3, Col. 1)

# WELCOME NEW NTA DIRECTORS



Gary Sayre

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH FOR GARY SAYRE

Gary Sayre is a native of the Pacific Northwest. He was born in Caldwell, Idaho, and raised in Portland, Oregon. He has been a resident of Steilacoom, Washington, for two and one-half years, where he resides with his wife Pam and two sons, Paul and Mark.

Gary has been associated with turfgrass management since 1972 and has been the golf course superintendent at Oakbrook Golf and Country Club, in Tacoma, Washington, since April, 1978.

Gary is an avid (10 Hdec.) golfer who greatly enjoys the game and wants to help in continuing to come up with new and better ways of providing top quality turf on which to play golf. He is looking forward to serving on the Board of Directors of the Northwest Turfgrass Association for the next three years.



Mike Nauroth

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF MIKE NAUROTH

Mike was born and reared in the Seattle area (Bothell). He attended Washington State University from 1971 through 1975 and graduated in Agronomy (Turf Management Program). In 1978, he began work for the City of Walla Walla as Superintendent of Veterans Memorial Golf Course. Mike assumed additional responsibilities in 1982, as supervisor of cemetery and building maintenance as well as the golf course superintendent's position due to budget cuts and layoffs.

Mike served as vice president of the Inland Empire Golf Course Superintendents' Association in 1981, and succeeded to President in 1982. Mike is also a Class A member of the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America. He and his wife Marleen have two children, Michael, age 4, and Katie, age 2. His hobbies are lake fishing, motorcycle riding, golf, and keeping a 1959 Volkswagen alive.

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**THANK YOU!**

## 1983 NORTHWEST TURFGRASS CONFERENCE

The board of directors announced at an early November meeting that the site of the 1983 Turfgrass Conference would be at Kah-Nee-Ta. Kah-Nee-Ta is a warm springs Indian resort in the high desert area of north central Oregon, in the general vicinity of Bend and Redmond, Oregon. The facilities for a conference are beautiful and isolated, but with many attractions for people coming to educational meetings in a relaxed atmosphere. There are many recreational opportunities including golfing, trail rides, river rafting, swimming, tennis, and other accommodations.

The program committee is hard at work at the present time developing a program that will be interesting and exciting for all areas of turfgrass management. A special evening program is already being planned for a Tuesday evening session, and it will provide valuable information to anyone in turfgrass management.

As the program develops, more information will be made available and pre-registration information will be mailed out by midsummer of 1983. We promise you a very interesting and enlightening program. Contact all of your friends, or anyone in the turfgrass management business, and encourage them to attend the Northwest's most educational conference.

The tentative dates for the conference have been established for September 20-23, 1983.

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## DR. DAVID ALLMENDINGER PASSES AWAY

Dr. David Allmendinger, former superintendent of the Western Washington Research and Extension Center from 1954 through 1975, passed away on November 7, 1982, after a long and serious illness.

Dave was always a strong supporter of turfgrass research programs and was previously awarded a lifetime honorary membership in the Northwest Turfgrass Association. Dr. Allmendinger was instrumental in setting up the first full-time turfgrass research program at the Puyallup Station in 1958, in cooperation with the Northwest Turfgrass Association.

Dr. Allmendinger was a horticulturist by profession, working intensively in the tree fruit industry as well as the berry industry. He served in a number of capacities with the university administration until his retirement.

## NTA CONFERENCE SUMMARY

The 36th Northwest Turfgrass Conference was considered a great success at Yakima. The format for the conference was highly accepted by all who attended, and especially non-golf course people who participated in the grounds management special sessions. The quality of papers presented by all speakers was excellent and all sessions were well attended.

Regardless of the feelings of some coaches that they do not like sprinkler heads within a football field, Carl Kuhn, Professional Engineer, emphatically stated that it was virtually impossible to adequately irrigate a football field without some heads within the playing area. A local Northwest professional football coach has been quoted as saying, "There would never be any sprinkler heads within his playing field." Perhaps coaches should stay with coaching and winning and agronomists and engineers provide them with acceptable managed surfaces.

Don Hogan, P.E., stressed the importance and various designs for proper drainage on sports field complexes. He stressed the importance of properly placed drains and enforcing the specifications for accurate installation. Other speakers keyed in on proper management, budgeting, and scheduling the use of sports fields to prolong the life of natural grass surfaces.

In general, it appears that the major problems on properly constructed, irrigated, and drained sand sports fields is neglecting the ABC's of organic debris removal, balanced nutrition, and overseeding concepts.

The general sessions had a number of excellent papers presented by persons like Dr. Jim Watson; Don Tolson, Yellowstone Golf and Country Club; Lee Bean, Irrigation Engineer; and others alluding to economical use of water, proper application, and water quality.

A special session with golf architects stressing designing golf courses for economical maintenance was well attended and discussed at a special evening session. Architects serving on the panel were Ron Fream, Bob Graves, John Steidel, Bill Robinson, and Dave Powers. All had excellent ideas on design that affects the playability and economical measures; and, Bill Robinson presented his views on contour mowing to reduce the amount of intensively managed acreage.

Overall, the conference was a huge success, better attended than 1981, and the absentees were the definite losers.

## TUCO SCHOLARSHIP TO RUSSEL VANDEHEY

Russell Vandehey, Senior in Turf Management at Oregon State University, has received a \$500 Tuco Turf Scholarship.

The annual scholarship, sponsored by Tuco, a part of the Upjohn Company, was presented at the recent Northwest Turfgrass Conference in Yakima by Randy King, a Tuco representative. The Tuco scholarship is awarded for scholastic ability, personal integrity, and career interest in turfgrass management.

Vandehey is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Vandehey, 425 East Cedar Street, Stayton, Oregon. In the picture above, Russell received the award from Randy King.



Russell Vandehey, Oregon State University senior (left), receives a \$500 TUCO Turf Scholarship from Randy King, TUCO representative, at a Yakima, WA, meeting of the 36th Northwest Turfgrass Conference.

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## RESEARCH ASSOCIATE POSITION TO BE FILLED

Plans for refilling the Turfgrass Research Associate position at Puyallup are currently underway. Drs. Stan Brauen and Roy Goss interviewed candidates at the recent American Society of Agronomy meetings at Anaheim, California, and Dr. Brauen will continue to receive applications until the closure date. We are seeking a candidate with either a Masters or Ph.D. degree in Agronomy with special emphasis on turfgrass science and a maximum of plant pathology in his background. It is hoped that the position can be filled by February or March of 1983 in order to have the individual established in this position before the major growing season begins.

The Research Associate position is supported through grants and contributions from all allied industries, and none comes from state appropriated funds. The University, however, does provide many functions of space, equipment, etc., to support the individual's position.

Previous research associates include Mr. Tom Cook, who was the first, Dr. John Roberts, and Dr. John T. Law. All of the former research associates have moved on to fulltime positions of their own. Tom Cook is presently at Oregon State University in a teaching and research position; John Roberts at the University of New Hampshire, teaching, research, and extension in turfgrass management; and Dr. John Law is currently with the Chemlawn Corporation.

We have a number of exciting projects that require intensive supervision and management and we are looking forward to filling the position as quickly as possible. All inquiries and applications should be sent to the attention of Dr. S.E. Brauen, Western Washington Research and Extension Center, Puyallup, WA 98371.



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# WINTER PLAY ON TURFGRASS FACILITIES

By Roy L. Goss

I will not attempt to predict what the remainder of the winter of 1982-83 will be like, but we have seen enough already in November of 1982 to convince us that winter is really here. A number of days with temperatures ranging between 20 and 30° F have essentially stopped the growth of nearly all turfgrasses. Excessive wear on golf courses and sports fields from now on through the winter will result in significant losses of turfgrasses and will cost a great deal of money to repair this damage in the spring and summer of 1983, to say nothing of inferior playing conditions.

Turfgrasses have little or no regrowth potential during the winter and the leaf, crown, and root damage sustained by intensive wear can be devastating. Some suggestions for having beautiful turf in the spring of 1983 may be listed as follows:

1. Do not play on heavily frosted or frozen turf.
2. Remove light frost with an application of irrigation water if it is available.
3. Mow putting greens a little higher during the winter. A little more leaf area equates to more photosynthesis when conditions are favorable for growth.
4. Improve surface drainage through aerification to keep surfaces free of saturation.
5. Do not allow play on frozen soil.
6. Prohibit play when the surface is thawed and the root zone is frozen.
7. Apply  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb of available nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. from a balanced fertilizer formula in December or January if the ground is not frozen. This practice should have been performed east of the Cascade Mountains by mid to late November.
8. When soil is frozen without snow cover, apply small amounts of water to turfgrass surfaces to prevent desiccation. Roots encased in solid frozen ground cannot extract water and move it to the leaves.
9. If necessary, use coverings of various sorts to prevent desiccation.

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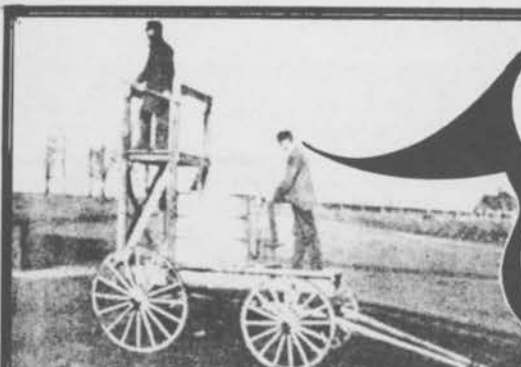
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## NITROGEN — WHAT SOURCE?

Eeeny, meenie, miney, moe, which source of nitrogen makes my turfgrass green and glow? Shall I use ammonium nitrate, ammonium sulfate, urea, urea formaldehyde, methylene ureas, IBDU, or sulfur-coated urea? These are the questions that arise very frequently and I believe it is about time we address the issue with some solid facts. Basically, the answer is it may not make that much difference what you use, so you pay your money and take your chances. It isn't really all that simple, but nearly so.

### Known Facts

Turfgrasses take up nitrogen principally in the nitrate form but can readily use various amounts of the ammonium ion form. All nitrogen-supplying materials, whether organic or inorganic in form, must be broken down and converted to  $\text{NO}_3^-$  or  $\text{NH}_4^+$ . Organic sources of nitrogen generally cost more per pound than any other source. Slow release or slowly soluble nitrogen sources vary in price but are expensive. Urea is the cheapest source of nitrogen and is a synthetic organic. Ammonium nitrate and ammonium sulfate are both soluble sources and a little more expensive than urea but significantly less than all other sources. All forms of nitrogen will leach from the soil with excessive water application after they have been converted to the ammonium ion or nitrate form of nitrogen. Soluble sources of nitrogen are more apt to burn grasses than slowly available sources. Slowly available or slowly soluble sources of nitrogen release the nitrogen over a longer period of time and are less liable to leach from the root zone. It is also a known fact that urea sources stimulate more Fusarium Patch disease and possibly others through ammonium sulfate. Sulfur may be the difference.

### Other Factors to Consider

If you intend to fertilize your grass only once a year, perhaps a slowly available or slowly soluble source of nitrogen would be your best choice. If you intend to supply nitrogen to achieve average or better quality turf, you may have to apply soluble sources two times as compared to one from more slowly available sources. The difference, however, is that solubles should be applied at only about one-half the rate as slowly available; hence, total N is roughly the same. The difference is in the labor of application. Large capacity high speed equipment reduces this labor factor to a very insignificant level.

Soluble sources of nitrogen often provide the turfgrass manager with the choice of stimulating his turf to grow when he wants it with not a large residual supply when it is not desired. Excessive applications of soluble nitrogen will cause spurts of growth whereas slow release materials usually maintain a more uniform and steady rate of growth.

These are some of the facts to consider when purchasing a fertilizer from a distributor. The important consideration is to figure what you are paying per ton of the material. Nitrogen is the most expensive portion of a fertilizer formula and you can usually base the value of the product on the percentage of nitrogen. An important consideration, however, is the ratio of nutrients. Personally, I would select one that has a higher potassium-lower phosphate ratio unless I were interested in making up a phosphate deficiency.

It has recently been pointed out by a major fertilizer supplier that skin games are being played. The bag may say in large letters, Contains Urea Formaldehyde, IBDU, or Sulfur-Coated Urea. Frequently this turns out to be misleading since the percentage of these slow release materials may be quite low. Carefully analyze the formula to determine

the percentage composition of these more expensive ingredients. Frequently the major portion of the formula may be made up of soluble sources of nitrogen, but you are paying the more expensive price for slowly available materials.

The following table is a summary of results from several years of investigation with sulfur-coated urea, IBDU, urea formaldehyde, ammonium sulfate and urea.

In summary, there are only minor differences in quality of turfgrasses between sulfur-coated urea, IBDU, and urea formaldehyde. Ammonium sulfate maintained essentially equal quality with lighter but more frequent applications of nitrogen. Among the slow release materials, sulfur-coated urea does provide additional sulfur which is most essential for turfgrasses. Formulas containing IBDU or urea formaldehyde as the major source of N can have sulfur incorporated with them to supply this necessary ingredient.

Eeeny, meenie, miney, moe, any source of nitrogen makes your turfgrasses green and glow. You don't have to be a financial wizard to figure this out nor a scientist. Simply calculate what your active ingredients are costing you to buy and apply. Then consider the best use of your or your employer's dollar. Above all, know the honesty, integrity, and knowledge of your fertilizer supplier. And, last but not least, if you do not apply adequate amounts of any form of nitrogen or if you have other fertility imbalances, then your grass will not be green and glow.

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## TURFGRASS DISEASE CONTROL FUNDING

Dr. Gary Chastagner, Plant Pathologist at the Western Washington Research and Extension Center at Puyallup, and others have determined that a graduate student would be the best means of solving the serious turfgrass disease problem in the Pacific Northwest. The disease symptoms are those of *Ophiobolus* patch disease caused by the fungus, *Gaeumannomyces graminis*.

So far, the disease problem is eluding positive identification since no fruiting structures have yet been found. Other symptoms of *Ophiobolus* patch or take-all disease have been observed and positive identification will have to wait until fruiting structures are found. After the disease has been positively identified, a great amount of work will still have to be accomplished to determine the causes of the disease, control, management factors affecting its occurrence, and varietal susceptibility.

It is generally agreed that a graduate student could probably accomplish much of the above program in three years on a one-half time research assistantship. The cost of this program will be approximately \$10-\$11,000 per year and will have to come essentially from outside sources.

The Inland Empire Association of Golf Course Superintendents has contributed \$1,500 from their funds to aid in operations in 1983. Milt Bauman, Chairman of the Northwest Turfgrass Association Research Committee, recommended to the Board of Directors that \$3,000 be appropriated from the Association treasury and applied to this specific project. He is also encouraging the Board to continue this support for a 3-year period.

This is less than one-half of the required total and we are desperately in need of other donors from the seed industry, processors, and variety owners to aid in support of the project.

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The problem we are investigating may be a serious one across the entire northern U.S., and not peculiar just to the Pacific Northwest.

All who read this article, please bear in mind that any gifts, donations, or grants to the Northwest Turfgrass Association are tax-free contributions because of the IRS status of the Northwest Turfgrass Association. If you are giving your money away to the IRS at the present time, strongly consider putting this money into the Turfgrass Association and you will derive some direct benefits for yourself presently and for others in the future.

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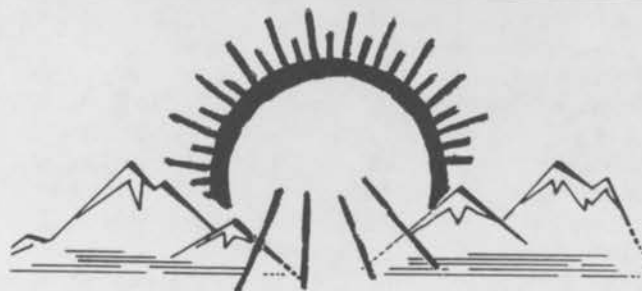
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