

Northwest TURFGRASS TOPICS

Vol. 25, No. 2

PUYALLUP, WASHINGTON

September 1982

PROGRAM

36TH NORTHWEST TURFGRASS CONFERENCE

September 20-23, 1982

Towne Plaza Motel, Yakima, Washington

CONFERENCE THEME: WATER — How to Use It Effectively

MONDAY, September 20, 1982

Morning Arrive Yakima - Golf Tournament
3:00-6:00 Registration Desk Open

TUESDAY, September 21, 1982

7:00-8:00 Registration Desk Open at entrance
to Conference Room

MORNING SESSION CHAIRMAN, Norm Whitworth, President

8:00-8:15 President's Welcome, Conference
Review, Norm Whitworth
8:15-8:30 Official Welcome, The Honorable
Lynn A. Carmichael, Mayor Yakima
8:30-9:10 *An overview on water*, Dr. James
Watson, The Toro Company, Minne-
apolis, MN.
9:10-9:45 *Wetting agents - what makes them
work*, Dr. Kathy Welch, Mallinckrodt
Chemical Company, Oakland, CA.
9:45-10:20 *Economical use of water*, E. Lee Bean,
Irrigation Engineer, Boise, ID.
10:20-10:40 Coffee break

SECOND SESSION CHAIRMAN, Ben Malikowski

10:40-11:10 ~~New products and services~~
11:10-11:45 *Water source problems*, Don Tolson,
Yellowstone Golf and Country Club,
Billings, MT.
11:45-12:30 *A positive attitude*, Gerry Sweda, O.M.
Scott & Sons, Marysville, OH.
12:30-7:30 Free time

EVENING SESSION, Roy Goss, Moderator

7:30-9:30 *New trends in golf course design*, a
panel of golf course architects, in-
cluding Ron Fream, William G.
Robinson, Bob Graves, and John
Steidel.

WEDNESDAY, September 22, 1982

SPLIT SESSION A — Golf Course Superintendents

FIRST SESSION CHAIRMAN, Ray McElhoe

8:00-9:00 *What's involved in golf course man-
agement*, Rick Manning, General
Manager, Sahalee Golf and Country
Club, Redmond, WA; and Richard
Malpass, Certified Golf Superintend-
ent, Riverside Golf and Country Club,
Portland, OR.

9:00-9:50 *How golf course architects and super-
intendents work together for efficient
design*, John Steidel, GCA, Kenne-
wick, WA, and Dick Schmidt, Golf
Course Superintendent, Port Ludlow
Golf Course, Port Ludlow, WA.

9:50-10:10 Coffee break

SECOND SESSION CHAIRMAN, Milt Bauman

10:10-10:30 Research Reports
10:30-11:00 *Irrigation strategies for the golf
course*, Tim Ansett, U.S. Golf Associ-
ation Green Section, Vancouver, WA.
11:00-11:20 Research Reports
11:20-11:30 Merging of Split Session Groups
11:30-11:50 *Triplex mowing of large turfgrass
areas*, Dr. James Watson, The Toro
Company, Minneapolis, MN.
11:50-12:20 *Weed and grass identification quiz*
12:20-1:00 General Membership Meeting, North-
west Turfgrass Association and elec-
tion of board members.

SPLIT SESSION B —

Schools, Parks, Grounds Managers

FIRST SESSION CHAIRMAN, Jim Chapman

8:00-8:40 *Managing sportsfields on sand*, Dr.
Roy Goss, Western Washington Re-
search and Extension Center (WSU),
Puyallup, WA.
8:40-9:20 *Drainage of large turf areas*, Don
Hogan, Professional Engineer, Seat-
tle, WA.
9:20-9:50 *Irrigation systems, installation, oper-
ation, maintenance*, Carl Kuhn, Pro-
fessional Engineer, Mercer Isl., WA.
9:50-10:10 Coffee break
10:10-10:50 *Renovation of sports fields*, Eugene
Howe, Sportsturf NW, Bellevue, WA.
10:50-11:20 *Budget cuts and maintenance*, Ken-
neth Worchester, Parks Department,
City of West Linn, Milwaukie, OR.
11:20-11:30 Merging of Split Session Groups
11:30-11:50 *Triplex mowing of large turfgrass
areas*, Dr. James Watson, The Toro
Company, Minneapolis, MN.
11:50-12:20 *Weed and grass identification quiz*.

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

- 12:20-1:00 General Membership Meeting, Northwest Turfgrass Association and election of board members.
- 1:00-6:30 Free time
- 6:30-7:15 No Host Social Hour
- 7:15 — Banquet, awards, etc.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1982

FIRST SESSION CHAIRMAN, Bill Campbell

- 8:00-8:30 Research Reports
- 8:30-9:00 *Public funding for turfgrass programs in difficult times*, Dr. J.C. Engibous, Chairman, Department of Agronomy & Soils, Washington State University, Pullman, WA.
- 9:00-9:35 *Weed control in woody ornamentals*, Dr. George Ryan, Western Washington Research and Extension Center (WSU), Puyallup, WA.
- 9:35-9:55 Research Reports
- 9:55-10:15 Coffee break

SECOND SESSION CHAIRMAN, Dr. Roy Goss

- 10:15-10:45 *Water movement in soils - a visual presentation*, Dr. Roy Goss, Western Washington Research and Extension Center (WSU), Puyallup, WA.
- 10:45-11:05 Research Reports
- 11:05-11:40 *Pesticide, regulations, and use*, Jim Ely, Washington State Pest Management Alliance, Tacoma, WA.
- 1:40-12:10 *Water use basics*, Dr. Roy Goss, Western Washington Research and Extension Center (WSU), Puyallup, WA.
- 12:10-12:20 *Conference wrap up*, Richard Malpass, Incoming President of Northwest Turfgrass Association.
- 12:20 Adjourn

WOMEN'S PROGRAM

Check at Registration Desk

NORTHWEST TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

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- President Norm Whitworth
- Vice President Richard Malpass
- Treasurer Ray McElhoe
- Exec. Secretary Roy L. Goss

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PROGRAM COMMITTEE, Roy L. Goss

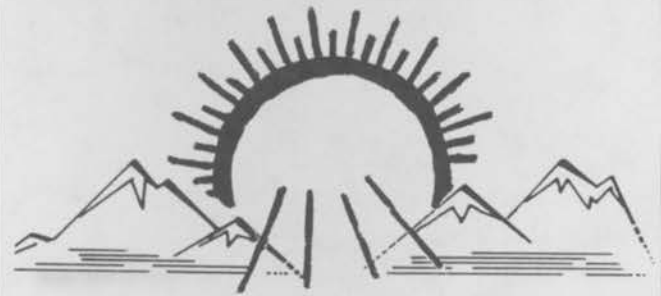


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36TH NORTHWEST TURFGRASS CONFERENCE AT YAKIMA

Inadvertently, some of you may not have received your mail along with the pre-registration packets that have been sent out previously. If you were one of the victims, please get on the phone and call Diane Ritthaler at (206) 593-8538, and obtain these materials immediately. For those of you who did not receive the materials, we can continue to receive your registrations a little late and still fit you in for the golf tournament if you wish and also qualify you for the reduced early registration fee.

The Conference will be held at the Towne Plaza Motel on North 7th Street East, in Yakima, Washington, on September 21, 22, and 23, with the golf tournament preceding the Conference on September 20.

The Program Committee has come up with what we think is a very good and informative program for anyone in the turfgrass industry. The theme of the program this year is "Water, How to Use It Effectively" and many interesting turf management factors surrounding the use of water.

There will be a split session for grounds maintenance personnel from schools and parks that will go into detail with the construction and maintenance of intensively used sports fields. Please make an effort to contact your local school districts if they have not had the word and encourage them to attend this Conference because they are one group in greatest need of the information to be presented.

The educational program will begin on Tuesday morning, September 21, at 8 a.m. and run each day until 1 p.m. through Thursday noon, September 23.

We hope to see all of you at Yakima.

TURFGRASS RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP DONORS

Any individual, group, or firm wishing to make a contribution or pledge to the research and scholarship program of the Northwest Turfgrass Association will have an opportunity to do so at the banquet on Wednesday evening, September 22.

The NTA funds are used to support research and scholarships to individuals and locations best qualified to perform services that benefit members of the Association.

All donors to the research and scholarship fund will be published in the December issue of the Turfgrass Topics for 1982.



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THIS MEETING IS ESPECIALLY FOR YOU

By Roy L. Goss

In a recent article in *Divot News* from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Southern California, Jack's column entitled, "Rambling with Herkwig," puts the responsibility on members exactly where it should be.

At a recent Turf and Landscape Institute at Anaheim, he indicated that out of 150 Class A and B members, only about 15 percent made the Institute.

He goes on to say, "I would guess that most of those among the missing would say that they were 'too busy' to attend. The trouble with being 'too busy' is that you never give yourself the chance to work any smarter than you already are. As the songs says, 'The times, they are a-changing', and we are all going to be forced to work smarter and get smarter at an ever increasing rate of speed. How are you going to do that by staying home and pulling plugs off your greens or other areas? Does your crew still need you to show them how?"

"Those of you who stayed home could do all our members a lot of good by getting involved right now in planning next year's Institute. It is supposed to be for all of us, but 85 percent of us didn't find this year's program attractive enough to drive to Anaheim on a rainy day. What do you want to learn? Only you can tell us."

The article continues, but this is the meat of what Jack was really talking about. It is very easy for all of us to find excuses why we should not attend the Annual Northwest Turfgrass Conference. It seems difficult to locate a Conference that suits everybody perfectly. Last year's Conference at Olympia had low attendance of which no one could really put their finger on - hard times, low travel budgets, etc.; but, it was felt by some members of the board of directors, through backfeed, that it was simply too close to home for any who would rather be farther away or at some exotic location. The Tye Motor Inn at Olympia, Washington, is about as easy to get to from most locations in the Pacific Northwest as any place you will find, which is right on Interstate 5, and it is within easy range of the greater metropolitan areas of Oregon and Washington, yet the attendance at the 1981 Turfgrass Conference was extremely low.

A few members of the Association feel that Yakima, Washington, does not have a lot of glamour either since it is not on the sea coast or on the high desert plateaus. But, all you have to do is look around and you will find a great deal of beauty in the Yakima Valley. There is ample recreation, good dining facilities, tons of beautiful fresh fruit, and a number of scenic attractions very nearby to suit all who want to attend.

Let's all make an effort this year to notify your friends about the Conference and come and enjoy the fruits of the labors of the Board of Directors of the Association and the Program Committee. See you in Yakima!



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OPHIOBOLUS PATCH DISEASE?

Ophiobolus patch disease, caused by the fungus *Gaeumannomyces graminis* var. *Avenae*, has been identified in western Washington since 1961. It has been a common occurrence on vast turfgrass acreages and is most commonly associated with light, sandy soils or developments from newly cleared land in Douglas-fir/hemlock type forest areas. In general, this equates to low fertility and a totally different spectrum of microorganisms in the soil.

Ophiobolus patch disease usually begins as small circular to irregular dead areas that continue to increase outwardly with a dying perimeter and may achieve sizes up to several feet in diameter over a period of years. Usually the centers may be recolonized with clover, chickweed, other broadleaf weeds, and perhaps weedy grasses with time.

The fungus is a crown and root rotting type of organism and will definitely kill bentgrass and *Poa annua* while not affecting to any great extent fescues and Kentucky bluegrasses in western Washington.

Within the last few years, and especially the last two, vast areas near Kennewick, Richland, Pasco, Yakima, and Spokane have been hit hard with this disease. The intriguing part is that it is affecting Kentucky bluegrasses and some fine fescues and generally has not affected turf type perennial ryegrass.

At this time it is not positively known that the eastern Washington, Oregon, and north Idaho problem is Ophiobolus patch disease, but it is strongly suspected. Runner hyphae have been found on nearly all of these affected areas while few if any spores have ever been detected.

Drs. Gary Chastaagner and Roy Goss have been working intensively on this problem in 1982. Gary has made isolations, cultures, and reinfections on seedling turf at this point and there are still several areas to be covered yet.

At the present time we are treating the problem in the area east of the Cascade Mountains as Ophiobolus patch, but possibly of a different variety of the disease.

For control of Ophiobolus patch, there have been no known fungicides that are effective. It has been successfully prevented with the use of moderately high levels of sulfur applied to these soils prior to planting (3-4 lb of elemental sulfur per 1000 ft² incorporated into the soil) followed by 3-4 lb of elemental sulfur per 1000 ft² in several split applications annually. It has been stopped and eliminated on established turf with sulfur applications ranging from 8 oz per 1000 up to 1 lb per 1000 ft² applied at annual totals of 3-5 lb per 1000 ft². This problem is not one that can be stopped with perhaps one season of application but must be continued for a period of 2-3 years.

On saline soils or those with pH readings over 7.0 and up to 8.5, applications of sulfur up to 8 lb per 1000² annually may be required. Ophiobolus patch disease is much more pronounced on high soil pH than on acidic soils. Do not confuse a pH reading of 5.5 or so with acidic conditions if lime has been applied regularly to the surface of existing turf. The surface one inch may possibly have a pH considerably higher than 5.5 while the 3-6 inch depth may read somewhat lower. This is one of the principal reasons why lime should be applied to existing turf in light applications ranging from 25-35 lb per 1000 ft² annually to prevent excessive accumulations of lime in the surface.

It is hoped that both management and chemical programs can be developed by 1983 that will be useful to turfgrass

managers, commercial applicators, and others. In the meantime, do not wait for the disease to happen but take preventative measures through the use of sulfur and sulfur-bearing compounds until better recommendations can be developed.

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SUMMER STRESS

By Roy L. Goss

The summer of 1982 has been one of those 'off again, on again' situations. In June we all thought it was going to be a long, hot summer due to the high temperature and dry conditions during that month. Large areas of turfgrasses were under extreme stress during this period of time due to both moisture and heat stress.

July was a cool, cloudy month with not too much precipitation, followed then by brief periods of high heat and additional stress conditions. August has been variable with periods of high temperature and little precipitation.

What about other stresses

The more intensively that we manage turfgrasses, the greater the potential for many stresses. Mowing stress, in the author's view, is one that must be seriously addressed. It seems we have a horsepower race in progress on golf courses to see who can have the fastest greens, and in most instances it is felt that the lower the mowing height, the faster the green.

Looking back 25 years ago, superintendents mowing their greens at 3/16 inch were few and far between. Today, the fast green group consider this a shaggy cut. Many are aiming at even less than 1/8 inch. These extremely low cuts reduce the photosynthetic area and, in many instances, the rooting depth of the turfgrasses. With a reduced root system, a few roots must provide water and nutrients from a very thin profile, mostly thatch and very little soil. This predisposes the turfgrass area to possibly rapid drying and increases the

need for more frequent, but light irrigations to maintain the turf. Herein lies one of the major problems - most often we overirrigate these areas. The soil can become saturated in the surface zone, or in some instances hydrophobic areas will develop and further complicate the problem. In the case of saturation, there is little gaseous exchange and we induce another stress.

Some strange physiological and pathogenic problems have developed in many of these areas. If the plants are weak, a pathogen present at small populations may severely damage the turf. If the turfgrass is healthy, it may tolerate these levels of pathogens with no visible symptom.

Much of the low cutting syndrome has been blamed on the Stimpmeter and justifiably so, principally because it has fallen into the wrong hands. If the Stimpmeter were confined only to the use of the golf course superintendent for practical use and not as a club with which to be hit in the head by green committees and scratch or low handicap golfers, it remains a very useful tool. Unfortunately, however, it seems that it cannot be confined to the proper use.

The speed of a green cannot be controlled strictly with close mowing. Other factors such as texture of the grass, frequent light topdressing programs, firmness of the green (related to wetness or dryness) and even the genus and species of grass that we are dealing with are all factors relating to speed.

I feel that it is time for us to get back to the basic principles of how to keep grass alive and healthy even if it slows the speed by a foot or so.

(Continued on Page 7, Column 1)

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(Continued from Page 6, Column 2)

The ultimate responsibility for this problem lies with the golf superintendent and the educational programs that he carries out with his playing membership. What's wrong with 3/16 or even 7/32-inch mowing heights if we will practice all

of the other good things that do enhance the speed of a green. Just remember, stresses are not just heat, cold, and moisture, but are made up of many other factors. The decision is basically yours.

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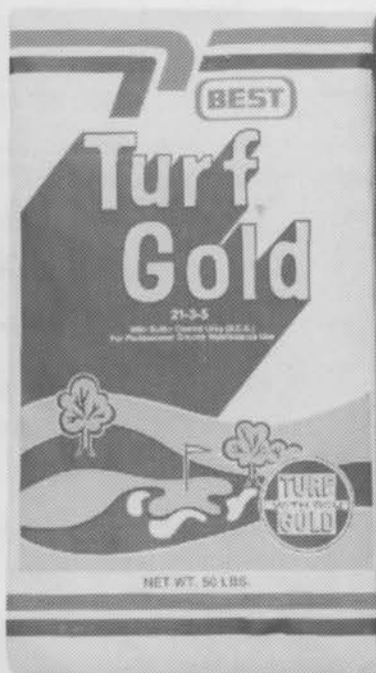
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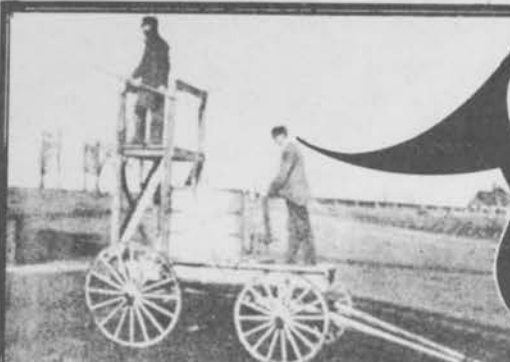
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