Northwest TURFGRASS TOPICS

PUYALLUP, WASHINGTON

August 1985



39th NORTHWEST TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

September 23-26119851TY Rippling River Resort Welches, Oregon

- MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1985
- Men's Golf Tournament, Rippling River Golf 9:00 a.m. Course
- 3:00-6:00 Registration

Vol. 27, No.2

- 6:30-7:30 No host bar
- 7:30 Banquet and golf awards
- TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1985
- FIRST SESSION CHAIRMAN Gary Sayre
- 7:30-8:00 Registration
- 8:00-8:05 Welcome
- 8:05-8:35 "Management and Motivation," Roger Thomas, Jacobsen Textron, Racine, WI.
- 8:35-9:25 "Turfgrass Water Use and Irrigation Practices - What Have We Learned from Research," Dr. Jack Butler, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO.
- 9:25-9:50 "Measuring Soil Moisture - The State of the Art in Tensiometry,"Chris Browne, Irrostat Corporation, Inc., Corvallis, OR.
- 9:50-10:15 "What Wetting Agents Can and Can't Do for Your Turf," Dr. W.J. Johnston, Washington State University, Pullman, WA.
- 10:15-10:35 Break
- SPLIT SESSION A GROUNDS MAINTENANCE
- SESSION CHAIRMAN Dennis Pagni
- 10:35-11:05 "One Approach to Renovating Turf in Parks," Doug Dollarhide, Corvallis Parks Department, Corvallis, OR.
- 11:05-11:25 "Ethofumesate A Potential Tool for Renovating Large Turf Areas," Dave Wienecke, Lane Community College, Springfield, OR.
- 11:25-11:45 "Progress Report on Necrotic Ringspot Disease Research," Dr. Gary Chastagner, Washington State University (WWREC), Puyallup, WA.
- 11:45-12:20 "Is Contract Maintenance a Viable Alternative to In House Maintenance?," Richard Akerman, Oregon Landscape Maintenance, Tigard, OR.
- 12:20-1:00 "Developing Standardized Specifications for Contract Construction Work," John Hovenkotter, Portland Parks Department, Portland, OR.

SPLIT SESSION B - GOLF COURSE MANAGERS SESSION CHAIRMAN - John Monson

- 10:35-11:05 "Building Greens, Tees, and Bunkers The Construction Process," Dick Fluter, Oswego Lake Country Club, Lake Oswego, OR.
- 11:05-11:35 "Understanding and Using Micronutrients," Dr. Roy Goss, Washington State University (WWREC), Puyallup, WA.
- 11:35-11:55 "Update on Putting Green Lysimeter Research," Dr. Jeff Nus, Washington State University (WWREC), Puyallup, WA.
- 11:55-12:30 "Recent Developments in Tank Mixing Chemicals," Mark Mahady, Chemlawn Corporation, Monterey, CA.
- 12:30-1:00 "Refining Golf Course Maintenance Practices - Have We Gone Too Far?," Larry Gilhuly, USGA Green Section, Placentia, CA.
- HANDS ON SESSION
- 2:30-4:00 "Identifying Turfgrasses," Tom Cook, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR.
- 2:30-4:00 "Using a Transit for Shooting Grades and Elevations," John Stewart, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR.
- **Commercial Exhibitors** 4:00-7:00
- WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1985
- SPLIT SESSION A GROUNDS MANAGERS
- FIRST SESSION CHAIRMAN Gene Howe
- 8:00-8:40 "Let's Review the Phenoxy Herbicides - Basis for Activity, Formulation Effects, Properties of Mixtures," Dr. Jim Fickle, Mallinckrodt, Inc., St. Louis, MO.
- 8:40-9:00 "Development of New Herbicides for Controlling Broadleaf Weeds in Turf," Mark Mahady, Chemlawn Corporation, Monterey, CA.
- 9:00-10:00 "Advertising and Promoting Your Business," Kathy Copley, Editor, Grounds Maintenance, Overland Park, KS.
- 10:00-10:20 Break
- SECOND SESSION CHAIRMAN John Eby
- 10:20-10:50 "Communicating With Your Customers Especially the Dissatisfied Ones," Kathy Copley, Editor, Grounds Maintenance, Overland Park, KS.
- 10:50-11:15 "Searching for the Perfect Turf Fertilizer," Bob Grover, Oregon Landscape Maintenance, Tigard, OR.
- 11:15-11:40 "Standardized Specifications for Fertilizers," Doug Dollarhide, Corvallis Parks Department, Corvallis, OR.
- 11:40-12:15 "Athletic Field Maintenance and Equipment Needs," Roger Thomas, Jacobsen Textron, Racine, WI.

Continued from Page 1

- 12:15-12:30 SPLIT SESSIONS MERGE
- 12:30-1:00 Northwest Turfgrass Association General Business Meeting. ALL MEMBERS SHOULD DEFINITELY ATTEND.
- SPLIT SESSION B GOLF COURSE MANAGERS
- FIRST SESSION CHAIRMAN Mark Snyder
- 8:00-8:40 "Understanding Disease Resistance to Fungicides," Dr. Gary Chastagner, Washington State University (WWREC), Puvallup, WA.
- 8:40-9:10 "Perspective on the Use of Mercury Fungicides for Controlling Snowmold Diseases," Dr. Jim Fickle, Mallinckrodt, Inc., St. Louis, MO.
- 9:10-9:30 "Snowmold Control in the Northwest -What's Working and What Isn't," Dr. Ron Ensign, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID.
- 9:30-10:00 "An Overview of Turfgrass Research at WWREC," Dr. Stan Brauen, Washington State University (WWREC), Puyallup, WA.
- 10:00-10:20 Break
- SECOND SESSION CHAIRMAN Ray McElhoe
- 10:20-11:00 "Using Color on the Golf Course," Warren Bidwell, Tee-2-Green Corporation, Matteson, IL.
- 11:00-11:20 "Interactions Between Mefluidide and Drought Tolerance of Annual Bluegrass," Dr. Jeff Nus, Washington State University (WWREC), Puyallup, WA.
- 11:20-11:45 "Learning to Manage Union Labor The Education of a Superintendent," Rich Scholes, Rancho Murieta Country Club, Sacramento, CA.
- 11:45-12:15 "So You Think You've Got Problems!," Larry Gilhuly, USGA Green Section, Placentia, CA.
- 12:15-12:30 SESSIONS MERGE
- 12:30-1:00 Northwest Turfgrass Association Membership Meeting. ALL MEMBERS SHOULD DEFINITELY ATTEND.

HANDS ON SESSION

- 2:30-4:00 "Identifying Turfgrass Weeds," Dr. Roy Goss, Washington State University (WWREC), Puyallup, WA.
- 2:30-4:00 "Calibrating Sprayers," Frank Fraser, Fraser Spray Equipment, Corvallis, OR.
- 6:15-7:00 No host cocktails 7:00 Banquet

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1985

- FIRST SESSION CHAIRMAN Mike Nauroth
- 8:00-8:40 "Fertilizer and Other Means to Encourage Rapid Growth of Trees," Tom Cook, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR.
- 8:40-9:10 "What Have We Learned About Iron Fertilization?," Dr. Jack Butler, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO.
- 9:10-10:10 "Turfgrass Research Are We Making Progress or Wasting Time?" A Panel Discussion. Moderator, Tom Cook. "Technology Transfer," Dr. Roy Goss "The Small Grants Dilemma," Dr. Stan Brauen

"Basic Science vs. Applied Research," Dr. Bill Johnston

- 10:10-10:30 Break
- SECOND SESSION CHAIRMAN Tom Cook

Adjourn

10:30-12:00 "Dealing With Change in a Positive Way - A Practical Workshop," Jan Weber, Oregon State University Office of Continuing Education, Corvallis, OR.

12:00







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Gary Sayre

We are very close to the beginning of our 39th Turfgrass Conference to be held at Rippling River Resort at Welches, Oregon, and I am very much looking forward to it. With all of the planning that has taken place, we should see one of our most successful conferences yet, both education-wise and audience-wise. Our hosts at Rippling River are promising us a marvelous facility with diverse activity and great comfort. There will be opportunity to learn as much as you wish to take time for with 1½ days of split sessions, one day of general sessions, and afternoons devoted to hands-on demonstrations and teaching. The climate at Rippling River is mild and, hopefully, will be dry.

We would like to encourage every member of the Northwest Turfgrass Association to attend the Conference this year as this is your opportunity to learn from some of the best educators and researchers in the United States. The turfgrass industry has made such great strides in the past five years that to keep up one must continue to collect new ideas and find out the best methods for installing and maintaining turfgrass areas so as to be cost-efficient and provide the most pleasing product possible. Your registration packet will be arriving soon, so be sure to set aside September 23-26, 1985 to attend the Northwest Turfgrass Association Conference.

See you in Rippling River.



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HARD WORK IS OFTEN REWARDED

By Roy L. Goss

Too often in this life we are reminded of our shortcomings and encouraged to higher and higher production without being properly rewarded or thanked for the things that we have done well.

You may call it dangling the carrot or fragrant grease or smoke rings, or whatever other terms you wish to call it, but compliments are still nice.

It was recently brought to my attention through a staff newsletter of Oregon State University that Tom Cook has been rewarded not only in words but in hard cash as well. In 1985, Tom was selected for listing in the Registry of Distinguished Teachers among just a few others. Also, he was the winner of the R. M. Wade \$750.00 Award for Excellence in Teaching.

I am sure that these accolades will gear Tom up for even greater production in 1986 because someone appreciated his efforts.

We sincerely extend our compliments and congratulations to you, Tom, for these achievements.



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HARVEY JUNOR RETIRES AFTER 47 YEARS



Harvey Junor, Superintendent of Portland Golf Club, has retired at the age of 65 after 47 years working on Portland Golf Club. He took over as golf course superintendent from his father, Don Junor, in 1956. Portland Golf Club has changed golf superintendents only twice since 1919 when Harvey's father became the first superintendent, and has

changed golf professionals only twice since 1921. Larry Lamberger came to Portland Golf Club in 1926, and when he retired was succeeded as head pro by his son, Larry.

Despite nearly being killed twice by errant golf shots, Harvey considers it a tenure of many highs and only a few lows. "It doesn't seem that long - maybe that is because I have always loved golf and being around golf."

Harvey was honored with a roast at the golf club and it was a night that brought back a flood of memories.

There was the Professional Golfers' Association Championship in 1946, won by Ben Hogan. There was the staging of the Ryder Cup Matches in 1947. There was the Western Open in 1955, won by Cary Middlecoff. There was the Alcan Championship in 1969, won by Billy Casper after a storied collapse by Lee Trevino. There was the U.S. Senior Open in 1982, won by Miller Barber.

"It's hard to pick the highlights," Harvey said. "But for me, I'd have to say the Ryder Cup Matches and the Alcan were the events that have stuck in my mind the longest.

"The Ryder Cup had to be the wettest golf tournament ever played. The course was flooded most of the time but the guys just kept playing. I think the English players couldn't believe the scene."

The Alcan, which had a \$55,000 payoff to the winner, largest in golf at the time, belonged to Trevino until he buried his 9-iron tee shot in a bunker at the 145-yard 17th hole in the final round. He left the ball in the bunker and eventually three-putted for a triple-bogy.

Casper completed the turnaround with a finish of four straight birdies and a one-shot triumph.

Some of golf's greatest remembered Harvey Junor at his retirement. Ben Hogan sent an eloquent message, surprising perhaps to some who remember him as the dour "We Mon". Lee Trevino typically kidded, "Hey, think of all of us who still have to be out there earning a living." With Trevino, is it really working? Arnold Palmer, Donna Caponi, JoAnn Washam, Kathy Whitworth and Nancy Lopez sent their good wishes also.

The Junor saga is a One Man's Family story that's difficult to top in any region of golf. The roots are in Scotland, and it began here after Harvey's grandfather brought his 7 sons and 4 daughters across the pond to Portland and wound up caring for Waverley Country Club. Harvey's family has been tied closely to golf in the Pacific Northwest since the turn of the century. In addition to his father, he had 5 uncles who worked in varying capacities at Waverley Country Club, Tacoma Country Club, Roseberg Country Club, Albany Golf Club, the old Alderbrook Golf Club, Baker Golf Club and DeLake Golf Club. One of his uncles, John, was head pro at Portland Golf Club and one year shared the first-round lead with Bobby Jones in the U. S. Open. Harvey, like most long tenured golf superintendents, was hit with golf balls, and two of the times quite seriously. He was knocked unconscious on both occasions, the first time being hit in the back of the head and the second time, on the right side of his forehead. The second time he had to be treated for double vision. Hooked drives from the third tee caused these accidents while he was working on a putting green. Harvey says now, "The trees are so big that shots from the third tee have a hard time getting through to the putting green, thank goodness."

Harvey has always been active with his professional groups including the Oregon Golf Superintendents and the Northwest Turfgrass Association. After serving on the Board of Directors, Harvey was elected as President in September of 1965 and served as President for the 20th Turfgrass Conference at Salishan Lodge at Gleneden Beach, Oregon in 1966.

Upon his retirement, Harvey received a host of honors. The Oregon Golf Superintendents hosted a dinner for him and made him the Outstanding Superintendent of the Year, while the golf club honored him with a trip to Scotland, honorary membership at Portland Golf Club where he can try to lower his 6 handicap.

Harvey is not the last of the Junors at Portland Golf Club since his son, Doug, will be there as an assistant to John Anderson, the new golf course superintendent.

In addition to getting more serious about his golf game and 6 handicap, Harvey says he still has a lot of fishing to catch up on in his retirement. He thinks his wife, Marie, will have the biggest adjustment to make since she has never seen him in the morning. "I've been getting up and leaving the house by 5:00 a.m. for so long that I don't think she knows I exist before noon."

In all respects, Harvey is a gentleman and a true professional, and we are all proud to have been associated with you, Harvey. All the best to you in a long retirement.



4

If you should happen inadvertently to see a letter of memo from your boss describing you in flattering terms, don't run out and start spending the raise you are sure must be forthcoming. The boss may be speaking with a forked tongue. E. James Brennan, a St. Louis personnel consultant, reports in Personnel Journal that employee-relations executives, in

order to write frankly about people without fear of the communications falling into the hands of those being written about, sometimes use a secret language of their own.

Some tongue-in-cheek examples of phrases whose true meaning is supposedly shared by those in-the-know:

PERSONNEL CODE

- "Exceptionally well-qualified"
- "Careful thinker"
- "Strong principles"
- "Spends extra hours on the job"
- "Average employee"
- "Active socially"
- "Zealous attitude"
- "Takes pride in his work"
- "Uses logic on hard problems"
- "Forceful"

"Not the desk type"

"Conscientious"

- "Meticulous attention to detail"
- "Of great value to the organization"
- "Has leadership qualities"
- CREDIT: The Florida Green

Made no serious blunders yet Won't make a decision Stubborn Miserable home life Not too bright Drinks too much Opinionated Conceited Finds another to do his job Argumentative Did not go to college Scared Nit-picker Gets to work on time Is tall or has a loud voice.

TRANSLATION

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A BRIEF REPORT FROM 3PF

The Pesticide Public Policy Foundation, which is directed by Dave Dietz from Salem, Oregon, sends out periodic reports of the activities of 3PF. The Northwest Turfgrass Association is only one of many who are helping to support the 3PF and sane use of pesticides. This organization maintains constant contact through lawmaking bodies at state and federal levels and becomes involved even in city and county affairs. The principal objectives of 3PF are to see that laws which are already formulated are not abused by activist groups. The 3PF is willing to abide by EPA and FIFRA (Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act) laws.

As some of you may be aware, there has been some important sabre rattling around the country that the activist groups are trying to initiate, and among some of the most significant activities include pre-notification and posting.

Pre-notification may sound a little harmless on the surface, but stop and think about it. If you wish to apply an herbicide, insecticide, fungicide or rodenticide, you must notify all of your neighbors within a given sector for a specified amount of time before application. Obviously, there are many people opposed to the application of any pesticide, due principally to ignorance in this area of science, and can obtain injunctions against any such activity and may cost you many dollars for legal counsel and prosecution. These laws are being looked at right now in Michigan, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut, Ohio, Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin and other areas. Just as surely as this is inacted in any area, it could become a national wave. This does not account for just local urban environments, it means total area within the jurisdiction of the law.

It is your responsibility to keep posted on these matters and to contact your senators and representatives before it is too late when such action begins.





THE USE OF WETTING AGENTS ON TURFGRASS

Scott Swope

Localized dry spots are a common problem in turf maintenance. Beard and others have indicated that dry spots may result from:

- 1. Poor water distribution from the irrigation system, due to wind, poor design, malfunction of the system, or frequency and amount of irrigation.
- Soil limitations such as texture, compaction, and gradient which influence the rate of water infiltration and may limit root growth.
- 3. Excessive thatch accumulation, causing hydrophobic conditions.
- 4. Fungal presence in the soil. The mycelia of the fungi tend to repel water when they dry out (1,7).

These dry spots are especially prevalent in golf course putting greens where the high level of stress placed upon the turf maximizes the importance of the plant-water relationship. Adding to the problem on putting greens is the fact that sandy soils have a propensity for becoming hydrophobic. Many putting greens are constructed of a high percentage of sand, and sand is used extensively in the topdressing of greens (7).

One method of combating dry spots has been through increased irrigation. This may actually compound the problem. When the water is unable to penetrate the soil surface, due to compaction, slope gradient, or hydrophobic conditions, it runs off to areas where penetration is possible, causing excessively wet areas. Another method used on dry spots is cultivation in the form of coring, spiking, or slicing. An alternative that has gained in popularity is the use of wetting agents. Wetting agents are compounds which reduce the surface tension of water molecules, enabling them to spread out over the surface of solids more than they normally would (1,4,5,7). This increases the water's ability to wet the soil.

Continued on Page 8, Column 1



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THE USE OF WETTING AGENTS ON TURFGRASS

Continued from Page 7, Column 1

Wetting agents can be divided into two categories, ionic and non-ionic. Ionic wetting agents are more toxic to turfgrass, and are used less than non-ionic types (1). Non-ionic agents are esters, ethers, alcohols, or other compounds (4).

Many claims have been made by the manufacturers of wetting agents. Among them are an increase in water availability, improved turf quality, reduction in dew formation, reduced evaporation from bare soil, increased wettability of hydrophobic soils, improved soil structure, improved drainage, and increased resistance to disease (4,7). Few of these claims have been substantiated by scientific research. Adverse effects resulting from the use of wetting agents have also been reported. Included here are increased thatch production, decreased soil aggregation, injury to shoots and roots, and reduced soil water retention (1,4).

Little research has been done on commercially available wetting agents because many of them are marketed as "secret blends". Researchers are reluctant to test such products unless their chemical compositions are fully disclosed (4). Results of some of the research done indicates:

- 1. Ethers are more effective for wetting clays, esters more effective on sandy soils, and alcohols for organic matter (4).
- 2. Ethers have a more rapid initial wetting effect, but esters give a more lasting response (4,6).
- 3. The infiltration rate on hydrophobic soils treated with a wetting agent is greater during a second application, once the soil has become wet from the first application (3).
- 4. The effect of wetting agents on infiltration of hydrophobic soils is retained for two to three irrigations or rains, depending upon the rates and agents used (1).
- 5. Doubling the label rates of some wetting agents may or may not have toxic effects on the turfgrass (8).
- Combining the use of wetting agents with the practice of coring is more effective than coring alone (8).
- Thatch accumulates when wetting agents are continuously used, due to a reduction in microbial breakdown of thatch (2).
- 8. Two or three light applications per year are generally better than one heavy application (7).
- 9. Reduced dew formation for periods of three to ten days following the application may be seen (7).
- 10. Clay soils adsorb and inactivate wetting agents (1).

Wetting agents are a tool which can be effectively used in the treatment of hydrophobic conditions leading to localized dry spots. In order for them to be useful, it is necessary to ascertain that the dry spots are due to hydrophobic conditions, and not caused from soil textural problems which limit the flow of water through the soil profile. If compaction or fine textured soils are present, wetting agents will be of little value. Claims by manufacturers of cure-alls for soil-water problems should be examined carefully. Limited research has led to few conclusions concerning their broad-range assets and liabilities. Perhaps the best approach for those considering the extensive use of wetting agents is to conduct experiments of their own on a limited scale. If this is done, it is important to leave an untreated check area to help determine whether or not the wetting agent is responsible for the resulting effects of the experiments (4).

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