### Northwest

## **TURFGRASS TOPICS**

Vol. 29, No. 2

PUYALLUP, WASHINGTON

September 1986



#### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

#### Greetings!

It is less than a month until the 40th Annual Conference of the Northwest Turfgrass Association convenes in Pasco, Washington, September 22-25. It has been "Forty years of growing", and in this year since our last conference, we have seen our membership grow as a result of increasing awareness in the Northwest Turfgrass Association.

At this year's conference in the Tri Cities, you will enjoy a first-rate program of educational speakers, the largest supplier show yet, and a format of interesting social functions.

As you make plans to attend and are sending in your preregistration materials, give some serious thought to cordially inviting another fellow professional to attend the conference as well.

Our Association holds the record for continuous conferences in the United States and is an Association that you can be proud of to invite others to join.

With the media focus recently aimed at chemical use in the "green industry", now is the time to become more involved in our Northwest turfgrass community through an active membership in the Northwest Turfgrass Association.

The demographics of our region will support an everincreasing attendance at our conferences, but it is we who must continually seek interested people to join. The larger our membership becomes, the stronger the benefits of our Association will be.

Literally, millions of Northwest citizens enjoy the use of our turfgrass areas and certainly one of the best sources of technical advice is through our Association.

Thank you for your support. I look forward to seeing you and a new member at the Pasco Conference.

Pesticide Re-certification Credits will be available for Washington & Oregon registered attenders.

# PROGRAM 40TH NORTHWEST TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

The 40th Northwest Turfgrass Association Conference will be held at the Red Lion Inn at Pasco, Washington, on September 22-25, 1986. The following is a program that has been developed by your Program Committee which we think will serve the needs of anyone in the turfgrass management industry.

| MONDAY, | Sentember | 22 |
|---------|-----------|----|
| MUNDAI, | September | 44 |

| 0.00      | 11 1 0 1   | T          |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| 9:00 a.m. | Men's Golf | Tournament |

1:30-4:30 Registration

5:00 p.m. No Host Bar at Poolside followed by Western

Barbecue and Golf Awards.

#### TUESDAY, September 23

#### GENERAL SESSION - Chair, Tom Cook

| GENERAL SESSION - Chan, Tom Cook |              | SSIOI - Chan, Tom Cook                           |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--|
|                                  | 7:30-8:00 am | Registration                                     |
|                                  | 8:00-8:15    | Welcome and opening remarks                      |
|                                  | 8:15-8:45    | "Recent Observations on the Role of Potassium in |
|                                  |              | Turfgrass Performance" Dr. Robert Shearman,      |
|                                  |              | University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NB              |
|                                  | 8:45-9:10    | "Understanding Lime and its Effects on Soil and  |
|                                  |              | Turfgrasses", Dr. Roy Goss, Washington State     |
|                                  |              | University, Puyallup, WA                         |
|                                  | 9:10-9:50    | "How We Kill Plants", Dr. Robert Partyka,        |
|                                  |              | Chemlawn Services Corporation, Columbus, OH      |
|                                  | 9:50-10:30   | "Will Growth Regulators Ever Work for Us?",      |
|                                  |              |  |

Dr. John Kaufmann, Monsanto Ag Products Division, St. Louis, MO

10:30-10:50 Break

#### SPLIT SESSION A - Session Chair, Roy Goss

| 10:50-11:20 am | "Critical Elements Affecting a Drainage System", |
|----------------|--|
|                | Mr. Carl Kuhn, P.E., C.H. Kuhn and Associates,   |
|                | Mercer Island, WA                                |

11:20-11:50 "Understanding Properties and Uses of Geotextiles", Mr. Gary Anderson, E.I. Dupont Company, Wilmington, DE

11:50-12:30 "Efficient Use of Fungicides", Dr. Richard Smiley, Oregon State University, Pendleton, OR

12:30-1:00 pm "Lesser Known Pathogens of Putting Turf", Dr. Gary Chastagner, Washington State University, Puyallup, WA

#### SPLIT SESSION B - Session Chair, Dennis Pagni

10:50-11:20 am "What are Good Seed Specifications?", Dr. Bill Meyer, Pure Seed Testing Inc., Hubbard, OR 11:20-11:50 "Tips on Maintaining Baseball Infields", Mr.

Mike Hebrard, Hobbs & Hopkins, Inc., Portland, OR

11:50-12:20 "Measuring Sprinkler Application Uniformity",
Mr. Richard Regan, Oregon State University,
Salem, OR

12:20-1:00 pm "Strategies for Using Herbicides in a Hostile Environment", Mr. Tim Rhay, Eugene Parks

Department, Eugene, OR

Continued on Page 2

| HANDS-ON SE<br>2:30-4:00 pm | SSION "Measuring Sprinkler Application", Mr. Richard   |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 2:30-4:00                   | Regan, Oregon State University, Salem, OR "How to Line Out and True Up a Baseball  |
|                             | Infield", Mr. Mike Hebrard, Hobbs & Hopkins Inc., Portland, OR   |
| 2:30-4:00                   | Equipment Demonstrations   |
| 4:00-7:00                   | Product and Equipment Show   |
|                             | N A -Session Chair, Bo Hepler  |
| 8:30-9:00 am                | "Fine Fescues - What's Their Place in Park and<br>School Grounds?", Dr. Bill Meyer, Pure Seed<br>Testing, Hubbard, OR  |
| 9:00-9:30                   | "Successful Low Budget Renovation of Athletic Fields", Mr. Dennis Johnson, Southern Oregon   |
| 9:30-10:00                  | State College, Ashland, OR "Selection and Early Maintenance of Trees for Streets, Parks, and Grounds", Mrs. Pat Elder, Seattle Parks Department, Seattle, WA |
| 10:00-10:20                 | Break  |
| 10:20-11:00                 | "Mimicking Symptoms - Is it Really Herbicide Damage?", Dr. Robert Partyka, Chemlawn  |
| 11:00-11:30                 | Services Corporation, Columbus OH "Experiences With Sand Base Turf in Lithia Park", Mr. Ken Myckleson, Ashland, OR   |
| 11:30-12:10                 | "A Practical Topdressing Program for Parks",<br>Mr. Kay Kinyon, Lake Oswego Parks<br>Department, Lake Oswego, OR   |
| 12:10-12:30                 | Sessions merge   |
| SPLIT SESSION               | N B - Session Chair, Mike Kingsley   |
| 8:30-9:00 am                | "Pumps: Their Purpose and Problems", Mr. Carl<br>Kuhn, P.E., C.H. Kuhn and Associates, Mercer<br>Island, WA  |
| 9:00-9:30                   | "Pumps: Their Care and Maintenance", Mr. Wayne Olson, Pumptech, Inc., Bellevue, WA.  |
| 9:30-10:00<br>10:00-10:20   | "Confessions of a USGA Agronomist", Mr. Larry<br>Gilhuly, USGA Green Section, Placentia, CA<br>Break   |
| 10:20-11:00                 | "Fungicide Effects on Thatch and Disease", Dr.   |
|                             | Richard Smiley, Oregon State University,<br>Pendleton, OR  |
| 11:00-11:20                 | "Bunker Design, Layout, and Construction", Mr. John Steidel, Kennewick, WA   |
| 11:20-11:40                 | "Is Contour Mowing Here to Stay?", Mr. John Ford, Tacoma Country and Golf Club, Tacoma, WA   |
| 11:40-12:10                 | "Rubigan Effects on Annual Bluegrass", Dr. Bill<br>Johnston, Washington State University, Pullman,<br>WA   |
| 12:10-12:30 pm              | Sessions merge   |
| 12:30-1:00<br>6:30-7:30     | Northwest Turfgrass Association General Business<br>Meeting All members should definitely attend<br>No host bar  |
| 7:30                        | Banquet Dancing after banquet  |
| THURSDAY, S                 |  |
|                             | SSION - Chair, Gene Howe   |
| 8:30-9:00 am                | "How Does Aerification Affect Thatch and<br>Compaction?", Dr. Robert Shearman, University  |
| 9:00-9:20                   | of Nebraska, Lincoln, NB "Snowmold and Perennial Ryegrass - Effects of   |
|                             | Cultivars, Mowing Height, and Fertility'', Dr.<br>Bill Johnston, Washington State University,<br>Pullman, WA   |
| 9:20-9:40                   | "Influence of newer preemergence herbicides on<br>turfgrass quality and rooting", Dr. Stan Brauen,<br>Washington State University, Puyallup, WA              |
| 9:40-10:00                  | "Fungicidal Control of Necrotic Ringspot". Dr.   |

"Fungicidal Control of Necrotic Ringspot", Dr. Gary Chastagner, Washington State University,

Puyallup, WA

9:40-10:00

| 10:00-10:20 | Break   |
|-------------|---|
| 10:20-11:00 | "Characteristics and Uses for Wild Flowers in<br>Landscapes", Mrs. Crystal Rose-Fricker, Pure                 |
|             | Seed Testing Inc., Hubbard, OR  |
| 11:00-11:40 | "Some Practical Tips on Pruning Shrubs and<br>Trees", Mr. Tom Cook, Oregon State University,<br>Corvallis, OR |
| 11:40-12:00 | "Questions From the Floor"  |
| 12:00       | Meeting adjourned   |
|             | LADIES PROGRAM  |
| MONDAY, Se  | ptember 22, 1986  |
| 10:00 a.m.  | Brunch and Fashion Show   |
| TUESDAY, S  | eptember 23, 1986   |
| 8:00 -9:30  | Hospitality Room, Coffee, Tea and Danish<br>Available   |
| 10:00 a.m.  | Mexican Scramble Golf Tournament at Tri Cities  |

Mexican Scramble this year.

WEDNESDAY, September 24, 1986
8:00 -9:30 Hospitality Room, Coffee, Tea and Danish Available
9:15 Tour to Richland Science Center and Preston Winery tour and lunch.

Country Club. The Tournament Fee also includes golf carts. This tournament was such great fun last year, we thought we would repeat the

THURSDAY, September 25, 1986 9:00 a.m. Hospitality in Suite No. 516. Coffee, Tea and Danish available.

NOTE: Be sure that your wives see this program.



RHONE-PO

#### **OUR SLIP IS SHOWING**

A boss once told his employees that if you are prone to make mistakes, it is greatly to your advantage to not make the same ones twice. Apparently, your editor has goofed twice, and unfortunately with the same company. We extend our apologies to Northwest Mowers for missing their ad in 1985 and 1986 in the three-color program brochure and also for not recognizing them in 1985 for their contributions to research programs.

Again, we apologize and hope that this will not happen again. Without people like you and other equipment distributors and commercial companies, Northwest turfgrass research programs would be severely impaired.

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## VERTIDRAIN - AN EXCELLENT MANAGEMENT TOOL

By Roy L. Goss

Soil compaction is one of the major causes for the loss of turfgrasses and soil structure. With the loss of soil structure there is an interference with infiltration rates of water, root penetration, oxygen diffusion and a major loss of air porosity. The standard aerifying equipment on the market today usually will not penetrate more than 3-4 inches. Usually, these aerifiers will pretty much relieve the compaction on turfgrass areas such as putting greens, but may not sufficiently do the job on golf course fairways, parks facilities and other large turfgrass areas where tractors and heavy equipment are frequently used.

My first experience with the Vertidrain was on a clay-loam soil near Sydney, Australia, while participating in a turf growers field day in 1985. The soil was quite dry and very hard, and this machine had no problem whatsoever in penetrating near 16 inches deep. The machine is manufactured in Holland and can be equipped with 1-inch or 3/4-inch tines. The 1-inch tines (all tines are solid) will penetrate as deep as 16 inches, and the 3/4-inch tine will penetrate up to 10 inches. The effect of the solid tine aerification is very similar to that having been described earlier as shattercore aerification. The interval between holes on linear travel is 2-8 inches apart. This spacing can be adjusted by a creeper gear on the tractor.

At the present time, this machine has been demonstrated on a number of turfgrass areas including very shallow soil areas underlain with cemented hardpan. It is reported that the larger tine effectively penetrated these hardpan soils and has resulted in significantly better water and root penetration.

The machine has been used on essentially all turfgrass areas including putting greens that have internal drainage problems and essentially all other turfgrass applications. It should be pointed out that this machine is not a panacea but can be a tremendous assist in moving water through the surface and at least to depths of 16 inches were compaction may be less of a problem. The greatest disadvantage of the machine is the slowness of operation, but when an area has been properly aerified, it does not have to be repeated for some time, and no other aerifier will penetrate so deeply in the writer's awareness.

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#### **EXCELLENCE IN TURFGRASS** RESEARCH AWARD

Dr. C.R. Funk, Rutgers University plant breeder, was presented with the first "Excellence in Turf Grass Research Award" in San Francisco in 1986 by Seed Research of Oregon. Mike Robinson, President of this company, made the following comments in presenting Dr. Funk with his award. "Dr. Funk is recognized internationally as the world's foremost plant breeder. His tireless and unselfish dedication to the improvement of turfgrasses has produced the tremendous array of outstanding varieties available for the demanding needs of today's turf manager. His collection of improved germplasm is the basis for most of the varieties being developed by both public and private breeding programs. Without Dr. Funk, we would still be in the "Dark Ages" of turfgrass breeding."

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#### HYDROPHOBISM IS SNEAKY

By Roy L. Goss

The spring and early summer of 1986 set some records for low temperatures, cloudy days and extended light but generally insufficient precipitation. The hue and cry around the Northwest was, "It looks like we are not going to have a summer this year." All of a sudden, the showery weather quit in July (around the 15th) and some 40 days later, there was no measurable precipitation. During this time, temperatures ranged from a little better than 100 degrees in the Coastal areas to well over 100 degrees F east of the Cascade Mountains. Portland, Oregon and the Willamette Valley had many days near the 100 degree mark.

Now, let's go back and analyze the year. The month of May we had deficit rainfall - in other words, our evapotranspiration rate exceeded our precipitation, in spite of the fact that it was cold, cloudy and drizzly from time to time. What this was telling us is that we were losing soil moisture slowly. During this period of time, the localized dry spots or hydrophobic areas were forming. Not too many of these localized dry spots had expressed themselves before the hot dry weather began in July. It took very few days of warm, dry weather for these hydrophic areas to appear. I observed severe localized dry spots on sportsfields, play grounds, home lawns, golf course tees, fairways and greens all over the Northwest.

Frankly, I believe that we have been entirely too negligent in the use of surfactants or wetting agents. I guess the bottom line is, what do your bosses expect from you or your turfgrass facility. If you let sportsfields dry out during the summer, the comeback is very slow and the turf may not be recovered at the time that play commences in late August or September. If this condition occurs extensively on golf course putting greens, it could possibly be your job. I travelled a considerable distance to look at severe problems on a golf course in July only to discover that 95% of the problem was failure to use wetting agents on sand based putting greens.

While this year's experience is still fresh in our minds, let me restate that most of the same areas that turn brown on you this year will also turn brown on you in 1987 unless you alter your management programs. The management programs may include managing your irrigation program a little differently, which includes multiple cycling of a single irrigation or the use of wetting agents or both. To be most effective, you must begin application of your wetting agents in April and not later than the first part of May and not neglect their application the remainder of the dry season. Applications of wetting agents must be made every three to four weeks at the longest interval, and possibly as often every two weeks on critical areas. The important thing is to make certain that applied irrigation water soaks in, does not run off and wets the root zone entirely to the full depth of rooting. Remember that sands are much more hydrophobic or water repelling than natural soils although soils can become hydrophobic as well. High levels of organic matter, and particularly thatch, will shed water as effectively as a hay stack once the surface tension builds up. Rewetting of some of these areas, particularly if there is a reasonable level of soil compaction, is difficult and slow. The best prescription is don't let these areas develop in the first place.

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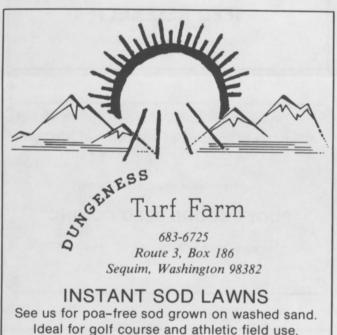
## SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD PRESENTED TO ARMEN SUNY

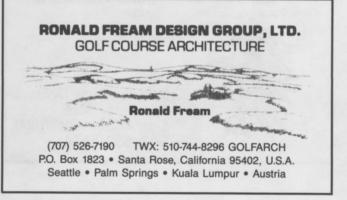
Seed Research of Oregon, Inc. presented Armen Suny with the first "Superintendent of the Year" award in San Francisco at the GCSAA Convention in 1986. Armen, currently at Castle Pines, Colorado, was Superintendent at Cherry Hills, the site of the 1985 PGA Championship. Armen was innovative with his liberal use of improved turftype perennial ryegrasses for complete renovation of tees, fairways and roughs in a region that traditionally has used bluegrasses. He also planted a mixture of creeping bentgrasses on his fairways, believing that genetic diversity is just as important in bentgrasses as in other species.

Armen exemplifies the elite class of superintendents that are knowledgeable, innovative, and really good at growing grass. He relishes challenges like Cherry Hills and the new Castle Pines course. He is not afraid on controversy or criticism from the touring pros about his course being too difficult: Remember Hubert Green's comments about his greens being too fast and hard.

"Armen is our image of an outstanding golf course superintendent", stated Mike Robinson, President of Seed Research of Oregon, Inc.

EDITOR'S NOTE: It is the editor's understanding that Armen Suny is an avid user of turfgrass wetting agents for better water use efficiency.







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## WHO DARES TO ASK FOR YET ANOTHER DAY OFF?

Feeling burnt out? Want more vacation?

Hate to tell you—only two of us deserve it!

Author Unknown

If you're like most people, you've got too much to do and not enough time to do it. And this week, like so many others in the year, has been a long and hard one. You've taken care of the daily duties, handled the major and minor crises at work and at home; maybe you've even taken some work home. You're exhausted, thoroughly drained. You need a mental health day to recuperate. So you ask the boss for a day off. He says no and gives you this explanation.

There are 365 days in the year, but you take weekends off, so you have to subtract 104 days. That leaves you with 261 working days.

But you only work eight hours a day. The other 16 you are either sleeping or tending to your own business. So you have to subtract 174 days. That leaves 87.

But wait. We're not through subtracting yet. You eat lunch every day, and although lunch hours vary, it is estimated that the average worker consumes 45 days per year at lunch.

Coffee breaks? Figure 21 days over the course of the year. Take those 21 days from the 42 left from the last subtraction and that leaves you 21 days to get your work done.

From those 21 days, you have to subtract your two weeks of vacation—10 work days. Continuing the subtraction, 10 from 21 leaves you only 11 actual full work days in the entire year.

But, of course, you do not work on Christmas, New Year's, Independence Day or Thanksgiving. Most firms now allow 10 paid holidays per year. After subtracting the 10 paid holidays from the 11 days remaining, you've got one full work day to your credit, and you want to take that day off?

Forget it!!

The boss sees no reason why you should be unduly exhausted given the above schedule. So you explain to him that the USA's population is 200 million or so, of whom 72 million are over the standard 65-year retirement age. That leaves 28 million people to do all the work.

If you subtract the 75 million under the age of 21, you are left with 53 million actual workers. Of that 53 million, 27,471,002 are employed by the federal government. That leaves 25,528,998 workers for all the other jobs.

Subtracting the 8 million people who serve in the Armed Forces leaves us with 17,528,998 workers. From here, we must turn to the city and state work force. Subtracting their 16,520,000 from 17,528,998 brings us down to 1,009,998.

Of course, we also should consider those people who have a complete aversion to work. It's been estimated that there are some 800,500 vagrants, bums and the like. Now we are down to 208,498 people to carry the workload for the entire nation. But, you sill have to subtract the prison population which accounts for 208,496 people.

This means that two people are carrying everybody else. You know who those two people are, don't you? It's you and me. No wonder we're so exhausted!!

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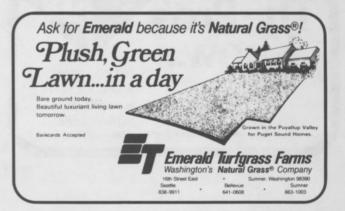
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Communications concerning content of this paper should be directed to Dr. Roy Goss, Editor, Western Washington Research and Extension Center, Puyallup, WA 98371.