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January 1972

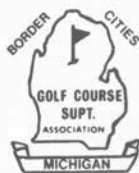


A Patch of Green

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Official Publication of the
Michigan & Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association

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"A Patch of Green"

31823 Utica Road, Fraser, Michigan 48026
(313) 293-3540

*Published monthly by the Michigan and
Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents
Association*

Circulation: 600

Ted Woehrle, Oakland Hills CC
Editor

Blakeman Publications
Graphic Arts/Circulation

ADVERTISING RATES

Double Page Spread.....	\$ 100.00
Back Outside Page.....	65.00
Full Page.....	55.00
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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

1972 AT A GLANCE

Weather - Something that we play by ear every year - fortunately we have tools and materials to combat most weather conditions.

Ecology - Our State of Michigan is still uncertain about chemical restrictions on golf courses - we may be forced to

do without some of our old chemicals - substitutes are available.

Economy - Unemployment appears to be a continuing problem. Labor is plentiful. The wage-price freeze should benefit the golf courses.

Equipment - New tools continue to come on the market; Bigger - Better - More Efficient (also more expensive).

War - This is an election year so we can expect the war to wind down - adding more people to the roles of the unemployed.

Turf Problems - Almost all weeds can now be controlled - systemic fungicides and insecticides have helped control these pests - The only limiting factor remaining is money - We have the know how and the materials, all we need now is the money.

The Golf Course Superintendent - Through our newly instituted Certification Program and our proposed Self-Education Program we can look forward to new highs in our professional status. We plan to continue our strong public relations program to teach the golfing public the importance of the Golf Course Superintendent in this changing world of ours.

Education - MSU continues to lead the turf industry - They produce leaders in the turf world - They solve many of our problems and help us sell new ideas to the clubs we work for.

All in all, 1972 should be a banner year for our association.

Ted Woehrle, President

JANUARY MEETING

The special meeting of the Chapter held on January 7, 1972 found the membership voting to increase the dues for 1972. The increases are as follows:

- Class A from \$10.00 to \$15.00
- B from 7.00 to 15.00
- C from 7.00 to 10.00
- D from 15.00 to 20.00

The membership also voted to support Ted Woehrle at our national election of the Board of Directors and otherwise left the delegates (Bob Hope and Bill Madigan) un-instructed.

Committee appointments for 1972 are as follows:

Public Relations - Ward Swanson
Don Benham

By-Laws - Gerry Gill

Educational - Dave Moote
Bill Milne

Arrangements - Gary Bartsch

Golf - Bob Prieskorn

Turf Day - Clem Wolfrom

Membership - Al Kaltz

Bennevolence & Welfare - Bob Hope

Editorial - Roger Gill

We are presently planning on having a hospitality room at the National Conference in February in Cincinnati.

A joint meeting is being planned for mid-April with the Ontario Golf Course Superintendents Association at Essex Country Club, Dave Moote host, and a meeting in early May at Knollwood Country Club, Bob Hope, host.

COMING EVENTS

MSU Turf Conference

Questionnaire about information needed for new Roster.

Keep the golfers off soft greens or you may end up with a green looking like this!



PREVENTING WINTER DAMAGE TO TURFGRASS

by TED WOHRLE

There are basically two types of winter damage to turfgrass on golf courses:

1. Mechanical
2. Physiological

A good deal of the mechanical injury is caused by the golfer himself. This is the type of damage caused by *playing on frosted turf* in early spring and late fall.

When the turf is completely frozen and heavy traffic occurs - the actual wearing off of the grass becomes a problem - similar to drought conditions under heavy traffic.

Compaction of snow by snow equipment, snowmobiles, skis, sleds, or foot printing can also cause damage which is noticeable during most of the next spring.

Traffic on partially frozen or wet soils causes turf injury also. This is

actual soil displacement - footprints or ruts from golf carts. The indirect results of this injury could be called soil compaction.

Next Page



Remove water from greens by cutting a ditch through ice.

There may also be mechanical damage caused by heaving of the soil. Heaving tears roots loose in the soil. This is common in peat or humus.

Mechanical injury, except for heaving, can be avoided by eliminating all traffic during periods of adverse weather or when soil conditions are poor.

Many clubs have adopted the "Alternate" green method during these periods. This involves the use of an area adjacent to the permanent green which is marked in some manner and a larger than normal cup and flagstick is used in this temporary green. Most of the golfers are kept satisfied and the entire membership is happier next spring when the greens are healthier and a lot smoother.

The physiological damage is what is most frequently referred to as "winterkill". This injury is caused by disease, suffocation, (ice sheet damage) desiccation, flooding and low temperatures.

a. DISEASES- There are two basic winter diseases: Pink and gray snow molds. Both of these can be controlled to a great extent by chemicals applied before winter sets in and one more application during the winter, when and weather permits a second application.

b. SUFFOCATION- This is a condition which doesn't happen very often, but when it does it is disastrous! Turf that is covered for long periods of time, as was the case during the winter of '61 and '62 when they were covered about 100 days by a solid sheet of ice, will suffer extensive

damage. Every possible effort should be made to remove the snow and ice from greens and tees if ice has covered these areas for 30 or more days. This can be accomplished in several ways - Physical chopping and removing, covering with a dark material such as lamp black or activated sewerage sludge to absorb heat with its dark color, and melting. Another material such as topdressing would also work. If nothing else, punch air holes through the ice.

c. DESICCATION- This is the most prevalent winter damage here in the Southeastern corner of Michigan where we get very little snow coverage. Desiccation occurs when soil moisture is not available, because ground is frozen, and the winds dry out the turf and the plant dies.

Here again we can do something to slow down desiccation. It is recommended that greens be covered with something to cut down the wind damage. This could be top-dressing hay, straw, branches, plastic (punch holes in it first with a spiker to let out heat on bright sunny days). There are actually turf protection blankets manufactured for this purpose.

If you haven't covered your greens and you run into a period of dry windy weather it would be advisable to carry water to these greens - especially the elevated, exposed greens. Some Superintendents actually turned on their irrigation systems for a short period of time and then immediately redrained them after soaking down the greens.

d. FLOODING- This condition is caused by a heavy rain when ground is frozen, or when snow and ice melt faster than the soil can absorb it or surface drainage can remove it.

The turf becomes very susceptible to low temperature kill - the crowns actually rupture when encased in water and then re-freeze.

All water should be removed where possible. Dig drainage ditches through snow and ice, install surface tile drains, put in slit trenches; do anything you can to remove excess water.



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HOW TO KEEP A SECRET

On Wednesday, December 8th, Bay Pointe Golf Club had its annual Wild Game Dinner. On this traditional night Trophys and awards for the past golf-season are also awarded. This year Bay Pointe members had been planning for months in advance to honor their Superintendent, Don LaFond.

In September a letter was sent out to all club members acknowledging the fine condition of their golf course all season and suggesting that they honor the man responsible for it. Donations for this cause poured in and all members held their little secret away from Don. They did their job so well that Don did not have the slightest idea that anything special was happening that night. When he was called up on stage he was surprised, but still had no idea what was in store for him. They gave him a large comic picture of himself in a folder signed by all members of the club. Then a copy of the letter sent out to the members was read and presented to Don. The letter had been shellacked onto a plaque. Knowing that Don's favorite winter sport was snowmobiling, they presented him with the keys to a new Arctic Cat snowmobile. Along with the snowmobile came a cover, double trailer, new gas can and a case of oil. And seeing as the gas can was empty they gave him a \$500 bill to have it filled.

The look on Don's face was one of pure shock.

Congratulations, Don, from our association for a job well done.

- Don Benham

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Tony Jacklin, Design Associate

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Desk: wastebasket with drawers.



Left to Right: Joe Moreau, member in charge of donations; Richard Swiney, member; Don LaFond on machine; Don's wife, Betty and son, Doug; and Ernie Fuller looking on (rear).

ONE HELLUVA PUTT

The cocksure golfer took his stance, eyed his ball on the tee, sighted the distance to the next green.

"Ought to make it with a drive and a putt, eh, caddy?" he said confidently.

Then he swung, lifted a clubful of sod, and dribbled the ball forward a couple of feet. The obliging caddy stepped forward and handed the golfer a putter.

"Left yourself one helluva putt, didn't you." he remarked.

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Jan and Clem Wolfrom enjoying the music.



Chairman Earl Prieskorn and his wife, Jean.

Christm

Earl Prieskorn and his wife, Jean, have once again given us a Christmas Party to remember. Over 130 people attended our Christmas Party on Dec. 3rd at Edgewood Country Club.

The evening started with cocktails and hot hors d'oeuvres, followed by a delicious meal. Dining and dancing music played through the evening with a large number of couples enjoying the

dancing.

Gift certificates were given to Mary Gill, wife of Gerry Gill, Superintendent of Tam O'Shanter, in appreciation for her work as the wife of the Secretary-Treasurer for the past two years, and to Jean Prieskorn for all of her work running the Christmas Parties all these years. Thanks to two great girls.

The highlight of the evening was the



Remember the Bunny Hop?



Gene Johaningsmeier and his wife, Barbara enjoying the dancing.



Ted Woehrle, left, presenting wall plaque to outgoing president Ward Swanson for his outstanding leadership during the past two years.



Golf Champ Don Ross and his wife, Bernice.

as Party

introduction of three special guests. We invited the widows of seven of our past members. Three of them were able to be with us. It always gives us a great deal of pleasure to have these women with us on this occasion. This year the three were: Mrs. John Gray from Canada, Mrs. Bill Buettner, and Mrs. George Prieskorn. We are all so that they could make it to spend an

evening with old friends.

President Ted Woehrle presented a handsome wall plaque to the immediate Past President, Ward Swanson, for his hard work and loyalty to the association during his two years in office as president.



Edgewood Country Club host Superintendent, Ken McRae and his wife, Elizabeth.



Left to Right: Mrs. John Gray, Mrs. Bill Buettner, Mrs. George Prieskorn, joining us for our Christmas Party.

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Fill in the questionnaire below and mail to:

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DATE _____

NAME OF INTERESTED PERSON

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Or you may contact the next golf course supplier that calls on
you and give him the information needed for application.

IBDU AS A NITROGEN SOURCE

by W.H. DANIEL, Turf Specialist, Dept. of Agronomy, Purdue University

Isobutylidene diurea is a chemical compound with the incorporation of nitrogen into the large molecule which deteriorates very slowly by hydrolysis or solution. As such it gives a slow solubility (about the same as gypsum). The solution around the particle regulates the deterioration of the particle; thus, if there is much water and much irrigation more material may move into solution. However this is a very slow process.

Because of this perimeter solution effect, IBDU can be made into varying size particles - the larger the particle the longer the supply will last within that particle. Sizes have varied from fine dusts up to .4", or 1 cm in diameter, or 1 gram in weight. It is quite possible that additional resistance could be achieved by even larger particles for trees, for forests, or shrubs, etc.

The product, patented in Japan and licensed to Swift and Company of the U.S., was priced competitively to other slow release sources such as Milorganite, or Urea. It is 31% nitrogen as normally produced. The most available form has been the particle size .7 to 2.0 mm, about standard size for granular fertilizing. Such sizes seem to last about one year in deterioration so that annual applications may be useful.

We have made repeat applications on turf areas, recorded color, and recorded clippings. Approximately 5 lbs. nitrogen per year seems adequate. We have used up to 18 lbs. in one application on the surface, and up to 20 lbs. in one application mixed into the rootzone.

IBDU does permit the manager to store nitrogen on site. It is different from the large molecule of Ureaform, which deteriorates by bacterial action; thus is quite regulated by warm temperature and higher moistures.

As with Ureaform fertilizer containing more than 50% IBDU particularly in the coarser fraction should be another tool in the long term maintenance of fine turf areas.

Presented at the Ohio Turf Conference, December, 1971.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Once again we would like to publish a list of suppliers who donated contributions to our Christmas Party. Many thanks to these fine people.

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EVALUATION OF KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS, FINE FESCUE AND RYEGRASS VARIETIES

by ROBERT W. MILLER, Professor of Agronomy, Ohio State University
and the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center

BLUEGRASS VARIETIES

Kentucky Bluegrass *Poa pratensis* is the grass species most often used for turf in Ohio. The fine texture of the leaves along with the capacity to produce numerous shoots and rhizomes makes this grass well suited for use in home lawns, golf course fairways and tees, cemeteries, and recreational establishments such as parks and playgrounds.

When many people hear the word Kentucky bluegrass they think only of common Kentucky bluegrass. In the past common Kentucky bluegrass seed was harvested from long established fields in Kentucky, southern Indiana, the Dakotas and some other locations. These fields consisted of plant populations made up of Kentucky bluegrass of many types. In reality this seed was a mixture of several "strains". In this complex blend of strains there existed some plants adapted to a wide range of conditions. In recent years many selections have proven to be no better, and in some cases inferior to common Kentucky bluegrass. Yet, many are good seed producers. Because of this, the seed is harvested and sold as common Kentucky bluegrass. Imported

seed of unknown genetic makeup also is abundant on the market. Today the chances of purchasing what we once knew as common Kentucky bluegrass are slim unless the seed is known to come from old established fields.

Some varieties of Kentucky bluegrass have become well-known. In 1936 *MERION* was selected from common Kentucky bluegrass growing at the Merion Golf Club near Philadelphia. Research in Ohio has shown Merion to be superior to common Kentucky bluegrass. It is resistant to the leaf spot disease but susceptible to rust and and stripe smut. In many cases stripe smut infestations develop thatch. Merion will withstand closer mowing than some of the other Kentucky bluegrasses. If managed properly it will produce a beautiful, dense sod until stripe smut becomes a problem. It has performed better in northern than in southern Ohio.

WINDSOR is a selection made in Ohio from an old common Kentucky bluegrass stand. It is similar in appearance and has performed about the same as Merion in research conducted at Columbus and Ripley, Ohio. As with Merion, stripe smut infestations may become a serious problem in Windsor

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turf. Windsor also is somewhat susceptible to the helminthosporium diseases. Windsor will do well under closer mowing and recover quicker from damage than some other Kentucky bluegrasses.

A-20 is available only as sod. It has been outstanding in research conducted at Wooster, Ohio. A-20 has been resistant to diseases and has produced a dense turf free from weeds. Injured areas heal quickly making it well adapted for use on golf tees, football fields and other fard used areas.

PENNSTAR was developed at The Pennsylvania State University and has been evaluated under research conditions for several years at various stations throughout the United States. Seed was first available in 1970. It has excellent disease resistance and produces a tight weedfree sod. Pennstar shows promise for use in golf tees and fairways, home lawns, and other turf-

grass areas where bluegrass is wanted.

KENBLUE is a name given to a mixture of seed lots harvested from several natural bluegrass stands grown in Kentucky. It is resistant to stripe smut but susceptible to the helminthosporium diseases. The best use for this variety is in areas under a medium level of management.

To be continued in the February issue of 'The Patch of Green'.

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FROM ONE OF OUR PEDDLERS . . . Gene from TURFGRASS

'Tis now in the New Year, and all 'round Turfgrass,
We're thinking of things that will help you grow grass
Your tools are all hung in the building with care,
They're stored for the winter . . . All's quiet in there.

You greens are all nestled, protected with care
With the hopes of the spring, when the players are there.
Your fairways made ready for wintery snow,
With hopes for the spring when your grass starts to grow.

Then there in the shed there arose such a clatter,
You ran in the door to see what was the matter.
Then on what did your wondering wide eye adjust?
But your old Cyclone spreader all covered with rust.

If your spreader is rusty, you'd better beware,
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We have a good driver so lively and quick,
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And our clothes won't be covered with ashes and soot.

A bundle of toys we won't have on our back,
To look like a peddler just opening a sack.
But an eye might just twinkle, a smile be sincere
In the hopes that we might be of service this year.

We may speak a word as we go 'bout our duty,
But not filling stocking 'cause that sounds too "fruity".
But our hope is that we may sincerely help you,
To be of some service whatever we do.

So we shall exclaim as we drive out of sight,
May your New Year be happy and everything right.
Many Men walk together, may Peace come to pass,
And lastly, BY CRACKY!!! MAY GREEN GROW YOUR GRASS!!!

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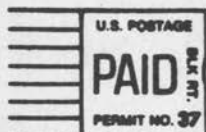
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