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A Helping Hand

By JAMES TIMMERMAN, Co-Editor

The initiation of the Regional Turf Conference Program, held at the Detroit Golf Club, March 16, 1978, is another example of the USGA extending a "helping hand" to the superintendent. We do commend this fine association and their staff for instituting this approach because it offers an excellent way for the superintendent and the Green Section to work together to help solve mutual problems.

The program for this day was geared to local and regional problems which will benefit us in the year to come.

If you stop to look at the history of the USGA Green Section you will find that it has always worked toward the goal of creating better turf conditions. It has done this in two ways: First, by supporting research at universities. Green Section supported research has been responsible for the development of new turfgrass varieties, new ways of construction. understanding green winter-kill and how to minimize its effects, disease and insect control, and much more that is too numerous to mention.

Without the Green Section we may never have had the benefits of 2,4-D or Merion bluegrass. In fact, the Green Section was the first association to carry on any type of turf research and, I'm sure, supplied the impetus for the universities to do the excellent work they do today.

The second contribution, and probably the most significant, is that of communication. Through the Green Section Visiting Service, publications, and availability of trained agronomists, more valuable information has been passed to the superintendent than any of us can ever imagine. The benefits that my club has received over the years from the Visiting Service far out-weigh the cost.

After all, communication is a vital part of any successful operation. With the ever increasing demands of our golfers for better playing conditions, Continued on Next Page

Mrs. John Gray dies at age 79

Mrs. John Gray, wife of the late John Gray, our third President, passed away February 13, 1978.

Surviving Mrs. Gray are her son, Lyle, and a daughter, Mrs. Gordon McKay of Livonia, Michigan, and four grandchildren.

John Gray was Superintendent of Essex C.C. of Sandwich, Ontario for many years. He was President of GCSAA in 1940.



Remember, Safety First When Handling Chemicals

Golf course chemicals handle like golf course wives in one respect. When you continually work with them, you begin to take both for granted. That can lead to trouble, especially with pesticides.

The nonlethal reactions to pesticides are largely ignored or reported. Many cases of insecticide poisoning

A Helping Hand Cont.

with the attacks of new insects and diseases, with the pressure of rising prices, and with the rapidly advancing technology, we need every avenue of communication open to us.

The Green Section, through the Regional Turf Conferences, has shown that it is aware of our needs by the willingness of its staff to cooperate with the superintendent at a very intimate level. I personally hope they will continue to work toward this goal, and encourage in return that we look to the Green Section and take advantage of the services available from this fine arm of turfgrass management.

I would also like to thank Clem Wolfrom, Bruce Wolfrom, the Detroit Golf Club and the Michigan and Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association for the effort they extended to make this conference a success. could be passed off as a "bad case of the nerves" during spraying times. Insecticide poisonings don't always result in death. Insecticides are nerve poisons. Prolonged handling of toxic products over an extended period (15-20 days) could produce some fairly familiar symptoms.

Insecticides inhibit production of an enzyme called colinesterase which regulates nerve transmission. Relatively small amounts may be sufficient to cause blurred vision, headaches, nausea, and chest constriction.

Insecticides as a group are much more potent than herbicides. *Dasanite* is highly toxic to humans even thru skin contact.

Of the herbicides used on golf courses, Paraquat is probably the most toxic.

The risk to health and life may be substantial with careless pesticide handling. So follow some minimum safety procedures.

Stay upwind when you're mixing or pouring pesticides. Avoid inhaling fumes or dust. Use a respirator.

Wear long sleeved shirts and keep the sleeves rolled down while handling these chemicals.

Continued on Next Page



Commercial Fertilizers Change Soil Reaction

Fertilizers have an effect on soil reaction. Some make the soil more acid, and others have the opposite effect.

Nitrogenous Fertilizers Have Greatest Effects: The fertilizers used to furnish nitrogen have the greatest effect on soil reaction. Some increase and others decrease acidity. The acid formers include ammonium sulphate, ammonium nitrate. ammophos. and Urea. The first two have the most pronounced effect because their ammonia becomes nitric acid in the soil. Sulphuric and nitric acids are powerful acids. The nitrogen of urea is changed to ammonia and then converted into nitric acid.

Cyanamid, sodium, and calcium nitrate make the soil less acid. The calcium in cyanamid becomes hydrate

Safety First Cont.

Wear rubber gloves on your hands, not in your pockets or on the tractor, while mixing or pouring.

Wear unvented goggles and other protective clothing as suggested by the pesticide label.

Avoid slopping or overfilling. This invites contact with the pesticide after you have finished handling it. Besides, it's a waste of something you've paid good money for. of lime in the soil. When 100 pounds of cyanamid is used it is the same as applying 70 pounds of lime. Sodium and calcium nitrate reduce soil acidity. The nitrogen in them is used by the plant and the residue of sodium or calcium neutralizes acids.

Dried blood tends to make the soil more acid because the nitrogen becomes nitric acid and the blood does not contain calcium or other basic elements in quantity. Bone meal and animal or fish tankage make the soil less acid because they contain calcium carbonate. Other organics have little or no effect on soil reaction. Milorganite does not change soil reaction.

Superphosphate Reduces Acidity: Superphosphate has little effect on soil reaction. The tendency is for it to make the soil less acid because of the calcium it contains. The ammonium phosphates make the soil more acid as explained above.

Potash Fertilizers Increase Active Acidity Temporarily: Muriate and sulphate of potash are the principal sources of potash in fertilizers. The first effect of both is to increase the amount of soluble acid in the soil solution of an acid soil, but the final effect is to reduce acidity. This property is not pronounced.

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Spring Horticulture Tips

By GREGORY PATCHAN, Extension Horticultural Agent

Dormant Sprays - Applications of dormant oil or lime-sulfur for the control of over-wintering insects and occasionally diseases should be well underway. Due to handling and staining problems with lime sulfur, few operators use this material. However; it is still one of the best for anthracnose on brambles and peach leaf curl. Do not use oils on sugar and Japanese maples, birch, beech, hickory and nut trees. Oil will temporarily remove the blue coloration from spruce.

Anthracnose of Shade Trees - (Oak, Sycamore, Maple) - A dormant spray of Bordeaux or Cyprex provides same protection for new growth. Zineb, Cyprex or mancozeb may be used for protection in late spring when leaves are partially developed. Spray protection can only be recommended for young and specimen trees from costreturn standpoint. Spring fertilization has been shown to be more beneficial to good tree growth and recovery from anthracnose defoliation than spray protection.

Spruce Gall - These pineapple shaped galls can be controlled by spraying with lindane about mid-April before new growth emerges.

Weed Control - Full season weed control for many weeds in shrub beds can be obtained with an application of simazine (Princep) before weed growth begins. Granular formula are easier to apply uniformly. Be sure to check label recommendations for sensitive plants before application. Do not use where flowers are to be planted. Treflan is reported to have fewer plant injury problems, and it can be used where flowers are to be planted. Treflan is also available as *Preen*.

Crabgrass Control: Pre-emergent crabgrass control materials should be applied by the time forsythia is in full bloom. Recommended materials include Dacthal, Balan, Betasan and Tupersan. Tupersan should be used where areas are to be reseeded since this material provides selective control.

MBCGCSA Meeting Schedule for '78 April 11 Essex C.C. May 9 Godwin Glen Lakelands C.C. June 6 July 11 Oakland University Course (Noon meeting at Silverdome) August 1 Travis Pointe August 22 Burroughs Farms -Bay Pointe G.C. August 31 Sept. 7 Golf Day M.S.U. Field Day Sept. 13 Oct. 3 Maple Lane Golf Club Oct. 24 Grosse Ile G & CC Bruce Wolfrom, Chairman



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Why your superintendent should be a golfer

I don't know personally of a lawyer who doesn't practice law, a doctor who doesn't use his knowledge to heal, an automobile mechanic who does not keep his hands at least partly greasy. I don't know of a chef who doesn't cook, a so on, ad infinitum.

I do know of clubs that do not allow their superintendents to play except rarely. I even know golf, superintendents who have never even played golf. I question either of these practices. Having been active since before grade school in the golf profession, and having had a father who had over 50 years in the business and other relatives in other parts of golfrelated activities, from club members to employees, I just don't understand why a golf club would restrict the golf superintendents activity, playing And I sure can't understand golf. the superintendent who can't, or refuse to learn how to play the game.

How in the world can a non-golfer even understand all the intracacies of the game, a grassed golf course, if he cannot personally play the game, and come to appreciate the golfers' point of view?

I wouldn't want a non-participating doctor removing my appendix. I would not want an auto mechanic repairing my roof, and vice-versa. That's how important it is for the golf course Super to play the game. Years ago, my father was required to submit to the board two attested golf scores each and every week. No excuses were accepted for failure. It meant instant discharge.

His predecessor had been on the property as superintendent for over 20 years, and didn't even know the names of the clubs, much less how and Continued on Page 16





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Supt. Should Be Golfer Cont.

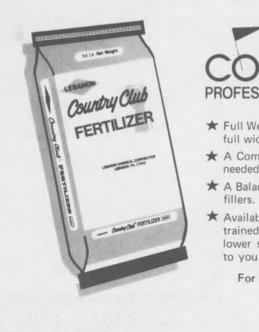
where to use them. This golf club was probably one of the first in the country, back in 1928, to recognize this very important part of being a golf course superintendent.

In all the years since then, and even after Dad's retirement and passing that club has had only one superintendent who did not play the game. He didn't even finish two years on the job before he was discharged.

When you go from the best to the worst, spend \$50,000 more in an annual budget, and can't give a golfer a golfer's reason for the existing conditions, it must be that you don't know the game. Consequently, he was fired.

Your golf course superintendent doesn't have to be a par buster. Even if he can't break 100, you should see that your pro, or your superintendent set themselves a goal of getting him to shoot to least within the 85 to 95 range consistently. Their mutual Continued on Next Page

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Supt. Should Be Golfer Cont.

effort at this task, and its being accomplished, will almost automatically make them work together for other good benefits from which the club and its members will profit from in all ways.

A superintendent who can play within the desired range can more adequately satisfy the golfers and committees. Logical answers will be given and accepted. If you know he doesn't play the game, and question him about the something, the first thought in your mind is "How the he-does he know, he can't even play the game!"

One of the greatest assets a club can have besides a golfing superintendent, is to allow him to have other superintendents over to play with him periodically. He can get peer opinions from professional people for whom he has great respect. No one knows better the way to travel than a man who has already been there and back. Everyone benefits from such an extended privilege, especially the golfers at the four golf courses these four men represent. After all, the golfers are the people whom we most want to benefit.

I've learned more during the 4-5 hours playing with golf course superintendents than I did in the previous four years of college. There was theory in print. On the links, it was fact, in the presence of growing turf. If a picture is worth 1,000 words, problems solved on the spot, by group professionals mutually linked to the common good of all involved must be worth millions of words, and therefore, dollars.

So, get that superintendent out on the golf course, play with him if you're the chairman, or on the committee, or are a board member. Don't take his mind off the game while you're playing, you're both out for that, but try to mutually make the course better for all players. Then after you've finished the Continued on Next Page



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Supt. Should Be Golfer Cont.

round, talk about the problems, then it will be fresh in both minds.

I'm glad I play the game, and even more glad that some of my fondest memories are of people who helped me be a fair golfer, and at the same time, made me a better golf course superintendent. It's a great challenge and one of the best tools of my trade.

The results for playing and recognizing the golfer's problems helps me give my members a better, more challenging golf course. After all, that's what they're paying for, and I like to feel that most of them are happy and proud at our course.

Do You Have Something To Write About?

If you feel like writing about your profession or some related subject that may be of interest to your fellow Superintendents - then send it to "The Golf Superintendent" magazine. You may just find yourself the recipient of the *Leo Feser* award given to the superintendent/writer whose article appears in the magazine and is judged the best of the year.

This year's winner was James Hildebrand, Superintendent of Sea Island Golf Course, St. Simons Island, Ga. The award recognized an article written by Hildebrand, titled "The Zone Approach: How a Superintendent Can Use it to Streamline His Maintenance Operation" appearing in the September/October, 1977 issue of "The Golf Superintendent", GCSAA's official magazine.

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