



### MGCSA MEETING NOTICE

Date: May 16, 1974, Thursday  
Place: Innis Arden Golf Club  
Golf: 12 noon  
Lunch: Available in grill room  
Cocktails: 6-7 PM  
Dinner: 7 PM  
Program: Mr. Joseph Finger, Golf Course Architect  
Host: Ralph Castelli  
Directions: Take New England Thruway I 95 to Exit 5, take right at exit on to Route 1, take first right Sound Beach Avenue—Follow thru town, pass school take left at Lockwood—go to end of Lockwood take left on Tomac Rd. Club is on Tomac Rd.

Note: Please return your card promptly or call Ralph Castelli 203-637-3210 (7:15 AM)

### COMING EVENTS:

May 16 LIGCSA Sayville C.C.  
June MGCSA open date  
July MGCSA open date  
August MGCSA Superintendents Championship Round Hill GC  
September MGCSA open date  
October 3 Superintendents Invitational Brae Burn C.C.  
November Annual Meeting  
December 21 Christmas Party Burning Tree Country Club

**MEMBERSHIP:** We have had some problems in the past in regard to address changes and corrections. If you are still not receiving your mail at the proper address, please call 914-698-8510. Ask for the addressing dept. (Ann) she will make the change or correction. This is the direct route all members should use, for all future changes. Thank you.

**MEMBERSHIP ROSTER:** Please do not give out the membership roster to non-members, especially commercial firms which intend to use it for a free mailing list. Thank you.

### MGCSA NEWS:

Well our first golf meeting was a tremendous success. Bob DePencier our host at Westchester C.C. did a great job in

coordinating all events. We had a turnout of 125 plus for dinner, with about 70 for golf. We had nice weather for golf and certainly everybody came out of hiding to attend the dinner and program. We had representatives from the Met. PGA, Bob Watson, Metropolitan Golf Association, Jim McLoughlin, Guido Gribari Sports Director, Westchester Rockland Inc.

Our guest speaker Peter DeAngelo gave a short presentation on Relationships between Golf Course Superintendent and Manager. Basically each has a job to do in their own area and that's the way it should operate with good communications between each at all times.

Everybody in MGCSA wishes Bill Smart a speedy recovery from his recent accident. Cards may be sent to Bill's home, Rt. 9W M.D. 25, Newburgh, New York, 12550. Bill's Hudson Valley Foreground newsletter is known from coast to coast. Take care Bill and if you need any help just hollar.

This has certainly been one of the earliest springs we have had in a long time even sooner than last year. The Poa is in full bloom (so what else is new). I am sure everybody has been scrambling trying to get caught up with Spring clean-up getting all the spraying down etc. and trying to keep up with the grass so very early. I think if we ever could get some research on soil temperature in relationship to some of our insect problems and diseases maybe we could be a little more accurate with our spray programs and pre emergence chemicals. See you all at Innis Arden C.C. It will be interesting to see if the whole USGA Staff comes.

**Tee to Green:** We regret the error in a previous edition in regard to Tony Savone; it should have read Congratulations on your new job at Quaker Ridge C.C. If you have any other corrections, complaints, etc., please make them direct to Editor or Co-Editor. We can't improve unless we hear from the membership. It's your Newsletter we just try to give the information we think you want. If you would like different type information: Write an article and send it in.

### M.G.C.S.A. EXHIBITS AT WESTCHESTER COUNTY HOME AND GARDEN SHOW

The MGCSA again prepared a fine display booth at the Westchester County Home and Garden Show at the County Center in White Plains. Chairman, Lony Casterella did an excellent job and is thankful for the complete cooperation





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Ted Horton  
Scott Benty

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Co-Editor  
Staff Writer

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which he received from his committee. He wishes to express his appreciation to our MGCSA members representing the Westchester Garden Center and Emanuel Shemin Nursery for providing the horticultural material displayed in the booth.

Members of the MGCSA took turns being present at the booth on both Saturday and Sunday. They answered many questions from the 5,000 people who attended the show. We congratulate Londy and his committee for a job well done.



Chairman Londy Casterella, President Harry Nichol at MGCSA Booth—at Westchester County Home and Garden Show—Co-Sponsored by Westchester County Co-op Extension and Westchester Parks and Recreation Commission

#### A NEW SEASON INITIATED AT WESTCHESTER COUNTRY CLUB

by Scott Benty  
Winged Foot Golf Club

The first meeting of the M.G.C.S.A. for the summer season of 1974 was held at the Westchester Country Club. April marks the beginning of the M.G.C.S.A. summer meetings and clubs like the Westchester Country Club are great places to begin anything. A large crowd was on hand to open the season with special guests such as Mr. Al Radko, Mr. William Buchanan from the U.S.G.A., also Mr. Robert Watson, President of the M.P.G.A., Mr. James McLoughlin Executive Director of M.G.A., Mr. Mel Lucas Eastern Representative of the G.C.S.A.A.



James McLoughlin—Executive Director MGA, Wes Eillis—Host Golf Professional Westchester C.C.



Al Radko—USGA, Harry Nichol—Pres. MGCSA  
"Like that Smile Harry"

Mr. Harry Nichol opened the meeting and welcomed everyone and wished one and all a good summer season. Mr. Robert DePencier was introduced as the host superintendent. He informed the audience that a special tournament is to be set up to honor Mr. Lawrence Labriola who died this past winter. Mr. Labriola was unknown to me. But from what I have found out, he was one of the cornerstones in the turf field in this area. It is very sad when people of high caliber are taken from us, however, I am sure his memory will live on.

Mr. Peter DeAngelo was the guest speaker. President of the

National Managers Association and the club manager at the Hampshire Golf Club, Mr. DeAngelo delivered a short talk on the Relationship of the Club Manager to the Golf Course Superintendent. He emphasized the fact that the manager is a position of support to the superintendent. The manager's duties end at the first tee. The manager is eyes and ears for the superintendent. Upon hearing criticism, he should relate this to the superintendent. Mr. DeAngelo believes in a very close knit family type operation. With this closeness, he feels the benefits for all are greater and the problems fewer.



Robert Blizzard and Green Committee Chairman  
Host Supt. Robert DePencier



Guido Gribari—Sports Director Westchester  
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Peter DeAngelo—Pres. CMAA  
Guest Speaker



Bob Watson—President Met. P.G.A.



Robert DePencier, Westchester C.C.  
Host Program Chairman  
"Well done Bob"

## PROMOTE NATIONAL GOLF DAY

What greater cause can we support than research and learning in golf course maintenance and management. For years the National Golf Fund has contributed generously to turfgrass research and scholarships through the GCSAA Research and Scholarship Fund and the U.S.G.A. Green Section Research and Education Fund, Inc. but the real benefactors are all clubs throughout the nation. We encourage you, therefore, to promote National Golf Day at your club—it's for you, your profession, for golf and your golf course. The National Golf Fund is derived from National Golf Day.

On National Golf Day professional golfers will set the target score on June 3rd. Jack Nicklaus, PGA Champion, and Johnny Miller, USGA Open Champion, will compete to set the target score for men, while Susie Berning, Women's Open Champion, and Mary Mills, Ladies' PGA Champion, will set the target score for the ladies. Amateur golfers will be allowed full handicaps and those whose net scores are lower than the target score will receive a memento. Golfers will compete from June 8th through June 16th.

Get together with your professional and urge him to promote National Golf Day at your club.

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### GCSAA: DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Each year, the GCSAA Executive Committee will consider nominations for the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award at its Fall Meeting.

To be accepted for the Distinguished Service Award, a nominee must meet the following qualifications:

1. Must have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the profession of Golf Course Superintendency.
2. The outstanding contribution may be, or have been, regional in nature as long as it can be judged to have significantly advanced the profession nationally or internationally.
3. The nominee must not have been a recipient of this award during the preceeding ten (10) years.

An individual (s) may be nominated by: A Chapter of GCSAA, and individual Class A or B member of this Association, the Association Planning Committee, or the Executive Committee. This is an exceptional opportunity for you to participate in honoring a fellow Superintendent or others who have contributed significantly to the profession.

Very serious consideration will be given each nominee by your Executive Committee. You are encouraged to provide them with a comprehensive package of supportive data.

Please submit your nominations to this office by September 15, 1974. We will collect all nominations received at that time and forward them to the Chairman of the Public Relations and Awards Committee.

### G.C.S.A.A. MEMBERSHIP PROFILE SURVEY

"To learn where the profession is, so better plans can be made for the future" the GCSAA urges that each member complete and return the survey before May 15, 1974.

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## RESEARCH REVIEW

by Wayne C. Morgan

### ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL PRECONDITIONING EFFECTS ON THE WATER USE RATE OF PENNCROSS CREEPING BENTGRASS

Water use rates for actively growing turfgrasses commonly range from about  $\frac{2}{3}$  inches to 2 inches per week, but may exceed 3 inches depending on environmental and cultural factors. Factors which affect the growth rate of turfgrass influence stomatal density and water use rates. Information on these effects are of increasing importance and an excellent article with the above title was written by R.C. Shearman and J.B. Beard of Michigan State University. The article appeared in the July-August, 1973, issue of Crop Science.

#### EXPERIMENT

The objectives of this investigation were to determine the relative importance of preconditioning (prior to drought stress exposure) environmental and cultural factors on the water use rate of "Penncross" creeping bentgrass. Environmental and cultural factors studies were: light intensity, growing temperature, irrigation frequency, cutting height, mowing frequency, and nitrogen nutrition level. The influence of these six factors on stomatal density was also observed. Correlation between stomatal density and water use rate were determined in relation to cultural environmental factors studies.

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Light Intensity**—Water use rate and stomatal density increased with preconditioning light intensity levels. The increase in stomatal density was positively correlated to water use rate. Light intensity was also observed to influence other plant responses. Leaf width and shoot growth, based on visual observations, were reduced at the lowest light intensity compared to those at the highest.

Bermudagrass had reduced leaf, shoot, and root number at

lower light intensities. These plant responses result in a reduction of leaf area and water absorption capability which could contribute to a lower water use rate in shaded environments. Plants grown at low light intensities have reduced cuticle thickness, reduced epidermal cell wall thickness, and increased intercellular space compared to plants growing at higher light intensities. Plant responses such as these also contribute to increased susceptibility to water loss. The water loss might be sufficient to cause an internal moisture deficit and stomatal closure, resulting in a reduction in the water use rate compared to plants at higher light intensities and not under internal moisture stress.

**Temperature**—Turfs preconditioned at suboptimal shoot growth temperatures of 50°F had a significantly lower water use rate than those grown at 68° and 90°F when exposed to controlled atmospheric drought stress conditions. There was no difference in water use rate between 68° and 90°F. Stomatal density was significantly reduced for plants grown at 50°F compared to 69° to 90°F. Stomatal density was not significantly correlated to water use rate.

Growth temperature has little effect on stomatal density within normal temperature ranges for turfgrass growth. Temperatures that promote more rapid shoot growth tend to increase the water use rate. Temperatures higher than 86° to 95°F have stimulated stomatal closure, but it is difficult to separate this response from the possible influence of internal water deficits.

**Irrigation Frequency**—Turfs receiving irrigation only when wilt was visually evident (approximately every 4 days) had a significantly greater stomatal density than those receiving irrigation three and seven times per week. However, water use rate for these turfs was significantly lower than those irrigated three and seven times each week. The reduction in water use rate was positively correlated with a decline in percent vegetative cover. The decline in percent vegetative cover also resulted in an undesirable loss in turfgrass quality.

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Soil moisture has been reported to have various indirect effects on plant factors that influence water use. Some dicotyledonous species have fewer but larger stomata per unit area when grown in dry soils. However, this was not the case with Pennncross creeping bentgrass used in this investigation. Leaf widths, leaf thickness, and cuticle thickness have been reported to be influenced by irrigation frequency. Frequent, light irrigations reduced drought tolerance and the extent of the root system.

**Cutting Height and Mowing Frequency**—Water use rate increased with cutting height and mowing frequency. Water use rate doubled between  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch and 5 inch cutting heights, and increased by 41% between the biweekly mowing frequency and mowing six times per week. Work with Kentucky bluegrass indicated soil water extraction was directly proportional to cutting height. This is associated with increased leaf area and extent of root growth at higher cutting heights, which enhances water absorption and loss through transpiration.

**Nitrogen Nutrition Level**—A number of reports have indicated that water use rate increases with increasing nitrogen fertilization. Turfs preconditioned with five levels of nitrogen for a 3-month treatment period exhibited increasing water use rates with increased nitrogen application levels when exposed to atmospheric drought stress conditions at the end of the preconditioning treatment period. Turfs receiving no nitrogen had the lowest water use rate of the treatment levels studied. Water use rate was significantly reduced at excessive nitrogen application rates (1500 ppm N, indicating a possible association of these characteristics with the water use rates of turfs. Leaf width, shoot density, and shoot growth were

positively correlated with water use rates. However, root organic matter was not significantly correlated. Although the number of stomata per unit area decreased with increasing nitrogen application, the total number of stomata per unit area were decreased with increasing nitrogen application, the total number of stomata per leaf may not have declined because leaf width increased. The importance of increased plant surface area exposed to desiccating conditions in influencing the water use rate is indicated by the correlation coefficients of these factors with water use rate.

## CONCLUSIONS

These studies indicate that the preconditioning treatment effects of cutting height, light intensity, and nitrogen nutrition level have the greatest influence on the water use rate of Pennncross creeping bentgrass turfs. Mowing frequency and irrigation were intermediate in their effects, and temperature had the least effect on water use rate. The relative importance of cutting height, light intensity, and nitrogen nutrition level on the water use rate can be associated with their influence on the total plant surface area exposed to desiccating conditions.

Environmental factors such as temperature and light intensity are difficult to manipulate in a turfgrass maintenance program. Adjustment of irrigation practices to the existing conditions is important in maintaining quality turf. Typical situations include shade vs. full sunlight and cloudy vs. sunny days, or in the case of temperature, syringing at midday to prevent high temperature stress. Cultural factors are more easily manipulated than environmental parameters. A single factor in a maintenance program may not be significant. However, a combination of cultural factors could significantly reduce the water requirements of a turf. Manipulation of these parameters where irrigation is limited by the water supply, irrigation capacity, and facilities could be very important in maintaining turfgrass quality.

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**U.S. OPEN AT WINGED FOOT GOLF CLUB -  
JUNE 10-16, 1974**

Through our Newsletter, I would like to inform our Association membership that Golf Course Superintendents of U.S.G.A. member clubs and/or members of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association who will identify themselves by membership cards for the current year will be issued free of charge daily admission to the 1974 U.S.G.A. Men's Open to be held at Winged Foot Golf Club June 10-16.

I hope that as many Superintendents as possible will attend this event.

Ted Horton  
Superintendent, Winged Foot Golf Club

**REMOVAL OF CANADIAN GEESE**

Andy Androsko again reminds us that if we wish to schedule removal of Canadian Geese from the golf course, we should **immediately** contact:

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**I WAS MISTAKEN—  
YOU ALL LOOK ALIKE'**

by Erma Bombeck

I just figured out if my husband paid just half the attention to me as he does the lawn, my 70-year-old mailman would never have started to look like Robert Redford.

If ever there was a valid suit for alienation of affection, it's that lousy lawn.

There is something about the ability of a man to grow a few blades of grass that contributes to his masculinity. He is either a grass grower or he is not a grass grower. I have seen virile men move into the neighborhood with tattoos on their lips, but if they have fungus on their dwarf tiff, forget it. They're just not one of the boys.

A **LAWN** enthusiast has two moods: terrible and irritable. These are interchangeable depending on whether the grass is growing or whether the grass is not growing.

When the grass is not growing, my husband goes to the library to see what could be missing, has his soil analyzed, waters, soaks, fertilizes, and has the nurseryman who sold him the seed make a house call.

When the grass is growing, he runs the mower back to the store to make sure the blade is cutting, trims, rakes, rolls and makes an obscene phone call to the dog next door who overfertilized it in the first place.

**THERE IS** no pleasing a lawn freak.

Some say it is normal for a man to want a pretty lawn. I don't know what is normal anymore. I sent the kids to Mother's, blew an entire food budget on steaks and wine, put a dab of garlic on the lightbulb and slipped into something that had not been paid for. "What are you thinking?" I teased, turning off the TV set.

"Did you turn the hose off?" he asked.

**IS IT** normal for a man to call the police and report a flock of birds who are eating our grass seed? Is it normal for a grown man to mourn a brown spot for three years?

I was all set to tell the mailman about my infatuation with him when he said, "I see your husband uses a chemical fertilizer of nitrogen, phosphorous, and potash. Tell him if he invested in a little sheep dip, he'd do away with that crabgrass. Is there something you wanted?"

"I thought you looked like someone I knew," I said. "But I was mistaken. You all look alike."

Reprinted from Westchester-Rockland Newspaper

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