Tee to Green

Vol. IV, No. 7 Published monthly by the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association August, 1975

MEETING NOTICE:

Date: September 11, 1975
Place: Fenway Golf Club
Luncheon: 12 Noon
Golf: Shotgun start at 1 PM M.G.C.S.A. Invitational Team Championship
Cocktails: 6:30-7:30
Dinner: 7:30
Host: Allan Tretera

All Class A, B, C members who are coming to dinner only must call Allan Tretera if you plan to attend. Please do so no later than September 8th. 472-1467.

COMING EVENTS:

Sept. 11 Superintendents Invitational, Fenway Golf Club
Sept. 18 Labriola Memorial Golf Tournament Whippoorwill Golf Club
Oct. 1 Testimonal Dinner "Walter Androsko" details see Garry Crothers
Oct. 7 Conn G.C.S.A. Golf Club of Avon
Oct. 16 L.I.G.C.S.A. Maidstone Golf Club
Oct. 17 M.G.C.S.A. Field Day, Westchester C.C.
Oct. 29-30 Wisconsin Golf Seminar, Milwaukee, Wisc.
November M.G.C.S.A. Annual meeting date to be announced next Tee to Green
Dec. 13 M.G.C.S.A. Christmas Party, Rye Golf Club

Superintendents Low Gross Champion Gus Powell, right, Golf Chairman, Allan Tretera and Chuck Martineau.

BUDGET AND SALARY SURVEY

Reminder: Please return your salary and budget surveys as soon as possible. We are aiming for a 50% return. To date we have had 25%. Thank you.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

It was a good turn out at our July meeting at Apawamis. This was the first day of that "beauty" of a heat wave that we all can remember in the beginning of August. Yes, if you didn't loose grass that week-end, it was a wonder, what with dry wilt, wet wilt, hyperodes brood #x, dung beetle, brown patch, pythium, melting out. In most cases Mr. Poa said goodbye—I will see you in the fall—this is too much for me. As in 1973 it all started with excessive rain. Now that the summer of '75 is almost over we are all busy renovating those brown areas. It sure would be nice if they can develop a superior bent grass along with a positive poa annua control.

Thanks again to Bob DePencier for obtaining the free passes to the Westchester Classic. What a week to have the Classic. The players are still commenting about the heat even after playing in 100 degree weather in Dallas. The greens were in excellent shape and really that's where they score, not the fairways or the teeing surface. Bob received some excellent write-ups in the Press.

M.G.C.S.A. PICNIC—We had a great day, warm and sunny. It was a perfect spot with practically the whole end of Captain's Island to ourselves. Ferry boat ride the kids loved, along with the swings and other rides. Food—you name it, we had it. Beer and soda for everybody. Now I ask you what more can you want. Bob DePencier and Ray Twombly arranged for the place which was perfect. Bob did a great job buying and setting up the barbeque and drinks, with help from the Carriere's, Terry Mulligan and many others. Those who didn't come missed a great day. As in our monthly meetings, we had to depend on return cards for the numbers we had to buy food and beverages for. Only this time it wasn't the club it was M.G.C.S.A. that was the host. The result is that we bought enough food for those who said they were coming. If you didn't have the courtesy to call, we may have to bill those whose return card said I am coming and never showed if our cost far exceed our income. I realize that many fellows were renovating but you still could have joined the group for a late afternoon swim and picnic dinner.

Research and Scholarship—We have had a banner year with our old friend Mr. Hyperodes. Also the newcomer that seems to be taking its share of turf is the dung beetle. There are many

Tee to Green

Editorial Staff

Garry Crothers — *Co-Editor*
Ted Horton — *Co-Editor*

unknowns with both these insects and so we must again look to research to find some of the answers so that we can have better control. We have talked to Cornell about the problems we have had this season. All that is now needed is money for the graduate student to work on both the hyperodes and dung beetles. M.G.C.S.A. and L.I.G.C.S.A. hope to form a turf research foundation similiar to the one formed in 1968-69 with Scott Cameron on the initial hyperodes study. You, along with your club, will be hearing more about this in the near future.

Garry Crothers

President of the Apawamis Club, Edward Parmelee, greeting MGCSA President Garry Crothers and Vice-President Bob DePencier.

T. Grosso(before shorts), B. Caputi, R. Morhardt and B. Carriere Sr.

TESTIMONIAL DINNER FOR "ANDY" ANDROSKO:

As many of you already know Andy is now retired. He has served Westchester County as Agricultural Extention Agent for 25 yrs. He has helped just about everybody in M.G.C.S.A at one time or another. Just a phone call and he was to your aid. We will honor him on October 1, 1975 at The Sherton Eagle Bay Inn, Ossining. For tickets and information, please call Garry Crothers, 967-2100.

RUTGERS TURFGRASS RESEARCH FIELD DAY—SUMMARY

By Garry Crothers

It was a hot sunny day at New Brunswick. Like most of the Metropolitan New York area the effects of the excess rainfall and extremely hot days in early August were evident at the turf plots also. Pythium was seen in several locations on the turfgrass tour. The following is a brief summary of the various stops on the tour.

1. Bentgrass Fertility. It was very obvious this year that the

lower rates of nitrogen, regardless of carrier or time applied received little turf damage. The higher the nitrogen treatment the greater loss of turf. This is especially true when you have higher temperatures. This variation was not as evident last year.

2. Helminthosporium Leaf Spot, Crown Rot and Melting-Out. The disease likes temperatures in the 50-70 degree range. The disease is most severe with Kentucky bluegrasses. As with the bents the high nitrogen plots suffered most damage from melting out. At Rutgers the most resistant variety was Bonnieblue. Terraclor, Daconil, Dyrene and Tersan LSR gave the best control. These chemicals should be applied early in the Spring. All systemics fungicides tested are ineffective and some may actually increase disease incidence.

3. Fusarium Roseum—in Kentucky Bluegrass plots. The only control still is the use Systemics at rates of 6-8 ounces. At Rutgers treatments start on May 20th with treatments at 15 day intervals. You definitely must water in and use a wetting agent if it is very thatchy. It was noted that where Tri Calcium Arsonate (Chip Cal) was used 2 yrs. prior in part of these same plots, the incidence of Fusarium roseum was definitely greater. The thatch build up was also greater in these areas. It was mentioned that with fusarium roseum watering, it is very important to keep area wet. When drought stress appears and the night time temperatures are above 70 you will probably soon after see fusarium roseum appear.

4. Brownpatch and Pythium on Rye grass—Pythium blight disease is often called Grease Spot. Pythium usually appears in low wet spots. The disease depends upon excess moisture since the zoospores are able to swim to spread disease. This is why watering excessively or mowing when wet can carry the disease very rapidly and often you see the streak appearance. Pythium may start at 68 degrees but favorable temperatures are in the 85-95 degree. The higher the temperature the shorter the required time for injury. The time interval for substantial turf injury is: (a) 2-4 hrs. at 95 degrees (b) 4-8 hrs. at 86 degrees (c) 8-24 hrs. at 77 degrees. This probably explains why you may have received pythium damage at different temperature ranges. It is generally thought that it is solely active at very high temperatures. This is not the case as there are cool season pythiums also.

It was also very obvious on the Rye grass plots that where it was treated with Terraclor or in combinations with Terraclor for brown patch that the brown patch was controlled but it left the turf with very little resistence to Pythium blight. In fact these plots were almost completely covered with pythium and the check plot was almost clean.

5. Pre-Emergence trials—In this area the Bensulide (Betsan) seemed to have the longest residual effect on crabgrass. Dacthal which over the years has always appeared good at Rutgers, didn't look as good this year. It probably is due to the excessive rain in the Central Jersey area.

6. Red Fescue trials which have been tested from 3-9 years again showed that fescues cut at lower heights (¾ inch) and frequent mowing are inferior to many Bluegrasses. It was pointed out that fescues are best suited for low maintenance areas, such as rough, where fertility is low. They normally look good in spring and fall. Thus the mixtures of fescues and bluegrasses of the superior varieties has a place in a good rough.

Two new varieties have been released by Rutgers, Fortress and Banner. Both seem to retain color most of the year with good cover and little mowing.

7. We saw the new Turfgrass Research Center at Ryders Lane. Here they are again working on fescues and bluegrass blends at two intensities of mowing with low fertilization. It is too early to see any standouts in this area.

8. At Ryder Lane they also have many selections of *bentgrass* which they are looking at. Many of them are from golf courses. If you have one that looks particularly good at your course I am sure Dr. Ralph Engel would love to have it added to the others.

9. Rye grass plots—at Ryder—There are many improved varities of Rye grass as you know. The ones that looked the best under severe summer stress were, Diplomat, Pennfine, Birdie, and Citation. Citation I would say looked the best.

10. Shade trials at Ryder—They have an excellent location under a row of trees of several varities (formerly part of horticultural plots). They have all exposures to light, north, south, east and west. Rye grasses looked good initially but looked poor at this time. Naturally Poa trivilias has held up well. In the bluegrasses. Glade and Nugget looked the best.

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS TURFGRASS FIELD DAY

The University of Massachusetts Turfgrass Field Day was held July 30, 1975 at the foot of Mt. Sugarloaf, on the South Deerfield Research Plots, South Deerfield, Massachusetts.

The experimental area was acquired in 1973 and the first plots established in the spring of that year. The soil is a Silt Loam composed of 39% sand, 52% silt and 9% clay with a ph of 6.7.

The morning program consisted of 9 stops.

STOP 1 . . . HERBICIDE TRIALS ON BROADLEAF WEEDS

Objective . . . effectiveness/Phytotoxicity

Comments . . . there are three new herbicide that looked good. They are still experimental numbers. Probably will hear more at the turf conference.

STOP 2 . . . PLANTS FOR LOW MAINTENANCE.

Objective . . . erosion control and low maintenance.

Comment . . . the four herbaceous plants under study, two varities of Vetch and two species of Pea family (Lathyrus) have competed well with the unmowed grasses.

Cultivars of bluegrasses under low management looked better at the unmowed height than those mowed at ¾" and 1½".

The tall and hard fescues can also be utilized in low maintenance areas. At 1½" to 3" height of cut.

STOP 3 . . . EVALUATION OF FUNGICIDES FOR DOLLAR SPOT CONTROL

Bentgrass cut at 0.25"

Comment . . . adequate control with Systemics, Actidione TGF and Cadminate. Treatments will continue with result reported in the Turf Bulletin.

STOP 4 . . . TURFGRASS VARIETY EVALUATION

Bluegrasses . . . Cultivars with high ratings are: Baron, Victa, Merion, Pennstar and Parade to name a few.

Red Fescue . . . Jamestown, Dawson and Halifax are outstanding varieties.

Perennial Ryegrass . . . Manhattan and Pennfine are the two varieties that demonstrated high quality. All Ryegrasses had a slight snowmold infestation during the month of April.

STOP 5 . . . GROWTH RETARDANT ON KENTUCKY BLUEGRASSES AND RED FESCUE.

Comments . . . growth retardant have the potential of reducing maintenance costs. Few of the common problems are thinning, discoloration and lack of persistence.

STOP 6 . . . COMPARISON OF FALL, WINTER AND SPRING FERTIIZATION

Comments . . . an important consideration is that the highest **visual** ratings do not necessarily mean that Root and Rhizome growth are high. Evaluation of any program could best be made when the grass plants are under periods of stress. Dormant feeding in my opinion, still looks good.

STOP 7 . . . HERBICIDE EVALUATION FOR CRABGRASS CONTROL

Comment . . . two new experimental materials along with Dacthal and Tupersan gave good control without injury to desirable grasses.

STOP 8 . . . PERENNIAL RYEGRASS MIXTURE WITH BENTGRASS AND BLUEGRASS

Comment . . . Bentgrass density increased at the lower height of cut. (Mixture 50/50 seed count).

Nitrogen levels had little effect on density of either Bentgrass or Ryegrass.

Bluegrass appeared to increase slightly at the ¾" height of cut.

Mixtures with Pennfine and Manhattan Ryegrass tend to be denser than mixture with other Ryegrass varieties.

STOP 9 . . . REVIEW OF OTHER RESEARCH PROJECTS CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS SUCH AS:

Helminthosporium Leaf Spot—Nutritional Studies (funded by the G.C.S.A.A.)

Use of soil conditioners to alleviate compaction.

Use of Chemical soil conditioners to improve nutrient and water retention on sandy soils. (funded by the U.S.G.A. Green Section)

Effects of soil compaction on five turfgrass species.

Note for your Calendar

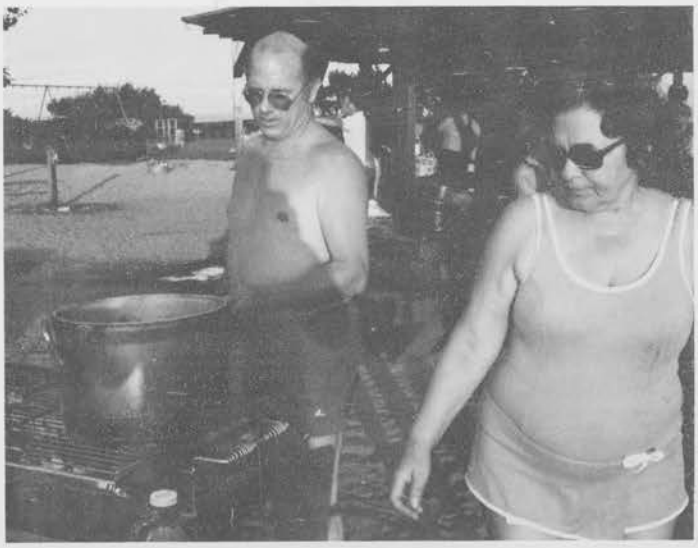
The annual University of Massachusetts Turfgrass Conference will be held March 3-5, 1976, at the Treadway Inn, Chicopee, Massachusetts.

The annual University of Massachusetts Turf Field Day is July 28, 1976, at the South Deerfield Turf Plots area.

The continued success of the University of Massachusetts Turfgrass Research Program depends to a large degree on outside support. I would like to show the thought of support for the above, with the hope that the M.G.C.S.A. would promote an annual Turfgrass Tournament with the proceeds going to Turfgrass Research at Turf Schools of your choice. I am sure that Dr. Joseph Troll would be an excellent speaker for the first event. Let's give it a try.

I enjoyed this years trip to the Massachusetts Turf Plots with Dick Allen, and my son Craig.

John G. Wistrand



Bob busy at the grill — Millie is inspecting.

Oh. No.

THE DUNG BEETLE

For the first time in our experience there are serious outbreaks of the insect **Ataenius spretulus,** commonly known as "the Dung beetle." Several courses in New Jersey and one in lower Connecticut have reported widespread infestation of fairways. This insect has been around for some time but we noted only one prior serious infection of fairway turf in the Northeast in 1970 prior to outbreaks this year. At this writing, five clubs in New Jersey and one club in Connecticut have reported an abundant population of this insect pest.

Symptoms—The turf appears to be wilting-out in patches that could range from softball to basketball size initially. Birds will soon discover them and begin to rip-up the turf to devour them. The insects in early July will be located in the soil immediately below the thatch. They will be curled in their soil nest awaiting maturity. According to research by Kawanishi, Splittstoesser, Tashiro and Steinkraus of the New York Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva, "their populations will range from 24 to 144 individual grubs per square foot." "They measure from 1.25 to 1.30 mm in width and from 5.1 mm to 5.6 mm in length (pupae)." "This insect is attracted to low-lying, normally wet areas that have surface soil resembling muck."

Control—Preliminary findings indicate that the best time to apply Diazinon or Dursban for control is late May. With specific research lacking, the rates at the time of this letter are tentatively Diazinon at 4 pounds active ingredient per acre and Dursban at 2 pounds active per acre. Aeration and/or spiking of infested areas prior to application of the insecticide is recommended. Wetting agents to further aid in the penetration of the insecticides may also help control. The insecticides must also be watered-in very well. Insecticides are most effective when applied to young stages of insect development. Presently there appears to be only one annual brood.

Entomologists at Rutgers, Ohio State and the New York Geneva Station presently are further pursuing life cycles and controls. We're sure you will be hearing more about this insect pest as data becomes available.

By Alexander M. Radko,
William G. Buchanan and Stanley J. Zontek

Superintendents Low Net Champion Todd Polidor gets congratulated by Chuck Martineau and Allan Tretera. Edward Parmelee, Apawamis President at left.

Pete Sasso, P.G.A., speaks on "Tournament Preparation" introduced by Program Chairman , Bob DePencier.

UNIVERSITY OF R.I. TURFGRASS FIELD DAY—

The University of Rhode Island held its 44th annual Turfgrass Field Day on August 20 at the Kingston Agricultural Experiment Station.

Discussions of experiments presently underway include Herbicides for pre and postemergence control of crabgrass, turfgrass variety trials, fungicide evaluation, and shrub-turf competition.

The preemergence herbicides were applied on May 1 to the Fescue, Bluegrass, and Bentgrass test plots.

Both granular Dacthal and Betasan applied at 10 lb/A showed good control, although, Dacthal caused some thinning out of the fescue. Tupersan (WP) 12 lb/A and Sward (WP) 2 lb/A achieved good control with little injury to the turf. Balan at both the 2-3 lb/A rates gave only fair control with little injury.

The material recommended for the postemergence control of crabgrass and nutsedge were the methanearsonates. Treatments should be in the form of two to three applications at seven to ten day intervals.

The test plots of the fescue, ryegrass, and bluegrass variety trials were maintained at both ¾" and 1½" heights of cut over a five year period.

Several of the improved ryegrasses such as Manhattan Penfine and Yorktown were recommended for fairway use. Jamestown red fescue proved to be one of the better fescues throughout the trials under both heights of cut.

Several of the high quality bluegrasses such as Warrens A-34, Bonnieblue, Touchdown, Glade, and Fylking showed a higher resistance to stripe smut than Merion.

The blending of three or four varieties of bluegrasses were recommended for use in a mixture.

Results of the fungicide trials showed the commercially available materials effective for the control of turfgrass diseases when used in accordance with label recommendations.

The maximum protection given with contact fungicides range from 7 to 10 days with the systemics ranging from 14 to 21 days.

It was stated that the systemics now available are not effective for the control of Pythium Blight, and a steady diet of the fungicide could encourage the disease. Pythium is fast growing and mobile in water. Present controls are Tersan (SP) and Koban. Although Fusarium Blight has shown a resistance to the systemics, a drench of 8 oz./1000 ft.^{2} was recommended for control.

Previous experimentation has shown that neither nutrients nor moisture can fully account for the lessening of topgrowth and chlorosis of ornamental shrubs when in competition with turfgrass.

The theory that a chemical being exuded by the turfgrass roots causing the poor development of shrubs is now being tested.

By Greg Vadala

Dr. Dick Skogley at U. of R.I. Turf Field Day.

AN OPERATORS VIEWPOINT OF THE JACOBSEN F-133 VERSUS THE JACOBSEN F-10

I am a student at the University of Massachusetts majoring in Turf Management. I am taking my placement training at Morefar Golf Course which is located in Brewster, New York, under the direction of Superintendent Mike Maffei.

I feel it is very important for a superintendent to know as much as possible about the F-133 and the F-10. My purpose in writing this article is to inform someone who is spending money on machinery, which machine is the best overall investment.

At Morefar Golf Course they have had an F-10 for six years. They have had a few problems due to hilly terain and wet areas. There is a lot of bentgrass in the front nine fairways. At certain times through the year the bentgrass becomes fluffy and difficult to mow properly. Due to the circumstances a different machine was needed for the problem areas so a smaller, lighter machine was purchased in the F-133.

The F-133 is a medium sized machine with five mowing units and cuts an eleven foot sweep. It has a four cycle, eighteen horsepower Kohler engine. The F-10 is totally different. It is a much larger and heavier machine. It has a four cylinder engine and seven Worthington mowing units. The F-10 cuts a fifteen foot area in one sweep. Both machines have their advantages and disadvantages. I will try to point these out for you in the rest of my article.

Some of the disadvantages of the F-133 are as follows. It is an extremely high maintenance machine. This machine requires a full time mechanic. Because of the design, the machine is very difficult to work around.

The machine needs constant servicing. The first reason why I feel this way is that the machine has a Hydrostatic Transmission. I feel this does not suit the machine at all. I feel a standard three of four speed transmission would suit the F-133 better. The machine is very slow in transporting. It has a high and low range. On all mowing operations, you must use low range. The treadle, which is run like a gas peddle, has a hard vibration all the while the machine is running. The transmission is very unstable and the constant vibration causes it to break frequently. However, the Jacobsen Company has guaranteed to replace the transmission at no charge because it is considered a weak point in the machine itself. The machine is very bad for the operators hearing. The engine is situated directly behind the operator. The operator must wear ear muffs or chance losing his hearing since the machine is designed to run at full throttle. Another major problem with the F-133 is the mowing units themselves. It is very difficult to adjust the reel without disconnecting all the power take-offs from each individual unit, as they are all connected. The machine I have been working with has skid shoes along with a roller. The way the skid shoes are designed makes it very easy to scalp the grass if they are not set perfectly.

One disadvantage of the F-10 is its size. It is a much larger machine than the F-133. The F-10 can leave a lot of wear marks on the fairways because of its weight if the operator is not very careful. The reels cannot be shut off on the units which forces the operator to do all the turning on the fairway and none in the rough. This means it is not as manueverable as the F-133. On the F-10 there is a Worthington unit with steel rollers. If the ground is wet while you are mowing the grass clippings can stick to the rollers and change the cutting height.

An advantage of the F-133 is that it is small. This allows it to get into tight spots such as around greens. Being light it does not leave any tire marks. It can make very sharp turns which saves much time. It is very hard to spin the wheels on the F-133 because of its low power. Another advantage and probably the most important factor about the F-133 is you can shut off the reels at anytime. This gives the operator two time saving advantages. The operator can turn in the rough and he can also transport from one fairway to another without lifting up the units if the terain permits.

There are numerous advantages to the Jacobsen F-10. One is the accelertor which allows you to regulate your speed and power. This cannot be done to such an extent with the F-133 because of the Hydrostatic Transmission. There are seven units on the F-10 which cuts a fifteen foot path and saves a lot of time. Also, you can raise two units up and mow with five units on steep grades and in tight places. The F-10 is a very low

David J. Sylvester
47 Main Street
East Berlin, Conn. 06023

maintenance machine. The units are situated so they can be worked on much easier than on the F-133. On the F-10 the operator can adjust the reels on the bed knives as he mows with it, whereas, the F-133 must be put in the shop and adjusted. It cannot be adjusted properly while you are mowing.

I feel I have given you, the Superintendents, a newcomer's viewpoint on these two machines which are used in golf course maintenance. I feel I have had an objective point of view. I had never worked with, or seen, either the F-10 or the F-133 before my placement training at Morefar Golf Course. I have operated both machines frequently and feel justified in writing this article comparing the advantages and disadvantages of the F-10 and the F-133.

After working with both the Jacobsen F-10 and the Jacobsen F-133, I feel the F-10 is a much more worthwhile and superior machine. Although it costs more than the F-133, it is, in my opinion, money well spent. However, if a few modifications were made, such as a different transmission and a few other changes, I would not hesitate to purchase the F-133.

Mark D. Graves
Morefar Golf Course

Wanted: Ice Cooling Water Fountains
used or new
Please contact: Dick Allen
Sunningdale C.C. — 723-8097

For Sale: 1963 Toro Tractor
Ford engine—Good shape
Price flexible
Contact: Mike Dale
c/o Emerson Country Club
99 Palisade Ave, Emerson, N.J. 07630

New Gauge for Setting Greens Mowers

Basil Sorrels, mechanic of Pine Lake C.C. has developed a new gauge for setting greens mowers. It works equally well on riding mowers and hand mowers. The new gauge gives accurate settings up to one-one thousands of an inch. Miller Equipment Garden & Lawn Equipment Company, 1593 S. Woodward Ave., Birmingham, Michigan 48011, telephone: (313) 647-7700, is currently distributing the gauge for Basil.

Credit: Patch of Green, June 1975

A close-up of gauge.

Tee to Green

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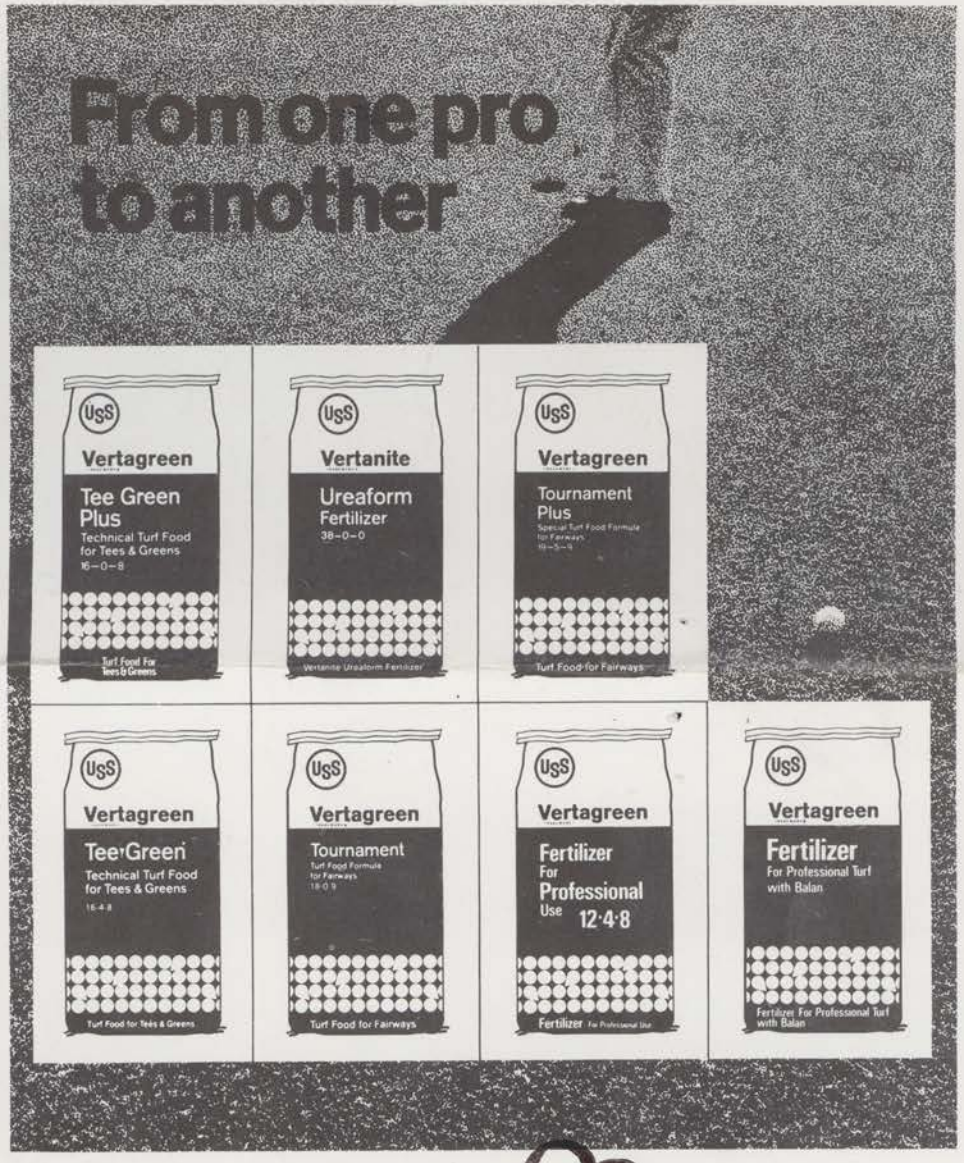
First Class



BEARD

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Division of United States Steel
P.O. Box 1685, Atlanta, Ga. 30301

WRITE FOR COMPLETE SPECIFICATION SHEETS

As a professional in turf management you know more about your course and grounds than anyone else. And you are constantly looking for ways to improve them, physically and aesthetically.

As professionals in turf care products, the people at USS Agri-Chemicals know fertilizers and chemicals. Like you, we are constantly striving to improve our products. And we have.

By working together as professionals, we can develop a turf program for you that is second to none.

USS Vertagreen—The complete line

- Six improved fertilizer products.
- All with guaranteed amounts of calcium, magnesium, sulfer, zinc, manganese, boron, copper and chelated iron.
- Only water-soluble sulfate of potash used.
- Much of the nitrogen content dervied from slow-release Urea-Formaldehyde.
- A complete selection of the nation's leading herbicides, fungicides, insecticides and nematicides.