



# Tee to Green

Vol. IV, No. 8

Published monthly by the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association

September, 1975

## MEETING NOTICE

Date: October 17, 1975, Friday  
 Place: Westchester Country Club  
 Program: M.G.C.S.A. Equipment Field & Supplies Field Day  
 Chairman: Terry Mulligan, Robert Phipps  
 Golf: Tee off up until 10:00 A.M.  
 Golfers must sign for dinner.  
 Lunch: Available in grill room  
 Equipment & Supplies Booths open 1-5 p.m.  
 Equipment demonstrations start at 2:00 P.M.  
 Cocktails: 6-7 P.M.  
 Dinner: 7 P.M.  
 Speaker: Mr. Tom Mascaro  
 Host: Robert DePencier  
 Directions: Take Cross Westchester Expressway (287) to Exit 10—Purchase Street and Rye, Rt. 120. Bear to the right to route 120, go thru traffic light, at blinker light, make a right, follow road to the club.

Note: Please return your cards as soon as possible, or call 967-6000 and leave message with Bob.

## COMING EVENTS

Oct. 6	New Jersey Golf Course Supts. Equipment & Supplies Field Day
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. Equipment and Supplies Field Day
Oct. 29-30	Wisconsin Golf Seminar, Milwaukee, Wisc.
Nov. 20	M.G.C.S.A. Annual Meeting—Bodo's OutPost Inn
Dec. 3-5	New Jersey Turfgrass Association & Rutgers University Turf Conference
Dec. 13	M.G.C.S.A. Christmas Party, Rye Golf Club
Jan. 28th & 29th	Rye Town Hilton Cornell University Turf Conference
Feb. 8-13	G.C.S.A.A. International Turf Conference, Minneapolis, Minn.

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

The Invitational at Fenway was a big success. Al Tretera, Golf Chairman and also host did an excellent job of organizing this annual event. We apologize for the mix-up in qualifying for the event. We did limit the field to 36 teams and this proved



Here's the winning team at the MGCSA Invitational: Tom Joyce and Dan "Murph" Verrille with the President and Green Chairman of Ridgeway Country Club.

to be a plus even though we realize some teams were not able to compete. Playing time was down to 5 hrs. vs. 6 hrs. plus last year. We had a threatening day but it held off so that all could finish without getting rained upon. The Video TV again proved popular. We certainly have a variety of golf swings. Al had the course in excellent shape. Each year the club officials, Green Chairman and Golf President look forward to playing in this Tournament. This year was no exception. As Superintendent I know we all look forward to the Invitational. The winning team was Ridgeway Country Club. Dan "Murph" Verrille was tickled pink. The team consists of Tom Joyce, Dan Verrille and the President and Green Chairman of Ridgeway. They had a best ball of 58.

Dr. Andrew Virtuoso made a brief talk on the Superintendents Problems in 1975. He pointed out the specific problem of the hyperodes weevil and the dung beetle. He mentioned the need for research in this area. The research committee has been working with Dr. Virtuoso and Mr. Roger J. King in formulating a letter which will be going to all the member clubs. Each Club President, Green Chairman, and Golf Superintendent will be receiving this letter. We will need each Superintendents support to make this research fund drive successful.

The Invitational program was highlighted with Andy Bartoni. He certainly livened up the group with his constant flow of varied jokes. I honestly believe he could tell jokes all

# Tee to Green

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Garry Crothers  
Ted Horton

Co-Editor  
Co-Editor

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*Not copyrighted. If there is good here, we want to share it with all chapters – unless author states otherwise.*



He knows them "all." Andy Bertoni, center, telling a few of his fun jokes. Enjoying are President Garry Crothers and Harrison Rue, Green Chairman of the Apawamis Club.

day and not repeat himself. Andy, being a former superintendent himself, supported the superintendent in his problems this past summer and mentioned areas in the midwest that had been hit badly. Sherwood Moore introduced Andy as somebody who actually did take some action on the often repeated statement, "There must be a better way to make a living than being a superintendent especially after this past season." Andy now works for W.A. Cleary Company in the Michigan area.



Lawrence Labriola Memorial Tournament Low Gross winner Lou Verrille, right, receiving his trophy from host pro, Harry Monteideo.

## Labriola Memorial Tournament

This event was sponsored by M.G.C.S.A. but in name only as the Labriola family supported the whole thing including the prizes. It was an excellent turnout to honor a great man. Lawrence Labriola did a great many things for the Superintendents in this area. It was not only the fellowship at the annual picnic but the many superintendents he worked with over the years. Something that wasn't mentioned at the Tournament, was the fact that he always wanted any event that he had, to be enjoyed. More Superintendents should play in this event. We keep alive the memory of a great man and in a way in which he himself would have lived it, by enjoying a golfing day as we did at Whippoorwill. The course was in great shape thanks to our host Chuck Martineau.

Lou Verrille took low gross with a fine 79. Low net went to the host with the most Chuck Martineau with a 65. The research fund was also enriched to the tune of \$500.00 from part of the days receipts. This will be used to help further research the hyperodes weevil. A great day to memorialize a great man.

## Equipment & Supplies Field Day

We are having a slightly different format this year. It will be a all day-affair. Golf will be allowed up until 10 A.M. So this means you can bring your Greens Chairman, Club President or any other club official for golf, followed by visiting the various booths and then seeing the actual equipment demonstrated. We also will be having cocktails followed by dinner at Westchester Country Club and then highlighted by Tom Mascaro who is known nationwide in the equipment field. You certainly can't ask for a fuller program. What we do need is your SUPPORT. Each Superintendent should make every effort possible to be there. We must show the commerical firms that it is worth their time and effort along with monies to come to our field day—So set the day aside now Oct. 17, 1975. See you all there.

Garry Crothers

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2 Months (381 hrs.—8½ wks)	15620	20954	25908	31242
3 Months (571½ hrs.—13 wks)	23430	31431	38862	46863
4 Months (762 hrs.—17½ wks)	31240	41908	51816	62484
5 Month (952½ hrs.—21½ wks)	39050	52385	64770	78105
6 Months (1143 hrs.—26 wks)	46860	62862	77724	93726

### ACID RAIN

That acid soil of yours is getting more acidity. Two Cornell ecologists are guessing that the rain drops falling on the heads of residents in the eastern United States have increased acidity 100 to 1000 times above normal in the last twenty years—and this despite increased air pollution controls.

The acid rain is probably stunting forest growth, cutting into farm crops and speeding corrosion everywhere.

Editor's Note: Especially on fairways.

Ordinarily rain water is only slightly acidic, a level much like that of a potato. That acidity has climbed over the years, so that now it's closer to that of a tomato. Occasionally, some rains have fallen as acidic as pure lemon juice.

Nobody's sure what the ecological effects of acid rain are but they can't be good. Laboratory experiments on plant life show that acid rain will stunt and distort growth, decrease pollen germination and generally lower the quality of the material grown.

Source: **NEWS AND VIEWS**

**The American Horticultural Society 5/75**

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And Revive The Green;  
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Frank Paladino



Dr. Andrew Virtuoso, center, informing the group of turf problems in 1975.

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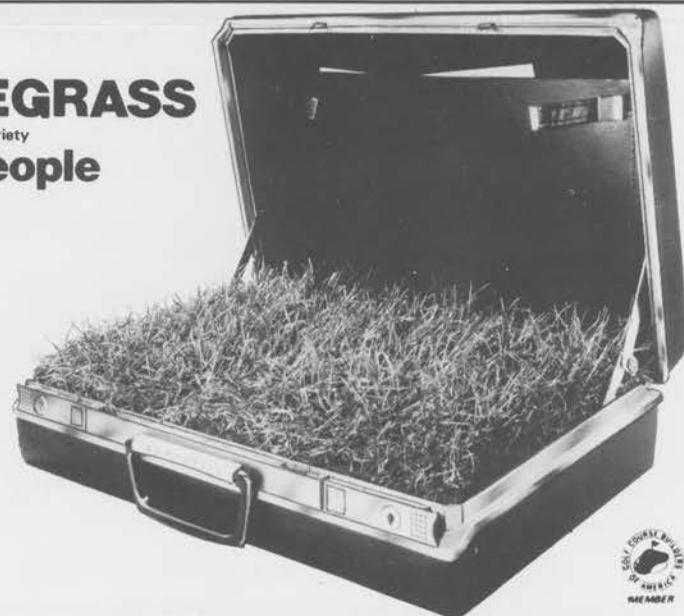
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## GRASS CLIPPINGS

By Frank Green

Well, it's July and August again and amidst reports of all the usual diseases and some unusual ones, the same thing that happens every year at this time is happening again. The *Poa* is starting to go out!

This wasn't intended to be an editorial on *Poa Annua* but one thing led to another and the result follows.

*Poa Annua* is not stranger to 90% of the superintendents in Southeastern Michigan. Because most of the golf courses in this area are relatively old, a large percentage of the turf on these courses is annual bluegrass. There is such a predominance of this grass in Michigan that when there comes a time to choose whether to eradicate or maintain it there are varying opinions on the best course of action.

Let's face the facts, when *Poa* is right there is no better playing turf in the world. It is an upright grower and it has little or no grain. A golf ball will stand up very well on *Poa* and a divot can be taken with ease. It can be maintained anywhere from 1¼ inches to 5/32 of an inch. It is a very adaptable grass and can be used on greens, tees, or fairways. When mowed at the proper height and watered sufficiently it will fill in divot scars and bare areas very rapidly.

On the other hand *Poa Annua* does have a few drawbacks. It seeds profusely for two to three weeks during the spring making playing conditions a little less than ideal. When it begins to invade bluegrass and bentgrass it presents a patchy appearance and thus loses aesthetic appeal. Finally the most difficult drawback we have to face is that *Poa Annua* is an annual and it does die on occasion. This usually happens in July and August at the height of the golfing season.

Superintendents in this area of the country have three alternatives to choose from:

1. Eradication—If this is your choice, the best of luck to you! Since arsenicals have been removed from the market we

are left with only the preemergents. If these controls are used we must remember that they are nonselective and will stop all seeding growth for one to six months. This means if you are successful in eliminating the *Poa*, you may be a few months nursing a replacement for it.

2. Ignore it or use a low keyed approach to discourage it—if you have a high percentage of bent or blue-grass (60% or more) this may work best for you. With the proper watering and maintenance techniques and if the turf is overseeded at times when the *Poa* is under high stress you may just gain on it. You might even get to where you have only 10 or 20% *Poa*. With this approach and for that matter with any control program, 100% elimination of *Poa Annua* is not realistic due to the uncanny adaptability of the plant in this climactic zone.

3. Maintain it—If your course is 50 to 60% *Poa* or more you'll probably have to continue sweating bullets through the hot humid periods. Weigh the options. If you maintain annual bluegrass you may lose up to 10% of your grass during the hot period of the season. Maybe once in a great while you'll lose more than this. Watering systems, disease control programs, and fertility levels will greatly affect these percentages. If you have over 60% *Poa Annua* on your course and you attempt to eradicate it, you'd better have another job lined up. Golfers will stand for losing a little grass once in a while but they'll never stand for losing half the turf on the golf course.

I guess what it comes down to and what most people agree on is that *Poa Annua* is both a friend and a foe. It can make you look like you can grow grass on a cueball or it can really humble you. Since you're professionals, you've got the tools to work with and with this association you've got all the help you'll need. Let's keep *Poa* as a friend.

Credit: A Patch of Green, August 1975



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### ARSENIC TOXICITY TO HEMLOCKS

In the Long Island region of New York State, some potato farms have been converted to ornamental plant nurseries. In several instances where the conversion was made it was noted that hemlock plants (*Tsuga canadensis*) developed apical yellowing and necrosis of needles and premature needle cast when these plants were the first nursery crop after potatoes. Analysis of the soil and plant tissue by Cornell scientists indicated that arsenic levels were exceedingly high in both. In fact, there was a direct correlation between arsenic levels in the soil, needle scorch and defoliation. Thus, the scientists concluded that the arsenic compounds originally used to kill potato vines were causing the problems with the hemlock. Consequently, hemlock should not be planted on nursery soils high in residual arsenic.

Abstracted from "Toxicity to Hemlocks Grown in Arsenic-contaminated Soil Previously Used for Potato Production" by W.A. Sinclair, E.L. Stone and C.F. Scheer, Jr. *HortScience* 10 (1):35-37. 1975

### TURF GRASS CLIPPING REMOVAL NOTES

(source unknown)

In an experiment in England where clippings were consistently left or picked up from the surfaces of mowed turfs, the following conditions were observed, first in the turf where the clippings were left: more *Poa annua* (26%); more earthworms; softer turf; moister, more drought resistant; greener in winter; no moss. In the turf which had the clippings removed, these conditions were found; less *Poa annua* (6%); fewer earthworms; harder turf; dried out sooner; browner in winter; moss present. These conditions were observed during several seasons, and indicate that the type of turf, and the things it is used for, must be the deciding factors in whether or not to remove clippings. There is, however, no indication that clippings have any effect on thatch buildup.



Lawrence Labriola Memorial Tournament Low Net winner Chuck Martineau with host pro, Harry Montevideo.

**Correction:** Last month we had an article on the new gauge for adjusting the height of cut on putting green mowers. "A Patch of Green," who originally printed the article, apologizes in their August issue for giving the wrong name. It was developed by Basil Hanson, a mechanic at Pine Lake Country Club.

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## PYTHIUM PREVENTION

At a recent Greater Washington GCSA meeting at the Country Club of Fairfax Dr. Houston Couch, noted pathologist from V.P.I., told the group of a economical program of pythium prevention that I would like to pass on to all our Mid-Atlantic members.

Dr. Couch advocated a late spring application of ZINEB or PARZATE C at 4oz/M followed by two week intervals of 2oz/M application for the remaining summer months. This old stand-by chemical is still of value for its former uses of alge and helminth control.

Dr. Couch stated the use of Zineb or Parzate C will not prevent all attacks of the multitude of varieties of pythium disease; what it will do though is slow the disease down to where SP or Koban can be applied to stop any outbreak of pythium before any serious damage occurs. In that the killing speed of a pythium attack can be devastating we can't afford to disregard a program. SP and Koban are extremely expensive for general preventative use and Zineb or Parzate C are both reasonably priced fungicides. Dr. Couch did mention we still might consider the use of the more expensive chemicals for a preventative program on any bothersome greens with a past history of pythium outbreaks.

A recent USGA GREENS SECTION bulletin from Holman Griffin, dated June 20, 1975 stated the following:

"Although the weather conditions may not be conducive to outbreaks of *pythium spp* on your golf course at present we are receiving numerous reports from both lowland and mountain areas of the Mid-Atlantic attesting to the devastating effect of this disease in a very, very short time (loss of 50% of the turf on some putting greens in less than one hour under ideal conditions for the disease's development, especially with free water present)."

The following is from Kenneth Quant, editor of *Verdure*, the Chicago land GCSA newsletter.

"A new fungus disease has made its appearance on the Chicago scene and already it appears to be a shoo-in for rookie-of-the-year honors. It is called *pythium graminicola* and it can be controlled very easily with Tersan SP. (Koban would probably also do the job).

That sounds easy, but the problem is that *pythium graminicola* symptoms do not look anything like the symptoms of *pythium ultimum*, the normal pythium we can expect in this area. In fact, the symptoms look very much like those associated with Red Leafspot. The turf begins to turn yellowish to brownish as if it were starved and begins to thin out rapidly. There is no grease spotting or distinctive mycellium, only a severe thinning of turf. Spraying with any of the leafspot fungicides will only slow the disease down, it will not stop it. So if you think you have Red Leafspot, and you can't seem to stop it, try some Tersan SP or Koban."

The problem of identification now adds more complications to living with this disease. The above quote from the Chicagoland Newsletter applies equally here in the Mid-Atlantic area.

I had three greens showing the above symptoms and I applied several leaf spot fungicides to those three greens. After a week of no improvements I applied S.P. after noting the other typical pythium brown patches developing within my collars. All disease stopped immediately! Unfortunately I miss-diagnosed pythium for leaf spot and consequently I'm still plugging out the diseased centers of the stricken greens. These three greens were old poa greens with poor air circulation and very poor drainage—ideal conditions for pythium.

Dr. Couch also advocated picking up all grass clippings from the collars and removal of thatch build-up within the greens, as a mechanical preventative for pythium.

**Credit: Kentuckiana Klippings, September, 1975**



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## SEED MIXTURES FOR FAIRWAY OVERSEEDING

By Vinnie Pentenero & Ted Horton

Most of the Metropolitan Golf Courses oversee the fairways each fall and certainly needed to oversee many areas after this past season. As a result, we thought it would be of interest to note some of the seed mixtures used at many of the clubs in our area. This information was gathered by telephone by Vinnie Pentenero, Superintendent of Siwanoy Country Club.

It is interesting to note that some of the clubs are beginning to use the improved varieties of Bluegrass on hillsides and drier soil conditions with quite a bit of success. In particular, Dick Allen at Sunningdale and Lou Santouci at Blind Brook noted that wherever the Bluegrasses appeared to be thriving naturally they would overseed with Bluegrasses. This makes sense to me. I think that many of us have automatically ruled out the Bluegrasses in favor of the bents because we haven't had the opportunity to try the improved varieties in the past few years. It is also important to realize that we are no longer spraying fairways with phenyl mercury which tended to singe and discourage the growth of Bluegrass. We have planted three of the new varieties of Bluegrasses in two different plots at Winged Foot and have been watching the grasses for the past three seasons. Vinnie has approximately 10,000 square feet of Manhattan Rye grass being maintained as fairway which has impressed him.

The following seed mixtures are used for overseeding:

Club	Superintendent	Seed Mixture
The Apawamis Club	Garry Crothers	50% Seaside 50% Astoria
The Blind Brook Club	Lou Santouci	20% Seaside 80% Astoria 100% Baron on hills and dry areas

Club	Superintendent	Seed Mixture
Bonnie Briar C.C.	Dom DiMarzo	50% Seaside 50% Astoria
Century C.C.	Jim Fulwider	50% Seaside 50% Astoria
Fenway Golf Club	Al Tretera	70% Seaside 30% Astoria
Metropolis C.C.	Bruno Vadala	50% Seaside 50% Astoria
Pelham C.C.	Terry Mulligan	65% Seaside 30% Astoria 5% Redtop
Quaker Ridge C.C.	Tony Savone	50% Seaside 50% Astoria
Scarsdale C.C.	Everett Wood	100% Seaside
Siwanoy C.C.	Vinnie Pentenero	100% Pennecross
Sleepy Hollow C.C.	Joe Camberato	50% Seaside 50% Astoria
Sunningdale C.C.	Dick Allen	High areas 25% Fylking 25% Baron 25% Nugget 25% Manhattan Rye Flat & low areas 50% Seaside 50% Exeter
Winged Foot G.C.	Ted Horton	50% Seaside 50% Astoria
Wykagyl C.C.	Al Smith	20% Seaside 80% Astoria

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Carmine Labriola speaking to the group about the purpose of the Lawrence Labriola Memorial Tournament. Chuck Martineau, host superintendent, on right.



Our host at the MGCSA Invitational, Al Tretera, shown here with the Green Chairman, Martin Rosengarden, and the President, Irwin Kleinman, of Fenway Golf Club.

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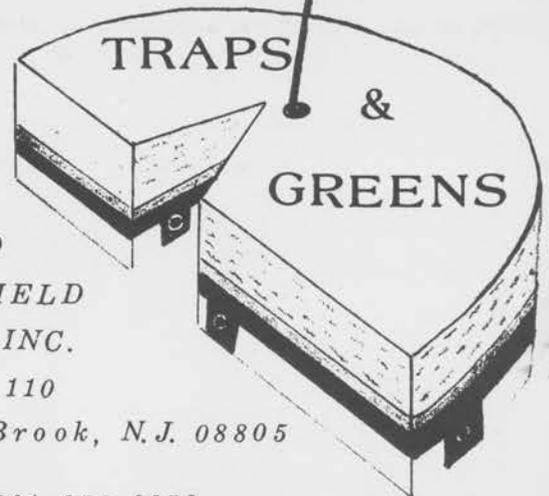
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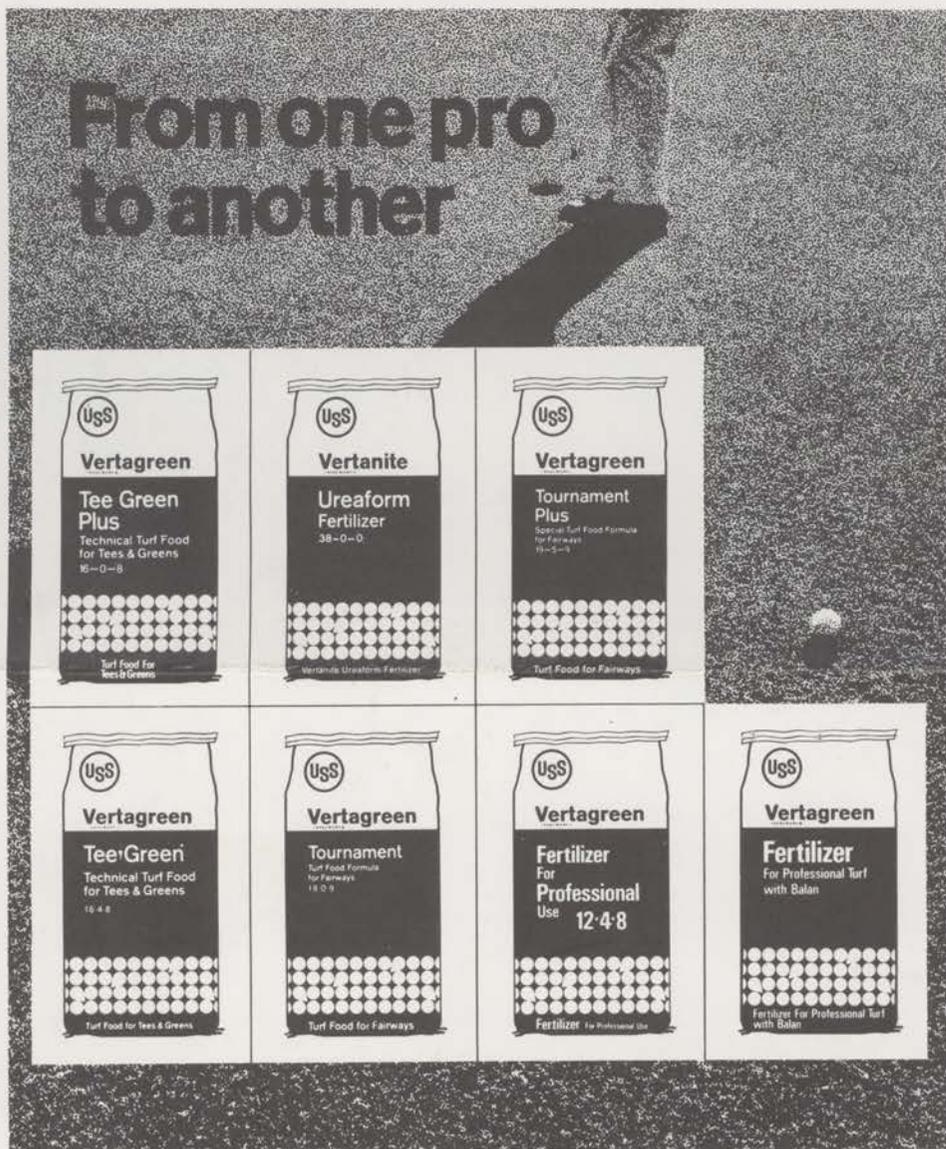
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As a professional in turf management you know more about your course and grounds than anyone else. And you are constantly looking for ways to improve them, physically and aesthetically.

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, sulfur, zinc, manganese, boron, copper and chelated iron.
- Only water-soluble sulfate of potash used.
- Much of the nitrogen content derived from slow-release Urea-Formaldehyde.
- A complete selection of the nation's leading herbicides, fungicides, insecticides and nematicides.

