Tee to Green

May 1978 | Published monthly by the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association | Vol. VIII, No. 4

MEETING NOTICE:

Date: June 15, 1978
Place: Burning Tree Country Club
Greenwich, Conn.
Host: Robert Alonzi, Dave Enos
Golf: 12 noon on—1st Round—Supt's Championship
Lunch: Available in grill room
Cocktails: 6-7
Dinner: 7 PM—Please call 203-869-5779—or return your post card for reservations
Program: Richard Hurley, Preparation the Masters Golf Tournament

Directions: **From the Merrit Parkway**—Exit 31 to North Street. East on North Street 8/10 of a mile. Left on Taconic Road. Take the second right onto Interlaken Road to the club.

From the Connecticut Thruway (I95)—Exit 3 to Greenwich Avenue. Southbound I95 turn right off the ramp. North bound I95 turn left off the ramp. Under the railroad tracks make the first right onto Railroad Avenue. Turn left at the first light onto Mason Avenue. Bear right around the rotary onto Mill Bank Road. Turn right just before the top of Mill Bank, through the light onto Maple Avenue. Bear right onto North Street. After 4 miles turn right onto Taconic Road and at the second right turn onto Interlaken road to the club.

COMING EVENTS:

June 15	MGCSA meeting, Burning Tree Country Club
July 6	MGCSA meeting, St. Andrews Golf Club
July 26	U of Mass., Field Day
August 14	Family Picnic—Woodway Beach Club
September 19	MGCSA Invitational, Sunningdale G.C.
December 2	MGCSA Christmas Party, Greenwich C.C.

Membership: The MGCSA would like to welcome Bill Gaydosh from Edgewood C.C. in Northvale, N.J. Bergen County, as a Class A member. Bill is originally from the Westchester area.

MGCSA News:

Wow!! What a turnout we had at Westchester C.C. It just wasn't for dinner, it was also golf. We had 120 for golf and 170 for dinner and that has to be one of our biggest turnouts for a regular monthly meeting in a long time. May is always a big meeting but this topped them all. We had many Green Chairmen which also added to the meeting. John Traynor our host went all out to accomodate the big field for golf and Manager Dave Vincent somehow was able to feed the many people who arrived without reservations.

John had suffered winter injury on several greens like many courses in the Northeast. It's only been in the last week to 10 days that things are finally growing and germinating. It probably went the extreme by going right into hot weather. It makes it difficult to keep young seedlings.

I am sure everybody in the last two weeks have been trying to keep up with the final Spring growing we have been waiting for. I am sure we have all discovered some new areas where drainage is needed after the heavy rains of the past month. It's feast or famine that's for sure. It has been another cold spring right into summer. I am sure it was one of the latest in a long time with leaves coming out in mid-May and some not fully developed until almost June. It should prove interesting as to when to spray for the Hyperodes Weevil for the 2nd generation.

We all enjoyed the Stauffer Country presentation. It's amazing how they put it all together. Thanks, Ernie Koch for presenting it to us.

G. Crothers

Guests at Westchester C.C., MGCSA May meeting, left to right; Jerry Coats, President of Metropolitan Professional Golf Association, Guido Cribari, Sports Editor of Westchester-Rockland Newspapers and Jim McGloughlin, Executive Director of Metropolitan Golf Association.

Tee to Green

Editorial Staff

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

MCGSA Research Fund Report:
Hyperodes Weevil Project:

The monies are starting to come in from the various clubs. We still have a long way to go and certainly each individual member should be able to contribute also. There have been very few superintendents contributing to date and we should be the leaders. Please make your check out to MGCSA Research Committee and send to Box 37, Rye, N.Y. We must raise another $5,000 to reach our goal for 1978. To date the following clubs and individuals have contributed to the 1978. Hyperodes Research Project:

Clubs and Associations
The Apawamis Club
Blind Brook Club
Brae Burn Country Club
Burning Tree Country Club
Fenway Golf Club
Garden City Golf Club
Greenwich Country Club
Elmwood Country Club
Metropolis C.C.
Mt. Kisco C.C.
Old Oaks Country Club
Piping Rock Club
Ridgeway C.C.
Rockland C.C.
Rockrimmon C.C.
Round Hill Club
Quaker Ridge G.C.
Wee Burn C.C.
Winged Foot Golf Club
Woodway C.C.
Wykagyl C.C.
Scarsdale C.C.
Waccabuc C.C.
Sleepy Hollow C.C.
MCGSA

Individuals and Commercial Firms

John Corsi
Roger J. King
Anthony Grasso
John Hunt
Garry Crothers
Phil Santucci
Ted Joawick
Dan Verille
Mel Lucas Jr.
Bryan Maker
Paul Caswell
Edward C. Horton
Frank Bevelacqua
Pat Lucas
Aqua Lawn
Bill Somers
Walter Androsko
I & E Supply
Cloro Spray Corp.

It sure would be nice to have 100% contributions by Class A members and 40 clubs at least to reach our total commitment to Cornell University.

MCGSA Research Committee

Golf Committee: We had a great turnout for the Westchester C.C. meeting. We had many Golf Course Supt. play with their Green Chairman. 1st low net went to the Fenway Team of Al Tretera and his Chairman Marvin Glickman and of course the 2nd low net was Chuck Martineau and his Co-Chairman. 1st low gross went to Frank Lamphier and his Chairman Roger Hazen.

It should be noted that Paul Caswell had low gross last month with a 80. He happens to be a member of both Conn GCSA and MGCSA.

The Superintendents Championship will again be played in two rounds, first round at Burning C.C. and the 2nd at St. Andrews. You should have a MGA handicap or its equivalent.

Welfare: Please contact Pat Lucas or Edward Horton in regard to any hospitalizations etc. of members of MGCSA.

Memoriam—Stanley Kaye long time commercial member of MGCSA recently passed away. He had not been well for sometime and finally lost in his battle with cancer. May he rest in peace.

Guests at Westchester C.C., MGCSA May meeting are Stanley Zontek, Northeast Director, United States Golf Association Green Section and William Gaydosh, Superintendent, Edgewood C.C. and a new member of MGCSA.

April 24, 1978

Mr. Edward C. Horton, President
Metropolitan Golf Course Supt's. Assoc.
Winged Foot Golf Club
Fenimore Road
Mamaroneck, N.Y. 10543

Dear Ted:

I want to express my sincere appreciation for your contribution which made possible my recent trip to Great Britain. The trip was of tremendous value to my professional develop-

ment and therefore also to the efficacy of our turfgrass research program in New York.

The impact of the trip has already been felt in our program. Several thousand dollars of planned expenditures on equipment were eliminated from our 1978 summer research plans as a result of discussion at one laboratory alone. The enclosed summary will provide you more detail of the trip's purpose and of its value.

The pace of the trip was gruelling and left little time for me to enjoy the antiquity and beauty of Great Britain, yet I returned with the feeling that my understanding of the life styles and habits of other people was also extended by my experiences in Britain. I thank you for providing me that opportunity.

It is the moral and financial support that you have shown now in the past that has brought renewed recognition to the turfgrass research program in New York. We at Cornell University certainly thank you for your active interest in our research programs.

Sincerely,
Richard W. Smiley
Assistant Professor and
Turfgrass Pathologist

SUMMARY OF DR. SMILEY'S RESEARCH TRIP TO BRITAIN

—A Report to the Turfgrass Industry of New York—
by Dr. R.W. Smiley, Cornell University

A New York turfgrass industry-sponsored research trip to England and Scotland was made from March 26 to April 10, 1978. This report summarizes the purpose and achievements of the trip.

PURPOSE

Fusarium blight of Kentucky bluegrass ranks high among the diseases of turfgrass that are difficult to control. Attempts to suppress the disease by applying fungicides and by altering the cultural management procedures have been irregularly successful. Four years of research leads me to the conclusion that **Fusarium** species are not the primary causal agents of Fusarium blight. Therefore it appears that much of our work and that of other University research programs has been misdirected. Turfgrass plants appear to be dying even before their senescence is accelerated by highly competitive saprophytic fungi such as **Fusarium, Drechslera (= Helminthosporium)**, and others. The fact that **Fusarium** species are ubiquitous to turfgrass simply means that they are nearly always present and are therefore commonly associated with the dying plant, but this association does not infer a causal relationship between the genus **Fusarium** and the disease we know as Fusarium blight. It appears, in fact, that stands which have high populations of **Fusarium**-infected crowns are no more susceptible to disease than stands with few infected crowns.

These studies suggest that early research on Fusarium blight was incomplete, and we should therefore expect irregularities in our ability to control the disease until its etiology is understood. A review of the published literature and some studies that are not published causes me to feel that the key to this disease resides in the physiology of the plants and in the chemistry of soil. Furthermore, the cause in the eastern United States appears to follow periods in the summer when soil or thatch becomes temporarily anaerobic—as occurs during major rainfall events.

Most anaerobic soil research is conducted by soil chemists and soil microbiologists. The work at several British research laboratories is especially progressive, and in late 1977 the scientists at these research centers advertised their sponsorship of a highly specialized international conference on the chemical, physical, and microbiological phenomena that occur at the root:soil interface. The conference was to be held at Oxford University and the attendance was to be limited to only 100 scientists from around the world, with invitations being based upon abstracts of research being conducted by the scientists who applied for admission. Additionally, only 15 of the 100 accepted scientists were to be selected for formal presentation and publication of their work. The conference promised to be extremely useful for planning future studies on Fusarium blight.

I therefore entered the competition for admission to the root:soil interface conference, and to amplify my chances, I submitted an abstract describing my earlier work on take-all of wheat. It was an honor to have been selected not only for attendance, but also as an invited speaker. However, my greatest appreciation is with New York's turfgrass industry who volunteered to sponsor the trip by making generous donations to the New York State Turfgrass Association, which collected the funds and then made a net donation to Cornell University for disbursement at the current **per diem** rate.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The conference was of tremendous value to my professional and personal development. Scientists from 15 countries attended, and they included many of the leading physicists, physiologists, chemists, and microbiologists who conduct research on phenomena which occur at the interface between roots and soil. The conference was held in the secluded surrounds of an early 17th century residential college of Oxford University Accommodations were sparse—no telephone, television, radio, or newspapers; and the bar was only open for about one hour each evening. Meals were served to everyone at one time in a large dining hall which had two long

tables—you seldom could arrange to sit by someone you already knew. I therefore became conversant with about one-third of the participants, and I am already initiating research concepts which arose during the formal seminars and during the informal discussions.

But the conference occupied only the first half of my trip. The remainder was also educationally stimulating. A visit to the Agricultural Research Council's Letcombe Laboratory at Wantage took me to the heart of research on plant roots and on anaerobic soils. The Laboratory's research program on the development and function of plant root systems is interdisciplinary; embracing plant physiology, soil microbiology, soil chemistry, and soil physics. Results of work at Letcombe will be directly applicable to my studies on Fusarium blight. Equally stimulating were my discussions with soil chemists, soil microbiologists, and plant pathologists at the Rothamsted Experimental Station at Harpenden, the North of Scotland School of Agriculture at Aberdeen, and the Macauley Institute for Soil Research at Aberdeen. A trip into the Scottish highlands allowed me to view and discuss the field research being conducted on winter kill of ryegrasses, caused by **Fusarium nivale.**

Visits were also made to Cambridge University, The Sports Turf Research Institute at Bingley, and at the Royal and Ancient Golf Course at St. Andrews—where preparations are being made for the British Open. The latter visitations were personally satisfying, but did not contribute significantly to the research objectives of my trip.

In addition to providing future guidance for our turfgrass research program, this industry-sponsored trip has already alleviated an expenditure of about $4,000 by our research program. This occurred because we were preparing to investigate toxic gases generated in soil during anaerobiosis, as has been done for cereals and pastures during the past four years at the Letcombe Laboratory. Recent progress in their research, as yet unpublished, indicated that although the gases are very toxic and are produced in large quantities under certain soil conditions, they are produced at a time after the plant already exhibits early symptoms of toxicity. This information therefore came to me at a time which made it worth almost four times the investment made for my trip. The research trip to Britain was certainly beneficial to me, to Cornell University, and to the turfgrass industry of New York.

HYPERODES UPDATE

by Pat Vittum

Several studies were conducted during the winter months to clear up some questions about the life cycle of the Hyperodes weevil. In one study, I dissected 870 weevils to determine how well the reproductive system was developed at various times of the year. (There was little or no charge in the reproductive system during the winter months, but the systems developed very rapidly during April of 1977. A few well developed individuals were found throughout the summer, but most individuals were not well developed.)

I conducted two studies to determine whether there were two (or more) species of weevils involved. In one study, I dissected a small internal structure from male weevils. This

structure often can be used to identify species of weevils. The other study involved using a scanning electron microscope to take very detailed pictures of various structures, such as mouthparts, antenna, eyes, hairs and scales. Both studies indicate there are two species of weevils, but one species occurs very infrequently and probably is not damaging to the turf.

The summer survey so far indicates that weevil development is a week to 10 days behind last year. Samples collected during the last full week of May this year yielded several eggs and some adults. Very few of the eggs had hatched during that week. The week of Memorial Day has yielded eggs and very small larvae. If the development continues at a pace comparable to last year, we can expect to see the large larvae—and damage—around June 15th to the 20th. The clubs in northern parts of the country or at higher elevations can expect a delay of perhaps a week.

Dr. Tashiro will be putting out several tests during the summer months to determine the best timing for summer applications. The timing will depend on what the population survey shows. Applications will be timed to be close to the time adults are laying the second batch of eggs, but it is difficult to predict when that will be this year! I will keep you as well informed as possible with updates at the monthly M.G.C.S.A. meetings. However, if you have any questions, or would like to know what the surveys have been indicating in your area, call me any time at Winged Foot G.C. (914-698-2827).

CONTROL FOR ATENIUS BEETLE CLEARED FOR OHIO TURFGRASS

Wooster, Ohio—Research by Ohio entomologists has resulted in the granting of a state special use label permitting Ohio golf course managers to use diazinon to control the adult stage of the ataenius beetle, a pest causing serious damage to turfgrass in many areas.

Dr. H.D. Niemczyk, turfgrass entomologist at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center began working with Ataenius spretulus (Hald.) in 1973. That was when he first identified the small black beetle as the insect responsible for severe turfgrass damage on a southern Ohio golf course. His efforts led to the Ohio Department of Agriculture granting a special use label for Diazinon, which Niemczyk showed to be effective against the beetle adults.

The ataenius beetle is not a new insect. However, only isolated reports of damage by the larval stage of the insect had been reported prior to 1973. After Niemczyk tied the insect to golf course damage in the Cincinnati area in July 1973, turf managers and scientists began checking more closely. More area golf courses were damaged the following year by ataenius grubs and the problem has become more widespread each year since.

Today, ataenius beetle damage to turfgrass has been confirmed in areas of Canada and from 20 states in the U.S.

Niemczyk says the beetle larvae are what cause the damage. The tiny grubs feed on turf roots in mid-June in Ohio. Turf in fairways begins to wilt, even when it is irrigated. Under continued stress and summer heat, the turf begins to die in irregular patches. Fairways of annual bluegrass, Kentucky bluegrass, and bentgrass are damaged.

Soon after identification of the pest, graduate research associate Gerald Wegner began studying the insect's life cycle while Niemczyk evaluated methods of control. He found ataenius beetle grubs from Ohio and a number of other states were resistant to the cyclodiene insecticides (aldrin, dieldrin, heptachlor, and chlordane). A number of insectides, including several experimentals, were tested against ataenius beetle larvae.

The Ohio scientist also began checking the possibility of controlling the insect by spraying golf course fairways in April and May to kill adult beetles before they could lay eggs. The method proved effective in tests in 1976 and 1977 using Diazinon. On the basis of these results, the application was filed for the special use label for Diazinon, an insecticide already approved for use against certain other grub species.

Niemczyk says that a single application of Diazinon 4 EC applied to fairways at the rate of 6 pounds of active ingredient per acre gave excellent control. Treatment for second generation adults was not necessary in the Ohio tests.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture officially approved the state label March 20, 1978. It calls for application of diazinon 4 EC in late April to early May when ataenius beetles begin laying eggs in the turf. Specific treatment should begin when black locust trees are in full bloom. Label instructions say to "apply 6 quarts per acre (4.4 fluid ounces per 1,000 square feet) in sufficient water for good distribution. Water grass lightly (for about 5 minutes) immediately after application."

Credit: NORTHERN OHIO
Turfgrass News, May 1978

(Editor's note: This is only approved for use in Ohio)

JOB AVAILABLE:
Assistant Golf Course Superintendent.
Winged Foot Golf Club.
Send resume to:
Edward C. Horton, Superintendent,
Winged Foot Golf Club
Fenimore Road, Mamaroneck, N.Y. 10543

SUMMARY OF THE MGCSA MEETING AT WESTCHESTER COUNTRY CLUB

Doctor Tashiro is standing by his recommendation to spray for Hyperodes between full bloom of Forsythia and Flowering Dogwood. With the abnormal weather this spring that period has been difficult to determine.

An insecticide still under an experimental label shows promise for good control of Hyperodes. The material, CGA 12-223 is being persued by Stauffer Chemical Company with some possibility of it being registered for next year.

Pat Vittum is still plugging away. She believes there may be two generations or the same generation laying eggs two times yearly. Pat has indicated that there may be two species of Hyperodes. While she does not believe that this is a serious problem, she feels it indicates the complexity of the situation. Larvae are due in two weeks as of May 23 and damage in three to four weeks or about June 19 depending on the weather. For July, the problem is questionable. Unofficially, treat for a second peak of insect activity two or three weeks after the initial damage appears.

We'd like to thank Stauffer Chemical Company for the magnificent slide show presentation entitled "Stauffer Country." **By the Westchester Country Club Turf Students**

EPA LISTS NEW REGULATIONS, RESPONDS TO PRESIDENTIAL REFORMS

The Environmental Protection Agency, acting in conjunction with a recent Presidential Order on improving government regulations, called for public participation in developing over 130 new regulations and is establishing a national toll-free phone number for citizen inquiries about the status of these regulations. The new toll-free phone number 800-424-9064, will be in operation from May 1 through May 31, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Eastern time. This temporary service will provide updated status information on regulations that EPA is developing. The service will be extended if the public finds it useful.

The semi-annual agenda of upcoming regulatory actions lists all major anticipated regulations in air and water pollution control, drinking water protection, noise abatement, radiation protection, solid waste management, **and control of** toxic **substances and pesticides.** It includes a description of each action, the expected publication date of the proposed regulation, and the name and telephone number of the agency contact.

Environmental News, EPA
March 23, 1978

EPA ADDS MORE RPAR'S TO LIST

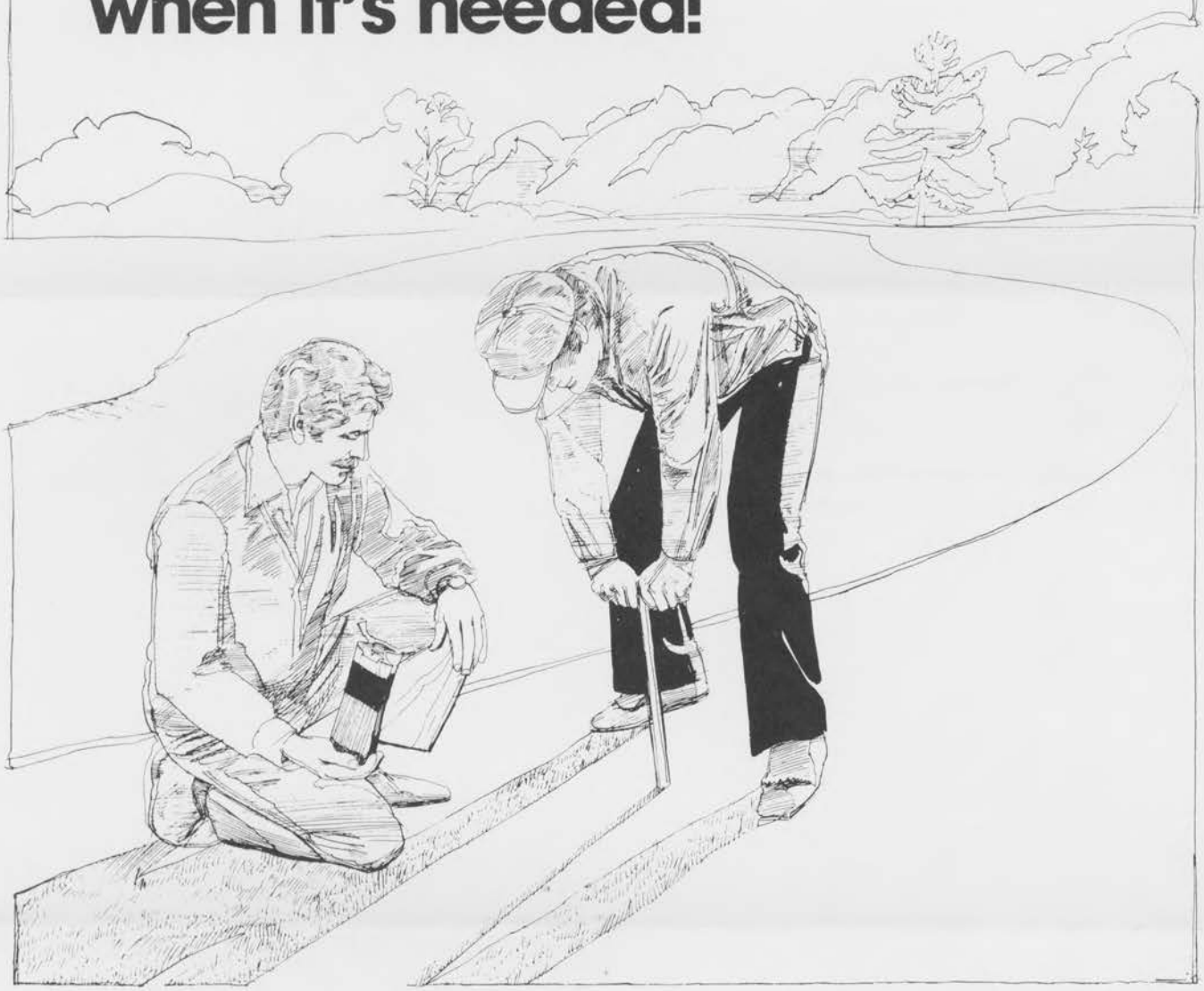
Hot off the press is a new list of pesticides which are called "candidates for intensive scientific review" to determine whether they should be put on the RPAR list. The April 20 Federal Register lists 31 pesticides among which are such well known products as Captan, 2, 4-D, Dacthal, Folpet, and Thiram.

Where will it end? EPA will be reviewing the risk/benefit assessment of each of the 22 candidates presently on RPAR as well as those mentioned above. Your dependency on these new ones and all the other products on RPAR should be voiced.

You could write directly to EPA; but, if you prefer, write to the manufacturer and let him forward your letter to EPA at the appropriate time. *—Paul Sartoretto*

("What You Can Do About EPA's List of RPAR's" in Fall 1977 Green World.)

USS Tournament 18-0-9... We can tell you when it's needed!



All it takes is a soil test and your local USS Vertagreen distributor is ready to assist. USS Tournament 18-0-9 was developed especially for fairways that have received phosphate over the years and where soil tests show that no additional phosphate is needed.

This economical product will keep your roughs and fairways green and growing because 25% of the nitrogen is from urea-formaldehyde. It also contains sulfate of potash for lush, green color. And the formulation is rounded out with secondary and micro-nutrients as well as chelated iron for uniform growth. USS Tournament is another reason we say "see the best, for the best" — and that's your local Vertagreen distributor. He can always tell you what's needed.

A product for all reasons.

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