



September 1979

Published monthly by the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association

Vol. IX, No. 8

MGCSA MEETING NOTICE

Date: Thursday, September 20th
Place: Ridgeway Country Club
Ridgeway Road
White Plains, N.Y. 10605

Host Superintendent: Dan Verrille, 914-948-7200

Brunch: 10:30 a.m.

Golf: 12:00 noon shotgun, 1 cart/foursome

- Team comprised of Superintendent, Golf Professional, Green Chairman, and club official. Maximum 18 handicap.

- Class A members that reply must have attended two monthly meetings this year to be eligible.

- Send return card, with check for \$150 per team, made payable to Ridgeway C.C., Attn: Dan Verrille, Ridgeway Road, White Plains, New York 10605. This tournament limited to first 36 teams that reply. Absolutely no exceptions.

- **All members who are not in the tournament but who are attending the meeting should call Dan Verrille to make dinner arrangements.**

Social Hour: 5:30 p.m.

Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

Directions:

FROM NORTHERN WESTCHESTER: Take Hutchinson River Parkway to North Street Exit—White Plains. At first light (Ridgeway Road) make left. Club is on the right about ½ mile.

FROM SOUTHERN WESTCHESTER: Take Hutchinson River Parkway to Mamaroneck Avenue Exit—White Plains. Travel on Mamaroneck Avenue for about 1 mile. Take right on Ridgeway and club will be on your left.

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**Equipment & Materials Demonstrated
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September 25, 1979

10 a.m. — 4 p.m.

Rain Date—September 26

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Each president strives to move forward by setting his sights on the completion of already-initiated programs or on new ideas and goals of his own.

I accepted the presidency of the MGCSA with one goal in mind which was and is for *UNITY* in a continuous effort for individual as well as group recognition as professionals in our very important industry.

If each member generates and promotes his own image as a polished, professional superintendent, group recognition must follow as the night the day.

What can you do?

Well, you can start by promoting our local and national organizations to your chairmen, managers, officials and golf professionals. Dwell on focal points such as our interest in improving the standards of golf course maintenance, our support of and participation in experimental research to enable us to manage our golf courses more economically and efficiently.

Promote yourself—get involved. Contributing to your Club's newsletter, for instance, is a great way to win attention and respect as part of the Club's professional team. The various Agricultural Extension Bulletins carry much timely information and communicating it to the member-homeowner shows that you are ready to share your know-how and experience with him.

You can discuss various special problems that we face (Hyperodes, Pythium, etc.) or maintenance practices (aerifying, topdressing, watering) that we perform from time to time. Explain the necessity of these procedures and how they may affect play. You will be amazed at the interest on the part of the member and at the impact you generate as a professional.

In addition to these suggestions, I, personally, find it very rewarding to be granted approval to host an association golf outing and dinner. This indicates true acceptance and recognition of me, my peers and our organizations.

In conclusion, I ask you to help me keep our association on the move by voicing your own suggestions and look forward to the pleasure of hearing from each of you.

—Bob Alonzi

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

Publication deadline for *Tee to Green* is 21 days before the regular meeting.

COMING EVENTS

September 20 MGCSA Invitational, Ridgeway C.C.
September 25 CAGCS Field Day, Beardsley Park
Bridgeport
October 2-3 NJGCSA Field Day, Rutgers University
Stadium, Piscataway
October 16 MGCSA Monthly Meeting, Salem G.C.
(2nd round, Supt. Championship)
November 13-15 N.Y.S. Turfgrass Association Conference
& Equipment Show, Syracuse
November MGCSA Annual Meeting
December 12 O.M. Scotts Golf Course Seminar,
Hartford
December 13 O.M. Scotts Golf Course Seminar,
Armonk
February 17-22 GCSAA's Conference & Show,
St. Louis, Missouri

MGCSA NEWS

August 20th was quite a day. Over 100 adults and 50 children gathered at beautiful Woodway Beach Club to enjoy the MGCSA Annual Family Picnic hosted by Marie, Sherwood, and Glenn Moore.

The weather was perfect and everyone was treated to a feast to remember along with games, prizes, and plenty of good company.

Our thanks to all who helped with the festivities. A special note of thanks to the Carriere family who made and donated



MGCSA Family Picnic

the sausage, Roger Morhardt who provided the corn and watermelon, and to Dan Cancelleri for the fine job organizing the games and activities. And of course, the family who made the whole thing possible, Marie, Sherwood, and Glenn Moore.

Congratulations to Lynn and Billy Gaydosh of the Edgewood Country Club on the birth of a baby girl.

Don Pullen, former Assistant to John Traynor at Westchester Country Club has been named Superintendent at Echo Lake Country Club in Westfield, New Jersey.

The results of last month's membership survey have been tallied. The question was: "Are you interested in subscribing to a Health Insurance Program through a MGCSA sponsored group plan?" The results showed a lack of interest and accordingly the Board decided not to pursue the matter any further.

Pat Lucas

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The following articles were written by three college students who were a part of the Winged Foot Maintenance Crew this summer.

Introduction

By Dave Dwinell

A. Martin Petrovic, responsible for the research, teaching and extension programs in turfgrass science in the State of New York recently spoke to the members and guests of the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association at the beautiful Innis Arden Golf Club in Old Greenwich, Connecticut. A faculty member at Cornell University, Petrovic researched the field of turfgrass physiology and soil management at The University of Massachusetts and Michigan State University. Speaking to a group of 80, Petrovic spoke on the problems of compaction. Without proper cultivation such as aerification, slicing and spiking, compaction can affect bulk density, infiltration and soil temperature. Compaction can be a serious problem and with unfavorable soil conditions, turf structure and root growth can lead to an unpleasant golf course covering.

Dealing with Soil Compaction

By Denzil Rice

There were three makes of core cultivators that were tested, all having different degrees of effectiveness on soil compaction.

The Ryan had deeper penetration than the Dedoes or Hahn. When the holes were filled with topdressing, root zone

growth was reduced.

On test plots that were seeded to Penncross and mowed at 1/4 inch, the coring holes were intact two weeks after coring. After 3 months, the walls had collapsed but the bottom was still compacted. After two weeks, the holes were visible at the surface but after 8 weeks no holes were visible at the surface.

Wetting and drying, plus freezing and thawing will reduce compaction. Topdressing is a very good method of reducing compaction.

Aerification Method Problems

By Dennis Petruzzelli

There are some problems that arise from aerification methods. In coring, severe problems at the bottom of the tine depth may develop. This may be alleviated by changing the depths of the tines and with topdressing. Watch for the sod webworm in aerification holes. The worms tend to make the holes their home. The commercial pesticide "Sevin" is an excellent defense against "The Worm." Mr. Petrovich suggested to vary coring depths and to do coring under dry conditions.

At Cornell Mr. Petrovich will be researching sand topdressing effects on a soon to be built USGA green; how to cope with *Poa Annua* and how to manage it better; and the effects of Milorganite: is it encouraging growth or not? Remember, Martin is at Cornell to serve YOU!!! If you have any puzzling questions, contact your local cooperative extension agent or Martin Petrovich at Cornell.

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Begins: September 18, 1979

Evenings: Tuesday — 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Duration: Semester (15 weeks—30 hours)

Tuition: \$75.00

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NEW YORK STATE

PESTICIDE APPLICATOR'S CERTIFICATION

Please note that Fred Marshall, Cooperative Extension Agent—Agriculture, has informed us that any individuals who have completed the core manual training and passed the exam for core training for pesticide certification are required

to complete their desired category sections before September 15, 1979. Failure to do so will necessitate that you begin the entire process over in late 1979 or 1980.

If you have passed the core training and wish to take a category exam please contact Cooperative Extension Headquarters (telephone 682-3370) and inform them of your requirements immediately. Category training and exams will be scheduled within the next few weeks.

Those of you who have not yet taken the basic core manual training and exam should register with the Cooperative Extension Headquarters but not expect to participate in training sessions until late fall 1979 or early 1980.

Ted Hordon, CGCS



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(Editor's note: Our thanks to John Wistrand of Metro/Milorganite for forwarding this timely article to us.)

SOILS, LIME AND FERTILIZER

By V. Allan Bandel, Extension Soils Specialist
University of Maryland

Those "New" Liming Materials

They started appearing several years ago, but within the last year, interest has been gaining in the various "new" forms of liming materials available in Maryland. Some of these materials are excellent for neutralizing soil acidity, others are not.

The more conventional forms of liming materials which comprise the bulk of the market include ground limestone, hydrated lime, and burnt lime. Some marl is also used as well as small amounts of specialty products such as cement plant refuse or other industrial by-products which have acid neutralizing properties. When judging the potential effectiveness of liming materials for neutralizing soil acidity, there is one criteria applicable to all—total oxide content. The amount of calcium (and sometimes magnesium) present, usually expressed as oxides, reflects the neutralizing power of that liming material. The higher the total oxides (CaO + MgO), the more acidity that can be neutralized. Also, with the exception of hydrated and burnt lime, the fineness must be considered. The University of Maryland recommends that a satisfactory liming material should have 90 to 100% of the particles passing through a 20 mesh sieve and at least 50% passing through a 100 mesh sieve. Fineness is not an impor-

tant consideration for hydrated and burnt lime since these materials automatically become finely divided by the burning and hydrating processes.

Needless to say, particle fineness and oxide content are important criteria for consideration before purchasing *any* liming material. If some reliable measure of neutralizing power cannot be specified by the manufacturer, then *caveat emptor* or let the buyer beware.

It is evident that some confusion exists regarding the "new" category of liming products often referred to as liquid lime or fluid lime. There are at least three products in this category—(1) fluid or suspension lime, which is a suspension of 60 to 70 percent finely ground limestone with 2 to 4 percent attapulgite clay in about 30 percent water, (2) Promesol 30, a solution primarily containing trihydroxy glutaric acid and a small amount of hydrated lime; and (3) wet lime, which is simply dry lime with a variable amount of moisture added, ideally no more than 5 percent by weight.

Fluid or suspension lime recently appeared on the Maryland scene. These materials generally have excellent neutralizing power since they must be composed of very finely ground limestone particles, much of it probably in the 200 mesh category. Some promoters nevertheless, claim that lime suspensions will react faster in the soil than a comparable dry material. This is not likely to be the case. Extensive research in the past has shown that once a liming material is ground fine enough to meet the specifications mentioned earlier, additional grinding will be of little benefit. Also, research currently being conducted by Dr. Mark Alley at Virginia



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Polytechnic Institute indicates that the effect on soil pH is the same for both a dry liming material and a suspension liming material.

Some potential advantages for a lime suspension are that the lime would be applied by conventional fertilizer suspension equipment. The equipment generally spreads a very uniform pattern. Small amounts could be accurately applied to pH sensitive crops, such as soybeans on soils where manganese deficiency is a potential problem at too high a pH. Also there would be no dust or air pollution problems associated with the suspension. But, a disadvantage is that lime suspensions contain 30 to 40 percent water. This added weight must be hauled from the mixing plant to the field. Thus expense on the basis of cost per pound of oxides is going to be higher for the suspension. This might create a tendency to apply less than the needed amount of oxides. Remember, if the needed amount of oxides is not applied, the desired soil pH change is not going to occur, regardless of the method of application. Any extra fineness above that recommended will simply not increase reactivity enough to pay the added cost of handling. For instance, 200 mesh limestone particles will not bring about a change in soil pH twice as fast as 100 mesh particles. Increasing particle fineness above 100 mesh is not likely to increase reactivity significantly.

Some fluid fertilizer applicators are promoting the idea of combining liquid nitrogen with the lime application by using a 30% UAN solution for all or part of the liquid portion of the suspension. If this system would work, it would provide an ideal way to instantly neutralize acidity created by most nitrogen fertilizers—a near “Utopic” situation. However, this concept has not been adequately tested. There is good possibility that by directly combining nitrogen fertilizers with a very reactive liming material, nitrogen volatilization losses could be increased. This concept needs further testing.

Promesol 30 has been on the market in Maryland for several years. However, test work conducted at College Park has *not* shown that this material is effective in neutralizing soil acidity. The promoters claim that 1 gallon of material is

equivalent to 500 pounds of liming material. Therefore, if the soil test lime recommendation calls for 1000 lbs/A of oxides (1 T/A of 50% oxide material), it is claimed the same effect could be obtained by spraying 4 gallons of Promesol 30 on the soil. In an effort to determine whether these claims were accurate, several years ago Dr. John Axley of the University of Maryland Agronomy Department conducted a greenhouse experiment in which “equivalent” amounts of Promesol 30 and ground limestone were added to pots of soil. The soil pH was measured before treatment and 2 months after application. Alfalfa was grown on the various treatments. The results of the paired treatments were as follows:

Treatment	Rate	Final soil pH*	Alfalfa (gm/pot)*
Check	—	5.4 x	1.6 c
“Liquid Lime”	2 gal/A	5.7 x	2.0 c
Ground Limestone	1000 lb/A	6.3 x	3.1 b
“Liquid Lime”	6 gal/A	5.3 x	2.5 b
Ground Limestone	3000 lb/A	6.9 y	3.5 ab
“Liquid Lime”	12 gal/A	5.2 x	3.3 ab
Ground Limestone	6000 lb/a	7.1 y	5.6 a

*Results followed by the same letter are not significantly different.

Obviously, Promesol 30 had *no* effect on soil pH. Alfalfa yields increased slightly with the 6 gal/A treatment, but in no case did Promesol 30 increase alfalfa yields as much as the conventional lime treatment.

“Wet lime is no more than a dry liming material that has accumulated moisture from outside storage or from controlled additions of water. If properly ground to the recommended fineness and if adequate amounts of oxides are applied to the soil, wet lime should be equivalent to its dry counterpart. At an ideal moisture level (some say no more than 5 percent), good spreading characteristics are obtained and dust blowing problems are minimized. However, if the material is too wet, it tends to come out of the spreader in clumps, seriously reducing uniformity of spread and thus reducing effectiveness of the material.

Hopefully, there will always be “new” liming materials



Bob Lippman

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and application methods appearing on the scene. But remember, the old rules still apply when it comes to neutralizing soil acidity. There are no short cut methods. The best approach is still to purchase liming materials on the basis of cost per pound of oxide and fineness.

Credit: *The Agronomist*,
University of Maryland

MAKING TWO SALARIES WORK

Double income doubles the opportunity for waste in many families today. The second paycheck, originally earmarked for a specific purpose such as college, savings or travel, seems never to venture beyond the grocery store.

The culprit is often simple mismanagement. While inflation can be blamed for some of the problems, the fact remains that two-income families tend to "loosen up", allowing the extra cash to dissolve unnoticed into short-term luxuries.

If there are two working adults in your family, the first step in controlling the budget is to *filter all income and all expenses through the person best suited for handling them*. This method eliminates uncertainty and insures an accurate financial picture.

The chosen "bookkeeper" should be supplied with a *realistic budget and a household account book*. The book (not the bookkeeper) is the boss, and a quick check of the figures will eliminate any family debate about whether or not new purchases are warranted.

Leave checkbooks and credit cards at home, so that *purchases cannot be made without a family consultation*. Eliminating spur-of-the-moment indulgences can often add significant amounts to the family treasury.

Put extra money out-of-reach. Don't hesitate to open several savings accounts for various purposes. You can watch your vacation fund grow, for example, use it when it's adequate, and know that you're not traveling on the money saved

for college or emergencies.

Plan to reward yourselves. After a month's successful budgeting, both husband and wife should receive a sum to be used as they wish. Regardless of the amount, looking forward to such a "reward" will help eliminate any feeling of deprivation during the rest of the month.

With additional income, it's a good practice to *establish family goals*. Consider what you would like to acquire, do or accumulate within a five-year period, then devise a strategy to achieve it.

Credit: Just Among Friends, Vol. 4, Issue 1

PROFESSIONALISM IS APPLIED KNOWLEDGE

A profession is an occupation requiring extensive training, education and experience. One engaged in such activity as a means of livelihood is a professional. But there are degrees of professionalism just as there are ranks of professions.

Some occupations—teaching, medicine, law—are assigned a high rank on the professional scale. Some professions and professionals earn greater respect because of their assumed competence or expertise as well as years of organized strength and public relations programs. Their professional character, spirit or methods are diametrically opposed to the amateurs.

Every professional does not have to have a Ph.D., or have spent most of his life as a lawyer or doctor to earn the respect and esteem that comes with knowing his job. It was not too long ago that very few universities offered professional training for golf course superintendents. Today, there are numerous institutions offering some sort of training for those interested in pursuing a career as a golf course superintendent.

A professional is not someone with a hundred hours of classroom instruction. While knowledge learned anywhere is valuable—it is not the goal and it does not make a professional. The goal is application of that knowledge.

A professional takes as much as he can squeeze from his

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job and in the same shake he returns—through his experience, ethics and teachings—a dividend to that profession. The test of a professional is his attitude—his desire to tackle his job with enthusiasm and a willingness to open his mind to all the stimuli that influence him in his work.

A superintendent with a good attitude—a professional viewpoint of his job—will not do just what has to be done. He will approach problems with thought. He will seek others' thoughts. He will use his reasoning, training and learning to elicit solutions that will not only rid him of his immediate problem, but that will have a long-range effect.

A professional is one who is aware of what the job is all about and of how to go about it with the best results and least expenditure of energy. Golf course superintendency is a profession—it requires extensive knowledge of a wide range of subjects. A professional superintendent is one who does his job—on or off the course—and acquires knowledge and then applies that knowledge to his work. Credit: Forefront

Something to think about . . .

October. This is one of the peculiarly dangerous months to speculate in stocks. The others are July, January, September, April, November, May, March, June, December, August and February. —Mark Twain

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WELFARE: Please contact any member of the Welfare Committee regarding any hospitalizations, etc. of members of the MGCSA; Dennis Flynn (914) 636-8700; Pat Lucas (203) 637-3210; Peter Rapoccio (203) 438-6720.

WRITING TO YOUR GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

Power of a letter—Letters from home have become the primary form of contact for legislators with the voters back home—and, as a result, the main source for assessing the views of his or her constituency. Your letter can and should be part of that input.

Form Letters—Avoid form letters or using stereotyped phrases and sentences. They identify your message as part of an organized pressure campaign and will have little or no impact.

When to write—In general, write early. Begin to encourage approval or disapproval of a bill while it is in committee, if possible. Try to time the arrival of your letter for midweek—Monday and Friday are heavy mail days and are also the days members of Congress travel back and forth from home.

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Stationery—Write on personal stationery or on plain paper. If you have your own business, you should use your business letterhead.

Return address—Put your return address on the letter, not just the envelope. Envelopes are often tossed away before a letter is answered.

Identify yourself—If you are writing on your own behalf or as president of an organization or the chairman of an association, say so.

Identify your subject—Somewhere in the first paragraph, state the name of the legislation about which you are writing. Include the bill number if you can. Sometimes several bills are introduced that deal with the same subject matter.

State your position—Explain how the bill would affect you, your family, your business, or even your state or community.

Use facts—Arguments that can't be substantiated are dismissed. Be sure of your facts but don't overload the letter with them. Facts tend to validate your letter and illustrate that you have given a lot of thought to your position.

Be reasonable—Don't ask for the impossible. Don't tell a legislator to vote your way "or else." Do be firm, confident and positive about your position.

Use human terms—Make it your own letter; write in your own style.

Keep it short—Write your letter about one issue. If you are concerned about three issues, write three letters. This makes your letter easier to read and your position easier to understand.

Ask for a reply—Indicate to your legislator that you would appreciate a reply containing his position on the issue. As a constituent, you have a right to know how your representative feels on an issue.

Follow up—If your legislator's vote on the bill pleases you, thank him for his vote. Everybody appreciates a complimentary letter. If his vote displeases you, let him know that too.

Suggested salutations—Here are the addresses and suggested salutations to be used when writing members of the United States Congress:

The Honorable John Doe
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Dear Mr. Doe:

The Honorable John Doe
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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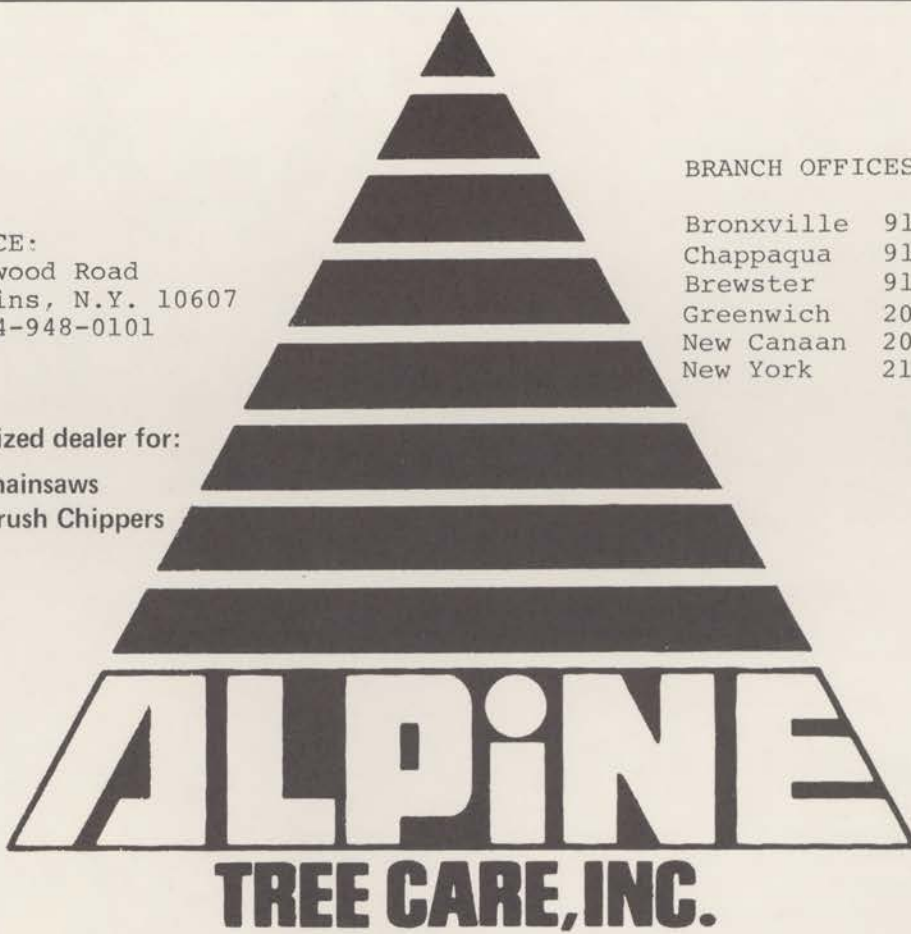
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