

Tee to

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#### **Labor Wages Climbing**

The New York Times recently advised that a shortage of young workers, caused by two decades of lower birth rates and a booming service economy, has pushed wages well above the Federal minimum at shops, restaurants and small businesses throughout the New York Metropolitan area.

"The minimum wage has become a thing of the past," say business managers today. "We are all vying for the same kids and young adults. You have to pay to compete."

Andy Sussman, a 17-year old high school senior who earns \$4.55 an hour as a stock boy at the A & P in Armonk, said he could easily find other jobs. "You can work any where you want. Everybody's anxious for help. There are signs everywhere."

Since 1980, the population in the 16-25 age bracket has fallen by 2 million, a decline that will continue into the 1990's states the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. "The younger people just aren't there and when you can't get people, you raise wages," said FBLS Regional Commissioner Samuel Ehrenhalt.

The present unemployment rate for the Greater New York area hovers between 3.5 and 4 percent.

Placing help-wanted ads does not help either according to area managers, who say they now get less than four responses to an ad when they used to average over eighty.

The worker shortage is especially severe in affluent areas, where young people generally have less need to work and can rely on allowances.

Employers are looking at two approaches to finding workers: one they are turning to

#### Initial Moss Study Results Available

Dr. Norman Hummel **Cornell University** 

This study was formally initiated in early September, 1985 with the signing of a memoradum of understanding by both Cornell University and the Metropolitan Golf Association. However, a verbal committment had been made by the MGA to fund the project earlier in the year, so the project actually began in early summer. A letter was sent to all MGA member golf course superintendents in May soliciting cooperators for the project. Of the 225 letters sent, 58 were returned with an interest in participating in the project. Of the 58 returned, 13 indicated that they had a moss problem. In July, I made a trip to visit 7 golf courses on Long Island, 5 with moss, two without. Samples were taken from at least two greens on each course to characterize the soil profiles within the greens, including both physical and chemical properties. Tissue samples were taken from most of the greens to determine nutrient availibility. A visual site analysis was made for each green and included an estimation of the floral composition of each green. The superintendent was asked detailed questions about his present and past management practices. Moss samples from all affected golf courses were taken back to Ithaca for species identification.

A similar trip was made in late August to Connecticut and Westchester County where 6 golf courses were visited, 4 with moss, 2 without. While in the Rochester area I stopped at Oak Hill Country Club and collected the same data that was collected in the downstate visits.

Additional funding for this project was obtained from Turf Specialists Inc. and the SISIS Equipment company to visit the Sports Turf Research Institute in England where they have performed considerable research on moss control in turf. Several golf courses in northern England were also visited.

The moss species present on all the affected greens was identified as Silvery Thread Moss (Bryum argentium). I was certain that there was more than one species involved in this because of the different appearance the moss took. However, silvery thread moss will take on a silvery appearance when dry, and a lime green or similar shade when soil conditions are moist. This moss species is classified by taxonomists as a cosmopolitan species, that is, it is well adapted to a wide range of environmental conditions. It is ubiquitous in that it can be found virtually any place on this earth. Taxonomists also classify it as a nitrogenous moss species, meaning that it is favored by "enhanced soil conditions," including the application of nitrogen fertilizers or high organic matter content. While silvery thread moss will survive dry conditions, it is greatly favored by moisture. It is interesting to note that when this moss first colonizes an exposed area, it produces a black slimy mat across the area before the green vegetative structures are formed.

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#### **Executive Director's Report**

#### Communications Are The Key To Job Security

Over 20 golf course superintendents positions opened and were filled through this past Fall and Winter within the Greater New York Metropolitan area. About a third of these moves were precipitated by employing clubs; the balance represent the "domino affect" as superintendents replaced each other from job to job.

A careful examination of the situations were a superintendent's employment has been terminated by a club (not only this year, but for recent years as well) presents a relatively consistent pattern, an insight and the opportunity for a valuable lesson to be learned. Virtually, in every case the primary factor why the job was lost was due to a breakdown in communications and not because the superintendent was not capable of executing on the job.

Clubs and their Green Committees do not expect perfection from a golf course superintendent. They readily accept the variables of nature and the margin for human error. When faced with problems that will always arise from time to time, however, both the club and golf course superintendent fail to communicate adequately, or frequently enough about situations at hand. As a result, misunderstandings build on one another, educational opportunities are not taken advantage of and pressure situations do not get diffused - with the overall result that the golf course superintendent becomes vulnerable when he need not be.

Clearly, a different scenario can be orchestrated and should be, with every golf course superintendent taking the initiative at his own club to do so - regardless of his level of performance. The fundamental concept here is twofold: (1) an accurate job description should be written for the position of golf course superintendent that would be reviewed periodically; and (2) the club Green Committee and the golf course superintendent should meet annually, presumably in the Fall of the year, for a balanced review of performance based on the stated job description. Positives would be recognized and acknowledged; questions stated and addressed; and problems identified for immediate attention and review the following year. Meeting results should become part of the permanent club record, with a written copy of the "minutes" of such meetings being given to the golf course superintendent - for his file and review with trusted counselors.

An interesting variation on the above would be for both the club and the golf course superintendent to evaluate management performance on the golf course simultaneously via two identical check lists - then compare results. A meaningful exchange will always evolve from this approach.

It might take some courage to seek out annual meetings of this kind, but the results will justify the effort every time. By inviting a constructive annual evaluation and balanced exchange - the golf course superintendent creates educational opportunities that will abound, presents himself as a secure manager and identifies problems that can only become dangerous when left unattended. (JMcL.)

"As I grow older, I pay less attention to what men say. I just watch what they do."

- A. Carnegio

#### Favorable Embark Results Reported

Paul Veshi TTG Committee

The Program of *Embark* Plant Growth Regulator (PGR) for the suppression of Poa Annua seedheads on fairways has been a topic generating much interest for the past few years—especially last year when some 15 area golf course superintendents used it for the first time. *Tee to Green* spoke to a number of superintendents and found that although individual modifications are needed to insure complete success, the program is a helpful tool in managing Poa Annua.

Although weaknesses of Poa Annua as a permanent grass exist year-round, the *Embark* Program has been designed essentially for Spring time use. The disadvantages of Poa Annua and its extensive springtime seedhead production are: a whitish or pale yellow coloring of the fairways causing an unsightly playing surface; mowing difficulties; unfavorable lies; and the aggravation of allergies and sinus conditions. Most importantly, excessive amounts of energy are expended in the production of seeds which depletes both photosynthate and carbohydrate reserves from the vegetative portion of the Poa plant. When used properly, *Embark* PGR will negate the above and turn stated liabilities into assets.

The Golf Course Superintendents interviewed generally agreed that the factors requiring attention that will help to ensure success of the program are TIMING, CALIBRATION, & COMMUNICATIONS.

#### Timing

It is recommended that application be made before seedhead emergence, because *Embark* will not control any seedheads once they emerge. Also *Embark* should be applied after Spring greenup because the PGR does have an initial yellowing effect for up to two weeks on grass. These combination of factors allows only a short span of time to make the application when conditions are right.

Every golf course's microclimate will vary. Careful examination will indicate how well developed the seedhead has

LPGA Classic

13-18

become. Ideally, you will want to make the application when the seedhead is still in the boot. Pat Lucas of Innis Arden applied *Embark* on April 8th with "excellent results." John O'Keefe of Westchester Hills made his application on May 7th. Although seedheads had appeared, John obtained good control from that point on. John noted, "lowering the height of cut eliminated the remaining seedstalks." Other Superintendent's applications fell between these dates, but some felt they could have sprayed two to three days earlier to keep all the seedheads down.

#### Calibration

The success of this program depends greatly on the proper preparation of *Embark* for the application to the fairways. Particular emphasis must be paid to the rates of application, the reliability of the equipment used and the experience of crew working the project.

The application rates used ranged from 8 oz./A by Dave Heroian at Rockland to 4 oz./A by Dennis Flynn at Brae Burn – both with good results. "Where I overlapped really set back the grass," Dave noted with plans to use a 6 oz./A rate this year. Scott Niven of Stanwich advises: "The lower rate will be more forgiving. Use the lowest rate possible that will give expected results."

Earl Millett of Fenway recommends that spray equipment be calibrated as many times as is necessary to provide the needed reliability. Mark Millett of Old Oaks advises using only new nozzles. Mark found streaks of seedheads across his fairways, which he attributes to poor spray patterns caused by worn nozzles.

The use of spray pattern markings is strongly encouraged to insure accurate application. "Spray on a dewy morning dragging chains off the boom, or use a second person with spray paint to indicate where the last pass finished" – suggests

(continued on page 4)

#### **Coming Events** April 22 HV GCSA Meeting (6 PM - All Welcome) Orange Cty. GC 23 Met GCSA Golf / Meeting Nassau CC May 12 **CAGCS Monthly Meeting CC** Farmington 13 Met GCSA Golf / Meeting Apawamis C 15 GCSA-NJ Monthly Meeting Oak Hill GC

#### Management Insight

There are managers who make great contributions provided they are specialists. Then there are those who perform best when given ever broader responsibilities. An organization needs both. You have to select the right horse for the right course and train each horse for its own race.

A. Pearce

Fairmont CC

#### Initial Moss Study Results Available (continued from page 1)

This may explain why it has been reported that "algae" was a precursor to moss on some golf course greens.

Mosses are a reflection of the surface conditions in a colonized area. On most golf course greens, the bentgrass or *Poa annua* also survives primarily from the nutrients and moisture in the top inch of soil. Moss infestations ranged from 90% to 2% on the affected greens. All golf courses visited maintained their greens at a height of  $\frac{5}{32}$  inches down to  $\frac{1}{8}$  inches. At mowing heights within this range, there was no effect of mowing height on the percentage of moss infestation. A much wider range of mowing heights would be necessary to make any valid statistical conclusions from this data, however. The average yearly nitrogen fertilizer rate was 2.3 pounds of nitrogen per 1000 square feet. Again, a wider range of fertility levels and mowing heights would be necessary to infer what effects these two factors have on the grasses ability to compete with moss. Potassium, phosphorus, or the application of other fertilizers did not appear to have an effect on moss populations.

#### Favorable Embark Results Reported (cont'd from pg. 3)

Dennis Flynn. Spray pattern indicators can also be helpful. "Overlapping will really affect the grass and missed areas will stick out like a sore thumb," advises Scott Niven. Everyone agrees that mistakes can greatly diminish the beneficial impact of *Embark* use.

Further observations on *Embark* by those who used it last year: expect an initial yellowing of grass for 10-14 days – followed thereafter with a darkening of the grass; avoid spraying *Embark* in the roughs as it serves as a food source for helminthosporium leaf spot. Dennis Flynn found that spraying for leaf spot before and after *Embark* application was effective.

Ken Flisek used *Embark* at 4.5 oz./A on his greens at Apawamis and got good control, but with some yellowing. Everyone agreed that some attractive by-products of *Embark* use are the savings in labor, equipment use/repair and fuels costs – *Embark* slows the growth rate of grass.

#### Communications

An *Embark* suppression program should not be initiated without notifying a club's membership fully about the application schedule, visual effects, benefits and inherent risks. Publicizing the program throughout the club will prove to be a feather in the superintendent's cap, because *Embark* produces immediately visible and overall favorable results. Earl Millett advises that his Green Committee Chairman was so impressed with *Embark* that he wants applications made annually at Ridgeway.

Whether it is called "Poa Annua" or annual bluegrass or, jokingly, "Westchester Bent" – everyone is very much aware of the frailties of this difficult to manage turfgrass. Every golf course superintendent has developed his own management program for Poa. Some treat it as a weed that must be eradicated; some as an undependable grass that must be tolerated; others accept it as a permanent turfgrass that requires excessive attention to insure success. Regardless of which philosophy is adopted, the *Embark* Poa seedhead suppression program can benefit every golf course.

Tee To Green would like to thank all the superintendents who worked with me on this article. Each is willing to answer any questions you might have when considering an *Embark* program. ■

#### An Interview Question You Might Anticipate Someday!

Question: "Tell me about the people you have hired. How long do they stay with you. How do they work out?"

This is an excellent question to ask someone applying for a managerial position. The answers will indicate the candidate's abililty to assemble – and hold on to – a staff. The answers could also pinpoint a personality problem. Beware, for instance, of the candidate who has had difficulty keeping subordinates in a certain slot.

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#### A Tree Grows at Winged Foot

Robert U. Alonzi Winged Foot GC

During hurricane Gloria last October, we lost a number of very large trees – one of which had a significant impact on the playability of the par 5, 16th hole, West. The tree lost was a very large sugar maple which was not in the best of health, but had been nursed along for some years. It guarded the right side of the green – creating a tight alley shot on the way in. Without this tree, a good golfer could draw the ball right-to-left – making the hole easier by a shot. In view of this, the Club decided to replace the tree with one that would come into play immediately.

We researched the possibility of buying a tree off site and having it transported and planted. However, by coincidence, we found two trees on Club property that qualified and were well out of play. We selected a beautiful 35-foot sugar maple from this pair and contracted two nurseries and asked each to submit a bid to move the tree. Peterson Landscaping was the nursery selected for the job.

In preparation, we mulched the area around the tree as well as at the intended location and then waited for the ground to freeze so that the move could be made with minimal damage to the surrounding areas. Shortly after Christmas, the Peterson Company decided that the ground was firm enough for his crew to start the digging and balling of the selected tree. This process, incidentally, was fascinating to watch: the way three men used winches and cables to tie up branches, dig a 10-foot ball, burlap it, lift to a flatbed trailer, move to the new location, reverse the process and plant the tree – all within three to four days.

It should be pointed out that although we used the same variety of tree for replacement, it was necessary that the drainage in the target area be improved in order to give the tree a better chance of surviving at its new site. This was done by digging the hole much deeper than necessary, by putting in a layer of 3/4" gravel (covered with hay to prevent contamination) and then installing a slit gravel drain from the tree outward.

Once the tree was placed into the ground and the branches were released – it virtually

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#### Successful Management Traits

Successful managers possess common characteristics say authors D.K. Clifford and R.E. Cavanagh in their recent book, "The Winning Performance." These traits include:

- An extraordinary commitment to business; they average 64-hour workweeks.
- An excitement about details; they find all aspects of operations fascinating sales, scheduling, finance, client relations, communications, computers, etc.
- The ability to formulate philosophy and policy; they outline the rights and responsibilities of employees and define what value can be delivered to clients, customers and employers.
- A commitment to front-line involvement. They believe that spending time "in the trenches" is the most effective way to monitor key functions, rather than relying on reports or written memos.
- The capacity to be effective delegators. Effective managers leave a good portion of supervising and decision making to trusted and proven subordinates.

#### **USGA Settles Suit**

The United States Golf Association has reached an out of court settlement of an anti-trust suit originally filed by Polara Enterprises, Inc. in 1978. The settlement amount is \$1,375,000.

The suit involved a golf ball developed by Polara claiming aerodynamic characteristics that caused the ball to self correct in flight so as to limit hooking and slicing. Accordingly, the USGA refused to approve the ball for use in USGA competitions and established a new standard to deal with this aerodynamic problem. Since this standard has been established, 25 brands of balls have been removed from the list of approved balls.

Reasons for USGA's settling were basically twofold: first—the judgment will permit the USGA to continue to make and revise specifications for equipment within the Rules of Golf; and second—USGA's total legal costs to date within the suit had risen to \$1.7 million.

This case and settlement leaves some doubt regarding USGA's future ability to preserve the best interests and true spirit of the game of golf—as well as the integrity of the game's many golf courses.





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\*Some lots of seed may contain lower levels of viable endophyte due to storage of breeder, foundation, or certified seed. Seed of Repell perennial ryegrass is specially tagged to ensure the presence of the endophyte. Cold storage (40°F) will prolong endophyte viability. To insure a high viable endophyte level, seed should be used within nine months of the test date.



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#### PERFORMANCE OF COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE PERENNIAL RYEGRASS CULTIVARS IN TURF TRIALS SEEDED SEPTEMBER 1982 AT NORTH BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY.

Yame	Yearly Mean, April-November.		
Repell (GT-II)	7.1		
Blazer	7.0		
iesta	6.9		
almer	6.9		
Regal	6.9		
3T-1	6.8		
Dator	6.8		
Ranger	6.8		
Elka	6.5		
remier	6.5		
ennant	6.4		
relude	6.4		
Delray	6.3		
Derby	6.3		
)mega II	6.3		
Omega	6.3		
ennfine	6.3		
orktown II	6.3		
Dasher	6.2		
Diplomat	6.2		
Cowboy (2EE)	6.2		
Manhattan II	6.1		
3irdie	6.0		
Citation	6.0		
Birdie II (2ED)	6.0		
Acclaim	5.9		
Manhattan	5.9		
Barry	5.8		
linn	4.0		

Plots were seeded at the rate of 5 lb.
per 1000 sq. ft. in September of
1982. Maintenance consists of
mowing at 11/2 inches with clippings
not removed, 3 lb. of nitrogen per
1000 sq. ft. per year, irrigation only
to prevent dormancy.

Cultivar	Turf Quality* 9 = Best 1983 Average	Brown Blight 9 = Least Disease December 1982	Fusarium Patch # Patches March 1983	Brown Patch 9 = Least Disease July 1983
Prelude	8.0	8.3	0.0	8.2
Palmer	7.8	7.5	1.0	7.2
Premier	7.7	7.0	1.0	7.9
Repell (GT-II)	7.6	6.7	4.0	6.9
BT-1	7.6	7.3	0.3	6.9
Manhattan II	7.2	7.8	8.0	6.9
Gator	7.2	7.8	3.3	5.9
All*Star	7.0	7.7	5.3	7.0
Pennant	6.9	5.7	2.0	7.3
Ranger	6.8	6.7	17.0	7.6
Blazer	6.7	7.3	3.0	6.0
Regal	6.7	7.3	0.3	6.5
Birdie II	6.6	8.0	1.0	6.5
Cowboy	6.5	7.3	2.7	6.6
Derby	6.5	7.3	5.0	6.3
Yorktown II	6.3	7.8	1.3	6.2
Acclaim	6.3	4.3	15.3	6.0
Fiesta	6.3	5.8	5.0	6.0
Dasher	6.2	6.0	4.7	6.0
Citation	5.9	2.2	5.7	6.2
Diplomat	5.8	7.3	0.7	5.6
Barry	5.7	6.7	10.0	4.2
Ovation	5.7	3.8	16.7	
	5.7	7.2	2.3	5.4
Omega Pennfine	5.7	2.5	15.3	5.5
Birdie	5.3	4.8		6.6
	5.0		4.7	5.6
Manhattan	4.9	6.3	4.3	4.0
Delray Elka	4.9	1.8	11.7	5.1
Hunter	4.5		15.7	3.8
		4.3	4.0	3.4
Game	2.1	3.5	11.3	2.4
Linn	1.3	3.5	9.3	1.4

<sup>\*</sup>Turf Quality is the average of ratings made from March through December.

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#### Lifetime Employment

Can companies in the United States successfully adopt a Japanese-style employment concept? If one recognizes that lifetime employment is not lifelong employment, the answer is yes.

A noteworthy distinction between lifetime employment in Japan and in the United States is the underlying rationale for its existence. In Japan, organizational policies and philosophies are tailored to promote corporate loyalty. Japanese managers boast that job security is a top level priority.

In contrast, U.S. companies do not offer "lifetime" employment, rather these programs evolve from concerns of influential groups, union pressures and specific economic conditions.

For lifetime employment to succeed here, American firms must adopt the unique bonding system that exists between Japanese workers and management. In addition, long-term goals must be stressed over short-term objectives. The greatest potential obstacle to lifetime employment in this country, howevever, is America's volatile economic climate. Historically, layoffs are the first moves companies make during economic showdowns.

Organizations wishing to adopt a lifetime employment philosophy should become familiar with the following Japanese experiences:

- Promotions will be slower for employees.
- Employers must encourage more job diversity so that employees do not become bored with their present jobs as they wait to be promoted.
- Training should be seen as an investment in human capital.
- Management must closely scrutinize prospective applicants and carefully examine lifetime employment candidates.
- Salaries must equal market rates, or the employee must believe the lifetime employment commitment is sufficiently valuable to offset any salary discrepancy.
- All personnel must recognize that a company's long-term financial health dictates job security.

From a Golf Course Superintendent's point of view, often he is looking for "lifetime" or extended employment – while his club is not making a similar planning commitment, or doing the things that make continued employment more tolerable and

#### If You Are Shy

Few people are strangers to shyness. Some of the country's most successful executives can recount more than a few shy moments. Dynamic Lee Iacocca admits in his book that he had been an "introverted shrinking violet."

If you are shy: (1) Know yourself - find ways to revitalize yourself after draining periods; energy is a friend. (2) Find new ways to socialize - try being a host, if being a guest is difficult. (3) Stick to your style - don't flee from a scene because it is traditionally social; compensate for a bashful nature with new approaches, but always be yourself. (4) Specialize - don't tackle too many things at once; it is easier to be conversant on a few topics than to spread yourself too thin. (5) Seek a leadership role elsewhere - look for the opportunity to display leadership ability in other "safe" environments. (6) Practice makes perfect - do not look for miracles; shy types can't get by without diligent research and practice.

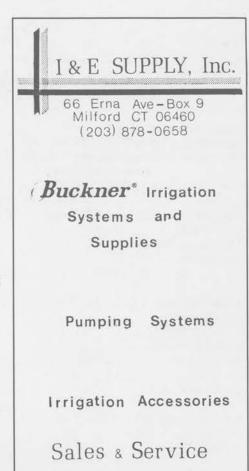
Practice increases the ease with which you perform, while shying away only reinforces anxiety. (WS) ■

the handicapped for help with good results and virtual guaranteed attendance; and two – they are dropping work standards to attract formerly marginal workers. Everyone agrees that these are good times for disabled workers.

**Winged Foot Tree** (cont'd from pg. 5) had the same impact on the hole as its successor.

Obviously, the tree lacks maturity. However, with proper care we feel it too will become a pivotal factor that adds to the character and difficulty of this well known hole. The total cost of transplanting this tree was just under \$5,000. Slides are available upon request.

attractive. Clearly, the unique Japanese bonding system is missing and with it — job security as well. Clubs should not be criticized. Rather, more definitive career counseling programs are needed at the superintendent's end and clubs should be encouraged to look more closely at longer range planning programs.





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