



WISCONSIN TURFGRASS NEWS

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SUMMER 1998

WSTMA Inaugural Meeting a Resounding Success

By Tom Schwab

University of Wisconsin-Madison, O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research Facility

The first-ever meeting of the Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association (WSTMA) held on July 22nd, 1998, was a great success. Ninety-five sports field managers and suppliers to the sports turf industry helped kick off the inaugural meeting held at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

There was education, conversation, and hands-on demonstrations throughout the day. The main focus of the inaugural meeting was to see if there is enough interest to officially form a Wisconsin chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association. The huge turnout answered that question with a resounding yes!

The steering committee that organized this first meeting agreed to set a yearly membership for the Wisconsin chapter at \$25. New memberships are for the rest of this year and all of 1999. The \$25 membership fee will cover mailing costs for meetings and may also cover a newsletter, fact sheets, a membership directory, educational opportunities and more. This will have to be determined by the board of directors who have not been chosen yet.

It is an exciting time to form a new organization for which there is such a big interest. Forty-eight attendees joined on-site at Stevens Point to become charter members, and anyone else will have through the next meeting to join this charter member group. The next meeting is being planned now and will probably be held in late-September or early-October. One member suggested "winterizing the irrigation system, the equipment,

and the turfgrass" as a good educational subject.

Steve Trusty, executive director of the national Sports Turf Managers Association was one of the presenters at this first meeting. He reviewed the history and explained the benefits of belonging to the national organization. There is no dual membership or affiliation requirement. Join the National, the state chapter

or both. They each have unique benefits. Steve explained the national organization holds an annual conference that assembles a huge trade show, educational offerings, and opportunities to network with peers. It also provides members with a directory, magazine, newsletter, compendium, and some scholarships and other awards. It may also start a certification program that

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Equipment demonstrations of UW-Stevens Point's field equipment.



Dr. John Stier gives sports turf research update.



Host Chris Brindley presents his past and present experiences with sports turf.

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will further enhance the professionalism of industry. Steve said that increasing professionalism, which brings many added benefits, is the main thrust of the organization. It only costs \$85 annually for all these benefits. You may call him at 800-323-3875 for more information about the Sports Turf Manager Association.

The next presenter was Chris Brindley who is the sports field manager for the U.W.-Stevens Point. He talked about the importance of maintaining safe playing fields. He said you have to prioritize inputs for fields with safety as the main goal. You must also communicate well, he said, and justify equipment. Justifications are efficiency, safety of players and staff, and buying equipment for multiple use, and to share and trade with others. He said by communicating and showing decision-makers the quality of improvements that result from bigger budgets, then the budgets could grow even more in the future.

Rich Riggs from Rettler and Associates and the Wisconsin chapter's steering committee spoke next. He discussed where we are and where we're going in forming a local chapter of the Sports Turf Manager Association. He summarized how the meetings will move around the state, visit different venues, have timely education, and offer numerous benefits. He reiterated the themes of increasing professionalism of the industry, making safer playing fields, and keeping the local chapter cost and travel accessible to everyone in the state. He also told of the many benefits of joining the national group but admitted some people may not be able to join both.

Dr. John Stier from the University of Wisconsin Department of Horticulture gave an overview of athletic field turf research and what it is doing for the industry. John is one of a handful of turfgrass researchers in the country who is doing extensive research specifically for sports fields. John had so much information and the attendees so many questions that everyone walked away with a new understanding of the direction their profession is heading. He said the profession is a 'sleeping giant' that is about to be awakened by the boom in gender indifferent sports like soccer, litigation demanding safer fields for kids, protection of expensive professional players, and aesthetics of playing fields that are displayed on television.

A buffet lunch followed the morning presentations and then was ensued by

two workshops in the afternoon. Chris Brindley gave an equipment workshop describing the machinery used to maintain the sports fields at Stevens Point. Attendees watched the equipment in action and asked many questions. Rich Riggs, who formerly was the sports field manager at Stevens Point before Chris Brindley, explained the rebuilding of some of the fields that took place at the university to host a summer training camp for the Jacksonville Jaguars. Once again the attendees had many questions on hosting a professional football team, and many other aspects of building, establishing, and maintaining quality fields.

The whole day was a success. Attendees learned much, made some new friends, and are genuinely interested in getting together again. The formation of the new organization is going to move forward rapidly with the great amount of interest exhibited at this first-ever meeting of the Wisconsin chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association. A spe-

cial thanks should be given to the steering committee that organized the meeting, the speakers that gave us good information, and the crowd of attendees that are going to drive the organization through sharing their knowledge and experience.



Steve Trusty educates the crowd about Sports Turf Manager Association.



Rich Riggs welcomes the huge crowd to the first ever Wisconsin Sports Turf Manager Association.

The Wisconsin Turfgrass Association

Presents

THE 1998 SUMMER FIELD DAY

At the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Facility

Wednesday, August 12

The WTA is offering an incentive to get new members in 1998.

Become a new WTA member and receive one free admission to Summer Field Day 98.

Call Audra for Details - 608-845-6536

UW Plant Pathology Department Begins Search for Turf Pathologist

By Walt Stevenson, Professor, Department of Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

UW Administration recently gave the green light for the Plant Pathology Department to begin its search for a new turf pathologist. This was the good news that many were waiting for. The Department is now in the process of advertising the position announcement in a coordinated effort to attract applications from the most qualified individuals. Thus far we have placed advertisements in 'Agronomy News' (American Society of Agronomy), 'Phytopathology News' (American Phytopathological Society), and 'Science', along with web sites for the American Phytopathological Society, American Society of Plant Physiologists and the UW Plant Pathology Department. We also sent notification of the position to all Departments of Plant Pathology in the U.S., all Horticulture and Agronomy Departments with turf programs in the U.S., and all 1,890 Land Grant Colleges and Universities. The advertisement in its entirety is shown to the right.

We anticipate many qualified individuals to

complete their applications before the deadline of September 1, 1998. By mid to late September, the Department will finish reviewing the qualifications of each individual and will select a short list (likely 3-5 individuals) for interviews. Interviews will likely occur during late October to early November and will include individual and group interviews with faculty, staff, students, UW administration, and the turf industry. Once we determine when the interviews will be held, we plan to make the schedule wide-

ly known so that representatives of the turf industry can participate in the interview process. We invite attendance from members of the turf industry at each seminar and plan to provide those interviewing for the turf pathology position with a tour of the Noer Turfgrass Research Facility so that they can become acquainted with this excellent facility and the research opportunities it provides. During this tour, we will provide an opportunity for the turfgrass industry to meet each candidate and to discuss turfgrass issues in an informal setting. You will be hearing more about this as Fall arrives and as interview schedules are finalized. We look forward to hiring the most qualified individual for this position and welcome your involvement in the process. In the meantime, feel free to circulate this position announcement. Suggestions, concerns and questions are always welcome. You may call Walt Stevenson at 608-262-6291 or our Departmental Chairman - John Andrews at 608-262-1410.

Assistant Professor, Turfgrass Pathology. The University of Wisconsin is seeking applicants for a full-time, 12-month tenure track faculty position at the Assistant Professor level: 60% research, 40% extension. Qualifications include a Ph.D. in plant pathology or a closely related field with experience in turfgrass research and management desirable. The appointee will develop an innovative research/extension program leading to economically and environmentally sound approaches to control turfgrass diseases. The appointee will develop and maintain extramurally funded research and extension programs, direct graduate students, and participate in the overall educational program of the Plant Pathology Department in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. This position presents rich opportunities to work in an interdisciplinary environment and to collaborate with faculty, staff and industry in turfgrass and biological sciences. Outstanding field research facilities are offered at the O. J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility in Madison as well as outlying research stations. A curriculum vitae, complete undergraduate and graduate transcripts, a statement of research and extension interests and at least three letters of recommendation should be sent to: W. R. Stevenson, Search and Screen Committee, UW Plant Pathology Dept., 1630 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706. Tel. (608) 262-6291, FAX (608) 263-2626. Applications received by Sept. 1, 1998 will be assured of consideration. The position is available January 1, 1999. The University of Wisconsin is an equal opportunity employer, encourages women and minorities to apply and offers an excellent salary and benefits package.

Finally, a "Biological" Herbicide

By Dr. John C. Stier, Assistant Professor, Department of Horticulture, University of Wisconsin-Madison

The idea of using corn gluten meal for weed control burst on the scene in the early 1990's after Dr. Nick Christians at Iowa State discovered its herbicidal properties. After several years of efficacy studies and product development, corn gluten meal is being strongly marketed.

Corn gluten meal is a product of the wet milling process. It is a pre-emergent herbicide which inhibits root formation during germination. It is currently labeled for control of crabgrass, barnyardgrass, foxtails (*Setaria* spp.), dandelion, lambsquarters, pigweed, purslane and smartweed. Data suggest it has at least some activity on an even wider variety of plants. It is safe to use on established turf.

Research shows 50-60% control can be achieved in the first year with better control at higher rates and with continued use over several years. Currently it is sold as a dry product under various trade names, including Dynaweed, Safe 'N Simple, Earth Friendly, W.O.W.!, Corn Gluten Meal Herbicide, and Propac. It is sold for the homeowner market in retail stores as Concern-

Weed Prevention Plus. Until recently it was only offered in powder form. Now a granular form is available which can more easily be applied with rotary and drop spreaders. Application rates vary from 20 to 40 lbs. per 1000 ft² depending on the intended use. For crabgrass control in turf, two applications are recommended at 12 lbs./1000 ft², once in early to mid-spring and another in early to mid-August. Since the corn gluten meal is about 10% nitrogen, this catches two flushes of crabgrass and spreads out the nitrogen effect. Bulk orders cost about \$950/ton; 50 lb. bags run between \$25 and \$30.

Portions of at least two proteins in the corn gluten meal, called peptides, are the active ingredients in corn gluten meal. Laboratory studies show the peptides themselves to be significantly more effective at preventing weed germination than the corn gluten meal itself. Unfortunately the peptides do not persist in the soil when used as a spray long enough for effective control. Current research is aimed at isolating and packaging these peptides to produce a sprayable product.

Large Attendance Anticipated for Field Day

By Tom Schwab, Superintendent
University of Wisconsin-Madison, O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research Facility

The Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Summer Field Day planning committee is expecting larger than ever attendance at this year's event. The reason? Many turf managers have heard about the increased and more intense research that has been occurring at the Noer Facility this year. The date for Field Day 1998 is Wednesday, August 12th and the location will again be the Noer Turfgrass Research Facility in Verona. The date is a week earlier than traditional which should allow more managers to attend. The date was shifted to accommodate managers that lose some of their help in late August.

Committee chairman, Jim Trzinski, assembled a seasoned group of planners to put together an organized and informative field day. Many field day planning meetings were held to finalize a plan to make the day most beneficial to you. We feel the format for this year's show will be used for many years to come. The research tour will start the field day beginning at 8:45. So come early and stay the whole day.

The research tour will feature different investigators. Wayne Kussow has been concentrating on many different golf green studies this year by installing advanced environmental sensing equipment and controlling the weather conditions with shade and humidity structures. John Stier has installed numerous herbicide, plant growth regulator, and athletic field studies. Jeff Gregos has more fungicide studies installed than you can shake a stick at. The formal research tour occurs in the morning, but researchers will remain on the plots all day for one-on-one conversation. Bring your questions and samples and someone will be able to discuss your concerns with you.

The trade show will start at 10:30 and conclude at 3:30. The show keeps getting better every year. This year is no exception by the number and quality of exhibitors that have registered. We anticipate around 50 exhibitors. They will be able to answer all of your supplies and equipment questions. A feature of some past field days will be returning this year. Back by popular demand is the equipment demonstration/product introduction session. This session will give ven-



Dr. Wayne Kussow's amendments green with shade and relative humidity structure.



Cold weather tolerance of ornamental grasses will be explored.

dors the microphone for a period of time to introduce some of their important products. This will occur immediately after lunch. A schedule for this session will be made available on the day of the show to help you plan your day. Another unique feature of field day is equipment test-driving. Any time during the trade show, 10:30 - 3:30, exhibitors are free to allow test-drives of select equipment as long as it doesn't disrupt other parts of the show. So come and do some feature comparisons between the different manufacturers.

Don't forget the social aspects of the summer field day. There are the donuts
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The Wisconsin Turfgrass News

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O. J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility

A New Turf and Ornamental Entomologist

By John C. Stier, Assistant Professor
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Search Committee for Entomology Position

Interviews for a new turf and ornamental extension entomologist are underway at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Entomology. This is ostensibly a vice-Koval position but is not a faculty position; instead it is offered at the level of outreach program manager. The position is 100% extension and will provide diagnosis and education for turf and ornamental insect pests. The position will provide support for all of the green industry, including but not limited to turf, Christmas trees, nursery, floral and greenhouse segments. The primary insect problems are gypsy moth and now Japanese beetle, which is already present in isolated regions of the state. The position is funded by the cooperative extension for three years. After three years the incumbent must provide his or her own funding. This is an interesting situation because it may force extension to look again at fee based programming events. Interviews are expected to be completed by mid-August.

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and coffee when you arrive, a fabulous lunch at noon, and the wonderfully stocked auction sponsored by the exhibitors all day. The field day will end with the announcement of the auction winners from 3:15 to 3:30.

Please use the registration form included if you somehow missed receiving the materials. You may also register on the day of the show if you would prefer. If you have any questions please give Audra at the Noer Facility a call at 608-845-6536. The field day is a great time to

meet old and make new friends to either commiserate or congratulate on the season experienced. We know you'll learn something worthy and have a good time.



Distinguished guests, Assistant Dean Doug Maxwell, Dean Emeritus Neal Jorgensen, and Department of Horticulture Chairman Larry Binning, attend field day 1997.



Jeff Gregos applying carrier volume treatments for dollar spot control. Greenhouses, in background are used for study of *Pythium* control treatments.

The 1998 Wisconsin Turfgrass Field Day Registration Form

Company _____

Mailing Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

Main area of interest: Golf Course _____

Name of Registrants (Print legibly)

Lawn & Landscape _____

Pre-registered WTA Members: _____ X \$20.00 = _____

Pre-registered Non-Members: _____ X \$25.00 = _____

New WTA membership \$125 = 1 free admission _____

Make check payable to Wisconsin Turfgrass Association (WTA). Return this completed form along with check by **August 3rd** to:
Wisconsin Turfgrass Association • O.J. Noer Turfgrass Facility • 3101 Highway M • Verona WI 53593-9537

Taking the Helm

Elton Aberle becomes the 11th Dean of the College

By Brian Mattmiller, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Office of News and Public Affairs



Elton D. Aberle, formerly head of the animal sciences department at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) became the 11th dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs) on

June 1. He replaces Dean Neal Jorgensen, who has been a dairy science professor and administrator with CALs since 1964. Jorgensen came out of retirement to serve the college during the search.

"We have great confidence in Aberle's ability to build bridges with all faculty and staff throughout the college, and with agricultural interests across the state," said UW-

Madison Chancellor David Ward, who selected Dean Aberle from a group of four finalists for the position. "He has demonstrated a collegial manner, an appreciation of the importance of shared governance, and a thorough understanding of the missions of land-grant institutions. He will make an outstanding leader."

Aberle said that the college's breadth and depth were among its most appealing attributes, noting that very few land grant agriculture and life sciences colleges have the depth of basic research activity shown by CALs faculty. Literally no others share a campus with colleges of medicine, veterinary medicine, pharmacy, and UW-Madison's array of specialized research centers.

In addition to serving as head of the department of animal sciences in UNL's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources from 1983 until 1998, Aberle also served as interim associate dean and associate director of that university's Agricultural Research Division from 1996 to 1997. Before going to Nebraska he was on the animal sciences faculty of Purdue University. His research has focused on muscle and adipose tissue growth, meat quality and meat processing. He has taught courses in meat science, animal growth and food chemistry.

As Dean of CALs Aberle leads approximately 1,200 faculty and staff, and oversees an annual budget of roughly \$110 million. The college enrolls more than 1,000 graduate and 2,200 undergraduate students.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug 4	NGLGCSA Monthly Meeting	Riverside GC, Menominee, MI
Aug 10	WGCSA Monthly Meeting	Edelweiss Chalet CC, New Glarus
Aug 12	WTA Summer Field Day	Noer Facility, Verona
Aug 12	WNA Summer Field Day	KF Evergreens, Osseo
Aug 17, 18	Tri-State Superintendent Tournament	Foxfire GC, Waupaca
Sept 1	NGLGCSA Monthly Meeting	St. Germain GC, St. Germain
Sept 19	WLCA Landscape Technician Testing	MATC, Mequon
Sept 21	WGCSA Monthly Meeting	Old Hickory CC, Beaver Dam
Sept 28	WTA Golf Fundraiser	Stevens Point CC, Stevens Point
Oct 2, 3	WGCSA Couples Weekend	Riverview CC, Appleton
Oct 6	NGLGCSA Crew Championship	Timber Ridge CC, Minocqua
Oct 12	WGCSA Monthly Meeting	Timberstone GC, Kingsford, MI
Nov 3, 4	Milorganite/ WI Golf Turf Symposium	Brookfield Marriott
Nov 13-17	PLCAA Lawn and Landscape Conference	Nashville, TN
Dec 1, 2	GCSAA/ WGCSA Regional Seminar	Brookfield Marriott
Jan 5	WNA Winter Workshop	Radison Inn, Madison
Jan 12, 13	WTA Turfgrass & Greenscape EXPO 1999	Marriott Madison West
Jan 13-15	STMA Conference and Trade Show	Mesa, AZ
Jan 14-16	Mid-Am Trade Show 1999	Navy Pier, Chicago
Feb 8-14	GCSAA Conference and Show	Orlando, FL
Mar 10, 11	Reinders Turf Conference	Waukesha Co Expo Center

WTA Members — If you have an important date you'd like to share with other members, call 608-845-6895 or Fax 608-845-8162 and let us include it in the next calendar.

Abbreviations and Telephone Numbers

GCSAA	Golf Course Superintendents Association of America-	800-472-7878
Milorganite	Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium	800-287-9645
Mid-Am	Mid-Am Trade Show 1999	847-526-2010
NGLGCSA	Northern Great Lakes Golf Course Superintendents Assoc.	715-845-2339
PLCAA	Professional Lawn Care Association of America	800-458-3466
Reinders	Turf Conference	800-782-3300
Greensmix	Tri-State Superintendent Tournament	800-537-1796
STMA	Sports Turf Manager Association	800-323-3875
WGCSA	Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association-	414-786-4303
WLCA	Wisconsin Landscape Contractors Association-	414-529-4705
WNA	Wisconsin Nursery Association	414-529-4705
WTA	Wisconsin Turfgrass Association	608-845-6536

The United States Women's Open Championship

By Mike Lee

Superintendent, Blackwolf Run Golf Club

On June 30th through July 6th, Blackwolf Run played host to the 53rd United States Women's Open (USWO) Championship. The United States Golf Association conducted the Championship. Se Ri Pak, a 20-year-old from Korea won the Championship after an 18-hole play off and two holes of sudden death competition. Pak finished at 5 over par after a long and difficult course of 92 holes of golf.

Preparing the playing surfaces involved planning for four years prior to the Championship with most of the course preparations occurring in the last year. Some of the most commonly asked questions regarding maintenance preparations are asked and answered here.

Question: *How many staff were needed to prepare the course for the USWO?*

Answer: Blackwolf Run has about 60 staff per 36 holes to prepare for daily resort play. Some of the staff works 5-7 hours/day, so this equates to a staff of about 22 per course in terms of total hours worked. In addition, there were an additional 20 "week-end only" or "alumni" staff that offered to help out with the Championship.

Question: *How many Volunteers were used?*

Answer: One was needed for course maintenance. Oscar Miles generously offered to handle all the green speed measurement work. Oscar lived up to his reputation of being a very thorough and analytical golf course manager. He and Blackwolf Run's intern Adam Kronfield used a laptop computer to record measurements. Our best performance was a standard deviation of 3.29 inches, meaning that the difference in green speed was 3.29 inches among the 19 championship greens.

Question: *How fast were the greens.*

Answer: The balls were stimping 10 feet. In some Major championships you hear differences between published and actual green speeds. That's not the case here. We were in position to make them faster if necessary but that was not going to happen as was clear after the scoring statistics came in. The low scores were above par with the existing green speeds.

Question: *What changes were made to the course to prepare for the championship?*

Answer: Blackwolf Run is a relatively new course so course changes requested by the USGA in my mind were realistic and necessary. Three tees (3, 7 & 18) were lengthened to modify yardage. Our temporary water hazard was extended about 300 feet so shots would have to carry water from the white, blue or black tees. The fairway on the first hole was extended and the bunkers were also rebuilt.

Question: *Does Kohler Company make a lot of money on this event?*

Answer: No: Negotiations for this event are assumed to break even in a best case scenario. We (Kohler Company) spent some additional money just before the event to make sure some things were right. It turned out to be a good decision

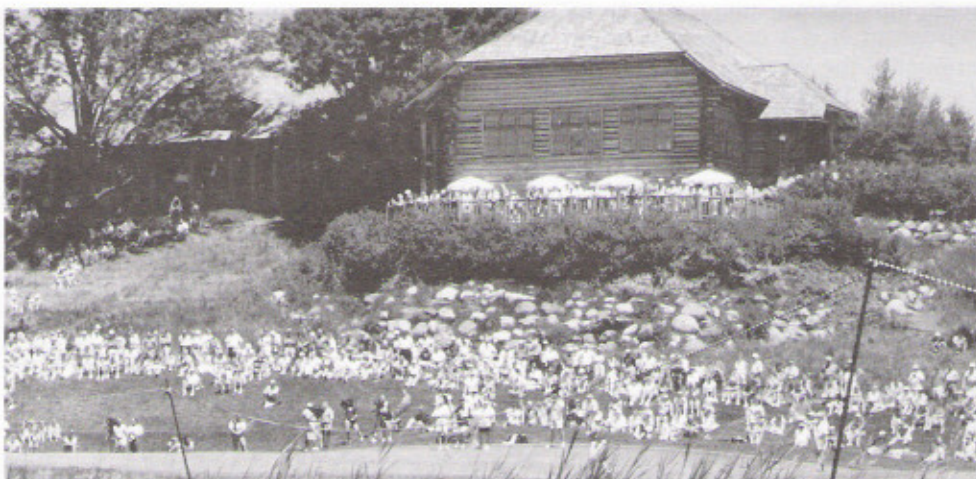
and record ticket sales later in the week help offset the additional expenditures. Obviously Kohler Company does well with the television exposure and host experience.

Question: *The turf color on course was very green, what did you use to get them that way?*

Answer: Ron Bierwirth and Steve Kurta, the course superintendents "burned" the pattern in fairways for 30 days prior to the championship. Fairways were fertilized with 0.9 lbs./N/M of O.M. Scott's 21-0-20 Poly-S 21 days prior. Greens had 0.4 lbs./N/M of Scott's 18-9-18 14 days prior to the tournament. No iron was used.

Question: *Did you have any disease problems to worry about during the championship?*

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Spectators get a good view of Blackwolf Run's 18th green from the clubhouse.



Blackwolf set an attendance record for US Women's Opens.



The course appropriately challenged the players as seen by the difficult rough just over this green.

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Answer: Yes: Considerably more than I would have expected based on the generally good weather and my previous experience. We had take-all patch in some greens. We first saw it on the championship 8th green about 12 days before the event. It was the first time I saw take-all on greens at Blackwolf Run, so I was surprised to say the least. It was also one of the first times I was happy to receive a call at home after 8:30 PM. Jeff Gregos called in his usual responsive manner with the diagnosis. *Gaeumannomyces graminis* came back after the second round of the championship on #2 green with a vengeance. By noon the next day Jeff, Dr. Maxwell and Martha Maxwell made the trip to Kohler and set up a lab in our conference room. We were lucky in both cases, the take-all patch did not

become severe and pretty much went away on its own. I suspect that happened because of the change in soil temperature that occurred and that the greens were in good health and not unreasonably thinned or stressed previous to the onset.

Question: How was the USGA to deal with?

Answer: There seems to be an industry stigmatism that the USGA or PGA "takes over" the course maintenance and makes life impossible for the course superintendent. My read on this is that this stigmatism is due to a singular championship with unusual circumstances or a superintendent with a bit of an ego problem. Tim Moraghan is the championship agronomist that helped with our course set-up. He's a former USGA Green Section agronomist, so working with him and the USGA staff takes on an advisory role identical to a Green Section visit. The USGA, like the Kohler Company, is a large organization so you have to prepare to listen and respond to more than one person. The rules officials for both the USGA and PGA events that we have hosted had numerous last minute requests (mostly trimming branches and long grass) to make rulings clear and consistent. Fitting that work in can be a struggle.

Question: Any final comments?

Answer: I could not be more pleased with this championship in general and especially with the maintenance staff that made it happen on the course. It was successful and historic and what could be nicer than a memory like that!

Announcing Ag Clean Sweep Sites for Fall 1998

By Brian Pruksa, Information Manager, The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Wisconsin Turfgrass Association (WTA) members are eligible for a 60% price discount on pesticides they dispose of at 1998 Ag Clean Sweep events. Ag Clean Sweep's purpose is to provide safe, easy and affordable disposal of waste pesticides and chemicals for farms and agricultural businesses throughout Wisconsin. It is a cooperative effort among local county governments, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection, and a private waste disposal firm from suburban Milwaukee.

Disposing of waste products at Clean Sweeps can cost as little as \$75 to get rid of an entire drum of chemicals and there is a 50% discount to dispose of pesticides. WTA members can save an additional 10% on pesticide disposal fees as a benefit of belonging to the association. This discount is a "thank you" to the nine professional agricultural associations that are helping to publicize the 1998 Ag Clean Sweeps.

Fourteen counties are establishing permanent sites that will be open to collect waste chemicals through November 1998. They are:

Ashland	Lincoln	Sawyer
Bayfield	Marathon	Sheboygan
Burnett	Ozaukee	Taylor
Douglas	Price	Washburn
Iron	Rusk	

Another eight counties are holding one or two-day Clean Sweep disposal events for the Fall. The counties and dates for those events are:

Calumet - Oct 9,10	Outagamie - Sept 18
Fond du Lac - Sept 11	Pierce - Oct 3
Green Lake - Aug 14,15	Richland - Sept 18,19
Manitowoc - Oct 8	Vernon - Sept 25,26

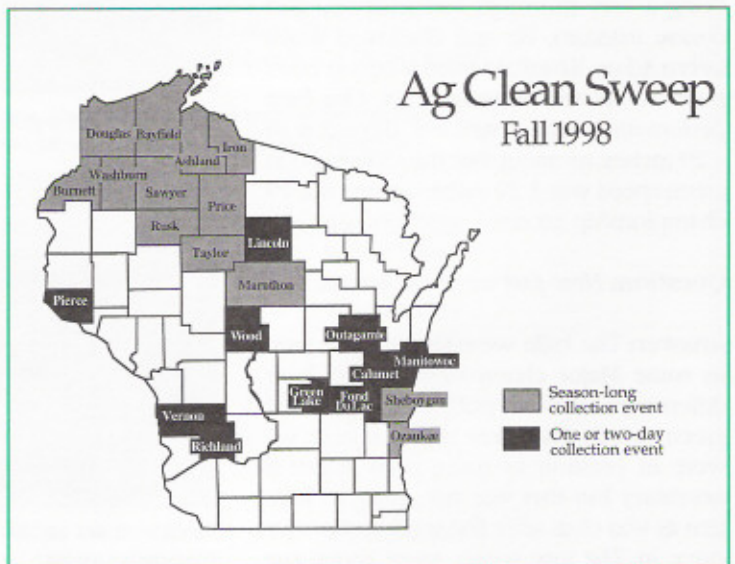
If you have questions about Wisconsin Ag Clean Sweep, call Roger Springman, Ag Clean Sweep Program Manager, at 608-224-4545. He will put you in contact with the waste disposal firm

and will verify your current membership in WTA by cross-referencing the 1998 directory. If you have any questions about whether your membership is current, call Audra (WTA administrative secretary) at 608-845-6536.

The waste disposal firm will need the following information when you coordinate your drop-off:

1. The types of chemicals you plan to bring to Clean Sweep (e.g. herbicide, solvent, insecticide)
2. The amount of each chemical you'll be bringing in (e.g. five-gallon pail, 55-gallon drum)

The waste hauler will provide you with a billing estimate based upon this information. If the estimated bill is acceptable to you, you will be assigned a time to bring your chemicals to Clean Sweep. It's that simple.



Green Side Up

By Dr. John C. Stier, Assistant Professor
Department of Horticulture, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Question: What can we use for post-emergent control of crabgrass?

—Marquette County

Answer: Several products are available for post-emergent control of crabgrass. The old standbys are MSMA and DSMA. Turf should be mowed to between 1 to 1.5 inches before application. Applications can be repeated at 14-day intervals as necessary. Dithiopyr (Dimension®) is listed as a preemergence and early postemergence product, capable of controlling crabgrass prior to tillering. On a practical basis it extends the window of preemergent applications since people may not recognize crabgrass until it tillers. Dithiopyr is safe enough to be used on bentgrass at fairway height (but not on golf greens!). Fluazifop-p-butyl (Fusilade II®) is another product capable of controlling post-emergent crabgrass prior to tillering. For more mature crabgrass, fenoxaprop-ethyl (Acclaim Extra) will control crabgrasses even past the 3 tiller stage. Fenoxaprop-ethyl may temporarily cause chlorosis or stunt the turf. Nonetheless it is labeled for use on general turfs, including selected bentgrass cultivars cut at 1/4" or higher (see label for complete listing of tolerant cultivars). Tankmixes or closely timed applications with 2,4-D or MCPP/MCPA may decrease efficacy. Sethoxydim (Vantage®) is labeled for postemergence crabgrass control prior to tillering, but is restricted to use on fine fescue and centipedegrass turfs.

Question: Many lawns in surrounding neighborhoods are getting dark green rings. What is causing this and what can we spray to get rid of the rings?

—Dane County

Answer: The rings are called fairy rings and are caused by fungi below the surface which are living off decaying organic matter. Most likely there are tree stumps, dead tree roots, or lumber buried in the ground. Fairy ring fungi can even develop on peat and small miscellaneous pieces of wood in the turf. Many species of basidiomycete fungi are implicated in fairy ring development, and many are capable of forming mushrooms within the ring during appropriate (usually wet) weather conditions. It is rare for fairy ring fungi to kill the turf, although as the fungus grows through the soil and thatch it may cause the turf to become hydrophobic. The problem is most common on light textured soils and conditions of low moisture and fertility. Short of removing the organic material on which the fungi are surviving (unless it is a stump or other intact object) there is little one can do to eliminate the fungus. Fungicides are often not effective, partly due to the inability to drench sufficient fungicide throughout the turf/soil system to kill the fungus. Some superintendents have reported success using Prostar fungicide as a drench (with or without wetting agents). Light applications of

nitrogen can be used to temporarily mask the symptoms. Avoid letting the turf get too dry, as the symptoms become more severe. On greens, hydroinjection of water and wetting agents may prevent affected turf from becoming hydrophobic or help to remoisten hydrophobic areas. As a last resort, the soil in the area can be replaced with new soil, but it is impossible to ensure the new soil isn't also housing a potential fairy ring fungus.

Question: I want to maintain my athletic fields in the safest manner possible by using only "natural" products. I've been having some success using vinegar and water to control weeds. Will continued use make the soil too acid for turf?

—Ashland County

Answer: I've not heard of vinegar being used for weed control. Am glad to hear you are getting some control. I'm curious as to the type of weeds being controlled. As far as acidifying the soil, I doubt you would be applying so much vinegar that it would matter (unless you are into the 55 gallon drums by now!). Most soils have sufficient buffering capacity that small amounts of vinegar, applied periodically, should not make a noticeable difference. You may want to take a soil sample now and again after a couple of years to check for any pH change.

Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Fundraising Golf Tournament

Stevens Point Country Club
Monday, September 28, 1998

*Prizes, Dinner, Good Fellowship, and Golf at
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**Registration materials will be mailed out soon.
Call Audra at the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Facility for details:
608-845-6536.**

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