

# Random Sampling

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During the course of any year, turf people attend a varied assortment of conferences and meetings from which much useful information may be gleaned. I use the term gleaned because we must separate the grain (useful information) from the chaff (misinformation). Even so, it is interesting to note that even misinformation can sometimes be helpful by giving someone a useful idea.

Here are some random samples of information picked up during recent meetings which seem noteworthy.

## *Merion and Improved Bluegrasses*

Merion Kentucky Bluegrass has many faults, but it is still the standard by which other bluegrass strains and mixtures are measured. The main fault of Merion is the genetic uniformity of all plants in a stand of turf. When one plant gets into trouble from one of the serious pathogens, all other plants in the stand are susceptible and usually the whole area is in danger.

Improved bluegrass varieties may not be too far off, and many researchers feel that mixtures will provide a better answer than a single genetic strain. Improved varieties of fescue, bentgrass and ryegrass are also being tested, and show promise for the Northern turf areas.

## *Seed and Water Treatments*

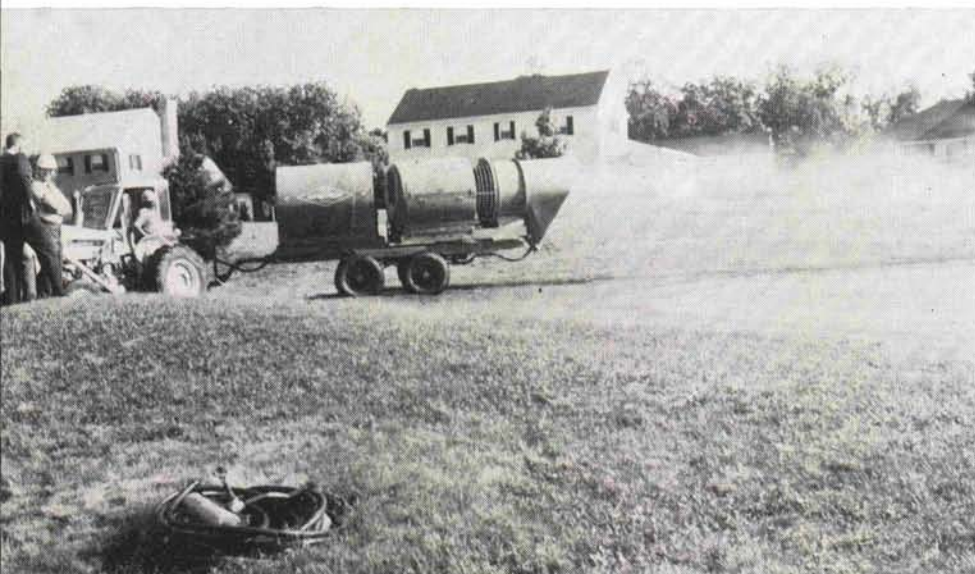
Dr. Herb Cole, Pathologist at Penn State University, urges seed treatment with fungicides to prevent seed-borne diseases. Many commercial growers now treat their seed before planting and it seems golf course superintendents could benefit by the same procedure.

If you are thinking about treating your water supply for aquatic weeds but have some doubts about turf injury from chemical residual in the water, try spraying the water on tomato plants and observing the reaction on these sensitive plants before using it on the turf.

## *Fungicide and Herbicide News*

Air blast sprayers are seeing some limited use on golf courses for applying insecticides and fungicides, but they are quite expensive and downright dangerous in applying herbicides. This type of sprayer can also be used to blow away leaves in the fall, dry dew off greens, and other incidental chores. With a little imagination, you may be able to justify the cost.

Herbicide injury to turf is increased by high temperatures and atmospheric conditions which allow them to dry slowly on the leaf. Careful calibration of spray equipment and proper timing are essential for good results.



*Air blast sprayer  
being used on  
greens.*

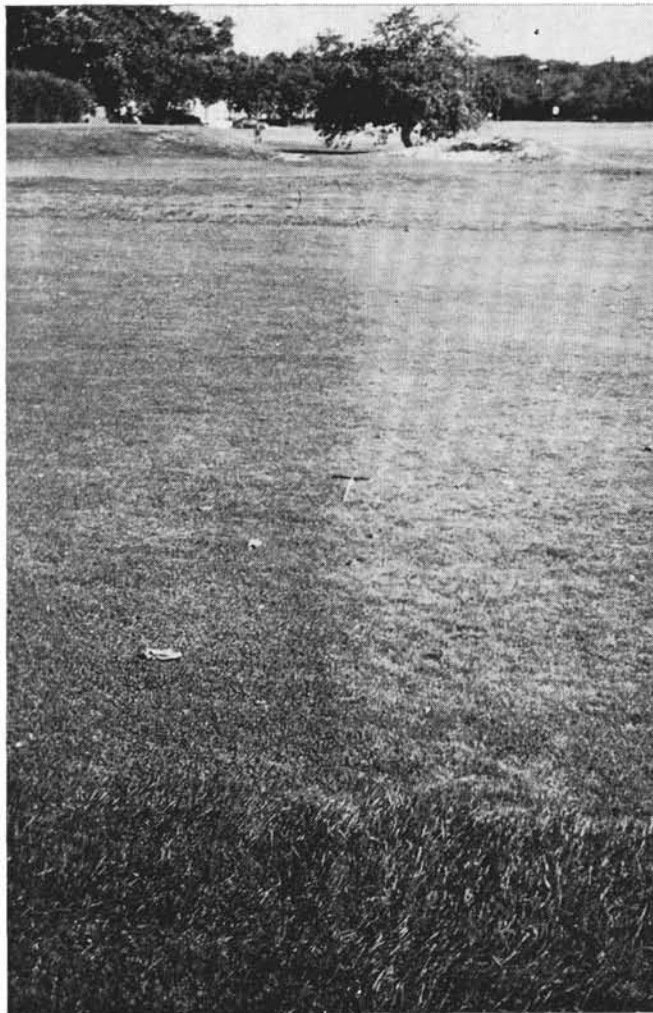
Many manufacturers include a wetting agent in their fungicide material, and adding more may reduce their effectiveness, especially against leaf disease. Too much reduction in the surface tension of water droplets can cause the material to drain off the leaf immediately and into the soil without leaving enough chemical residue on the leaf to do the job. Wetting agents can do a job for us if properly used, but that extra pinch for good measure is just as bad here as it is with other chemicals.

Liquid polyethylene or improved "stickers" may provide some help in increasing fungicide effectiveness when and if they are marketed to turf growers. Also in the "when and if" department are the systematic fungicides—a type of fungicide protecting the plant against disease by its circulation within the plant's system. Such fungicides, now being sought by the research departments of several major companies, could be a major breakthrough in combating turf disease.

### On The Way Out?

"Careful, you could be replaced," is the admonition placed on a card stuck in a piece of polypropylene synthetic turf on the desk of a turf man. Synthetics may well have a place on certain areas of golf courses, but I hardly think they are going to replace anyone. This "bogus bluegrass," as it might be called humorously, may be a definite aid rather than a threat to some turf growers with impossible traffic situations on the course.

These are only samplings of information available at turf meetings around the country. You can surely pick up a few useful random samples of your own.



*Fungicide injury. Turf on left not sprayed. Turf on right sprayed with a very light rate of hormone type fungicide but under adverse weather conditions. It is weak and loaded with disease.*

## COMING EVENTS

### NORTHWEST TURFGRASS CONFERENCE

September 20-22, 1967, Harrison Hot Springs Hotel, Harrison Hot Springs, British Columbia, Canada  
Chairman—Dr. Roy L. Goss

### ARIZONA TURFGRASS CONFERENCE

September 25, 1967, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona  
Chairman—Dr. W. R. Kneebone

### UTAH-IDAHO TURFGRASS CONFERENCE

October 2-3, 1967, Salt Lake City Garden Center, Salt Lake City, Utah  
Chairman—Mr. Deloy Wilson

### TEXAS TURFGRASS CONFERENCE

December 4-6, 1967, Texas A & M University, College Station, Texas

### WISCONSIN WINTER SYMPOSIUM

December 13-14, 1967, Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
Chairman—Mr. D. E. Hornibrook, Wisconsin  
GCSA, 1044 Laurel Court, Neenah, Wisconsin

### VIRGINIA TURFGRASS CONFERENCE

January 23-24, 1968, Golden Triangle Motel, Norfolk, Virginia  
Chairman—R. E. Schmidt, Virginia Polytechnic Institute

### CORNELL TURFGRASS CONFERENCE

February 26-29, 1968, New York State College of Agriculture, Ithaca, New York  
Chairman—Dr. J. F. Cornman