

As of the spring of 82, I am pleased with my results. Since, I did achieve my goal in the third year I have a tendency to attribute my success to the addition of the weekly applications of soluble fertilizer which provide a carbon/nitrogen ratio in the thatch layer more conducive to the decomposition of stem and crown matter. I do not think it can be stressed enough how important this factor is in the decomposition of thatch due to the constant leaching of nitrogen from this layer of the greens profile.

To summarize I would say I found that the problem of thatch reduction was much more difficult than I had imagined. One might find it very easy to be satisfied with the initial results and then curse the ensuing struggle to reduce this layer any further without the manpower or the money to topdress on a more routine basis. However, one will find that persistence in this case has many benefits for the golf course. The obvious being the improved playability of the greens. Other factors include reduced use of wetting agents, dramatic increases in fertilizer efficiency, marked reduction in disease activity, and less sleepless nights.

**David Behrman**  
**Deer Creek Golf Course**

Credit: "The Bull Sheet" August, 1982 Vol. 32 No.3

### LIFE

... is like a TV series. A predictable plot, familiar characters, a few laughs, a few thrills, a few tears, a few golden moments to sell yourself and then just as you're beginning to feel at home with it — it's cancelled.

## Little Known (But Pretty Interesting) Facts About Golf Courses

Ecologically, the golf course provides some pretty fantastic help to mankind, in addition to just giving him a place to exercise and enjoy life. For example:

An average 18-hole golf course, approximately 150 acres, can produce enough pure oxygen through photosynthesis for at least 100,000 people for the entire year. On a smaller scale, that means a well-maintained lawn 50 by 50 feet liberates enough oxygen to meet the needs of a family of four, day after day.

That same average golf course of 150 acres can effortlessly absorb 12 million gallons of water during a three-inch rainfall.

Grass also provides a cooling effect. A 2000 square foot plot releases as much as 120 gallons of water through a method called evapotranspiration. This release of water reduces the heat factor. Grass absorbs only 50-60 percent of the incoming solar radiation while buildings and pavement absorb 90 percent.

Grass and tree leaves also help cleanse the atmosphere because of their ability to trap dust particles through static electricity of dense foliage. Rain then washes the particles into the soil.

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- 10-Howard 60" Cut Mower
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