



SUPER news

Manitoba Golf Superintendents' Association

Monthly Magazine

The Manitoba Golf Superintendents' Association is committed to providing education for its members and the golfing public for the preservation and enhancement of golf courses and their environments within Manitoba.

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President's Message



President
Greg Mitchell

I hope your summer is going well and you are making time for friends and family. The heat has long since arrived, and roots are getting shallow. As the nights get longer, our thoughts turn to aeration, and fall projects. The rain has come often, and in large amounts this year. It has provided some unique challenges, as each season does. Thanks to Vic at Meadows, Tony at Bridges, and of course Rob at Fly In for hosting meetings this year already. They were all great events, and well attended. We recently completed another successful Turf grass Research at Minnewasta. Thanks to Marcel for hosting, and for having the course in such great shape. Keep an eye out for membership renewal forms as they have all been mailed out. The board is currently preparing a guide for Superintendents to use if they are asked about Pesticide issues. It will be similar to the document we produced a few years back regarding our position on its usage and our certification and compliance of its application.

There have been some press on the issue lately showing golf course usage. There is a link from a Winnipeg Free Press article. On a different note, we are asking members to send us videos on any industry topic. We will be posting them on the website for viewing and comments. We hope to make the website more interactive. We are busy finalizing the details of our upcoming Fall Conference. We will once again be presenting a top notch three days of education and networking. If you have any interest in serving on the MGSA Board of Directors, nominations are accepted at our AGM during the conference.

Greg Mitchell

Greg Mitchell

President

Manitoba Golf Superintendents Association

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Greg Mitchell



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CGSA Message



**Manitoba
Director,
CGSA**
Darren Kalyniuk

It's hard to believe we are already heading into the last couple months of the season. It seems that many courses throughout Manitoba have had a great season with the exception of the slow spring start. Mother Nature definitely warmed up and helped many of us with some timely rains and cooler temps, which has made it an enjoyable year for maintaining healthy turf.

This year the CGSA Board of Directors and staff have been working progressively on determining priority initiatives from a group of initiatives that were identified as part of a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis during our February meetings. Many of the initiatives are aimed at engaging regional associations in efforts to better serve superintendents across each province. Being able to understand and provide better services to our members and regional associations is key to strengthening our association nationally.

The strength of the CGSA is in its members, which contributes to the growth and success of the association. Representation, promotion of the profession, advocacy, certification, professional development and program services are just some of the key benefits provided by the CGSA to make the association essential for superintendents across the country. I encourage all CGSA members in Manitoba to speak to and recruit one non-member as a concrete way to continue the growth and success of the CGSA.

Each year CGSA continues to promote both the profession and the Association to the golfing public as well as providing a tangible way for the CGSA to recognize the hard work of a member superintendent and to expose the profession to media outlets and other interested parties for hosting a national championship or event of national significance. This year the National Tournament Program will recognize 35 golf course superintendents across Canada. Two of whom are superintendents in Manitoba. I was honoured to present a plaque to both Dustin How for hosting the Canadian University/College Championship at Southwood Golf & Country Club and co hosted

the Canadian Men's Amateur Championship with Superintendent Dan Ciekiewicz of Elmhurst Golf & Country Club. Congratulations to both of you.

This year's CGSA Fall Field Day is scheduled for September 23rd at the Muskoka Lakes Golf and Country Club located just outside of Port Carling, Ontario with host superintendent and Ontario CGSA Director Mr. Jim Flett, AGS. The Rock Golf Course will host the 9-hole Best Ball Tournament that will take place on Monday, September 22nd, in Minnett, Ontario with host superintendent Deni Terenzio.

During the Fall Field Day you have the opportunity to take part in the educational seminar on Monday, September 22nd. The CGSA is pleased to partner with Plant Science Inc. to host a Turf Academy at Muskoka Lakes Golf & Country Club and will be led by John Kaminski Ph.D., Associate Professor, Turfgrass Science, Penn State.

If you have not registered yet for the Fall Field Day or want to find out more details regarding the educational seminar please visit www.golfsupers.com/en/events/2014-cgsa-fall-field-day

The Canadian International Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show is set for February 2nd – 6th 2015 in Calgary, Alberta. More information will be released in the near future regarding registration and how to save on registration. Highlight to this year's conference include a keynote address by golf course architect and Ben Crenshaw partner Bill Coore, specialized learning workshops on Monday and Friday and industry presentations and tech talks as well as over 40 hours of education program. Make sure to mark the dates down on your calendar for this great event.

I hope everyone has a successful fall and I look forward to catching up with many of you at the CGSA events and MGSA Fall conference.

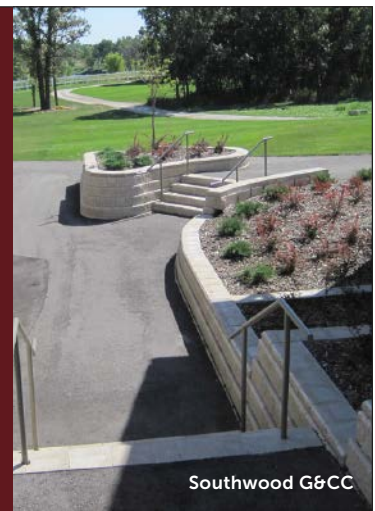
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Darren Kalyniuk
Manitoba Director, CGSA



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2014 MGSA Competition Reports

Meadows

May 23th

It was the kickoff event for the 2014 year of monthly MGSA events. This day was hosted by Vic Peters at Meadows Golf Course. Vic and his crew had the course in superb shape which was complimented by a hot sunny day. The winners on the day were Vic Peters, Craig MacLeod, and Doug Novak. Vic Peters was also recognized by the MGSA with the Distinguished Service Award for his many years of hard work and mentoring he has done in the local turf industry.

Bridges

June 25th

This month was hosted by Tony and his crew at Bridges. It was an overcast day, but that didn't stop excitement of the day. The winners on the day were Darren Dundas, Jason Olafson, Chris Spicer, Tony Feheregyhazi, Craig MacLeod, and Joey Chartrand. Big Kudos goes out to Bridges kitchen staff for the phenomenal dinner that was enjoyed after the golf.

Steinbach

July 16th

Beautiful golfing weather, with a slight breeze to keep the mosquitoes at bay. 39 golfers took part in the competition, hosted by Rob Fast of the Steinbach Fly-In Golf Course. Winners of Closest to the Pin were Andrew McComb, St. Boniface GC, and Dan Ciekiewicz, Elmhurst G & CC. Gene Turk won the Commercial and Greens Chairs section, Jon Peters took the Assistant trophy, and Garth Recksiedler is the 2014 John Steel champion.

Minnewasta

August 21st

This year the Turfgrass made its stop in Morden, where storms surrounded the course but never rained on us. The course was in pristine condition by Marcel and his crew. The 2014 Turfgrass Research Champions were Des Koop, Jason Rutledge, Hartley Gerbrandt, and Chris Spicer. This day wouldn't have been a success if it wasn't for its continued support from the suppliers with within the Turfgrass Industry. Kudos goes out to the pro shop, food & beverage staff, and the maintenance crew at Minnewasta for making it an enjoyable and smooth day!



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Jim Bar

After 43 years at Niakwa Country Club, an 18 hole, private golf course, I resigned to become superintendent at a 9 hole, public course, called Wildewood Golf Club.

The first difference became very apparent when I had to walk through 3 feet of snow from the road to the maintenance shop to start a very cold front end loader, and clear the 100 yards, to access the 8 degree workshop.

I had arrived at my next stage in life and I did so with a smile on my face, albeit a frozen one. No warm cab for me on the tractor!

It is only to be experienced to understand why one who was approaching 60 years of age and having those many years on a golf course would not simply retire and leave the daily troubles we all know, occur, to younger golf superintendents.

Retiring was never considered. I was going to keep working somewhere, as stopping after being totally immersed in my work for so long would not have been good for my wellbeing or my wife's wellbeing! Again, it has to be experienced.

My first course of action after raising the temperature in the shop to well over 12 degrees was to itemize the equipment and set a game plan for servicing the equipment, in advance of spring. Servicing the equipment? I had not had to do that since 1985 and even then, I was limited to changing spark plugs and oil filters. I was a deer in the headlights, and that was after 43 years! Yikes!

Those first few weeks were spent pushing and dragging frozen equipment from one side of the building to the other, determining whether parts were available, the correct wrenches were in the tool box and whether the owner would approve the expense.

That was one of my first learning curves. I actually had to get approval for filters, oil and all of the things I had taken for granted for all of those years. Yes, I did have a budget at Niakwa, however, once approved I was on my own and never considered whether we should buy 4 litres of oil or 20 liters. I would always say the 45 liters, of course!

As the snow melted I was still as nervous as someone starting their first golf superintendent's job. All I wanted to do was maintain the golf course in the same condition I had heard Dave Linstead had maintained it for seven years. He was worshiped there and I was extremely concerned I would fail miserably.

To my relief the course wintered well, obviously to the credit of Dave and his fall preparation.

At Niakwa the staff would be hired and at least 6-8 employees were brought in to ready the course for opening day. Wildewood had myself and one employee who was probably wondering why wouldn't they have hired someone even 10 years younger! The two of us did manage to open the course even though our combined age was slightly over 125, but that scary thought, was offset by the 85 years of golf course experience shared between the two of us.

Older employees did not cause me any problems, however older equipment began straining the limited knowledge, I had slightly exaggerated, in the interview. One of the things I soon realized was that I should have inventoried the number of band aides in the first aid kit. Now, all the swearing I heard through my office door over the many winters at Niakwa was coming from my mouth and



it was directed at the designers of turf equipment, wherever they keep them.

They cannot possibly expect mechanics to get their four hands into areas meant for one. If I had a phone in the maintenance building I would have called up Toro, Jacobsen or John Deere and relate my displeasure. And if I had a phone line I would hook it up to the 1985 computer and download a repair manual so I could look at pictures of how to attach that spring to the throttle linkage. Gone were the days when the two desktop computers and the one laptop generated so much heat we were forced to install an air conditioner in the office at 760 Niakwa Road. I think I may have been spoiled!

With the equipment at least starting, and 3 more staff hired, spring work could now progress and the tasks mirrored everything I was familiar with, edging traps, cleaning downed branches and readying the pump house for irrigation start-up.

The irrigation system. Another flashback to the 80's at Niakwa, however Dave had kept his 707's and 808's in a little better condition than I back then. They worked! The first time this spring I turned on the pump I did so with the door wide open, one hand on the switch, one foot on the sill of the door ready to jump through when parts went flying. The only thing that happened was that the pump started, noisy, but running...and pumping!

This was one centrifugal pump, not the three turbines I was used to, but it filled the lines just the same and provided the water the greens needed, that day. With no pressure relief, and certainly no variable speed drive we were forced to place a number of sprinklers on fairways to allow for handwatering. This again brought back memories.

Spring turned into summer and while I always carried a weed eater in my cart I used it only occasionally. At Wildewood I found that the number of trees were in the thousands and their numbers were only matched by the number of stumps. They all needed trimming! It became a weekly workout program and I'm happy to report 15lbs of fat disappears quickly and this is only a nine hole course.!

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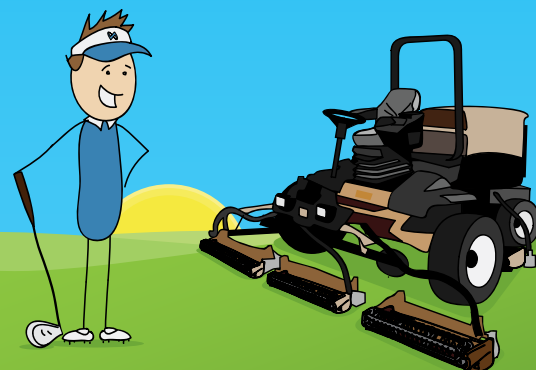


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With all of these trees came shade, at times of the day when I thought you had to be inside a building to see less sun. I really believe parts of three or 4 four greens do not receive any sunlight during the summer.

I quickly found out dollar spot loves shade. A spray program was developed and it consisted of, see disease, spray disease! Up until this point I am amazed that with all of the hours the sprayer is getting, it continues to work. To have brakes, lights, hydraulic lift arms and a pump shut off would help slightly, but we have managed thus far and a replacement unit is lower down the priority list than one would think it should be.

So far, 2014 has been a real eye opener for me. I was in my own world being at a private club, where, pressures were ever present and expectations intense, however I had the resources to pretty much address any concerns that came along. At Wildewood, innovation becomes the norm to complete some of the simplest tasks. I have developed a great respect for the many superintendents who are currently

working at smaller budgeted courses, where I know they are doing great things. We are all working at the job we love with the same goal every season, to have the best conditioned golf course we can with the resources we are given.

While I would never trade all my years at Niakwa for anything, this first year at Wildewood has been refreshing and invigorating. I just don't think I could do it for 42 more! I guess I could if I just had, a mechanic, an automatic irrigation system, a new fleet of equipment, a.....

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November 12th – 14th, 2014 at the Windsor Park Canad Inns

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2014 Manitoba Golf and Turf Conference

November 12th - 14th

Canad Inns, Windsor Park Winnipeg, Manitoba

Wednesday, November 12th

9:00 am

Registration

9:30 am - 11:45 am

Manitoba Golf
Superintendents Association
Annual General Meeting

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Lunch

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1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Dustin How
Golf Course Superintendent,
Southwood Golf
& Country Club
Transformation of Southwood
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2:30 - 3:00

Afternoon Break
- Sponsored by Green Jet

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Chris Tritabaugh
Golf Course Superintendent,
Heseltine National Golf Club
Maintenance on
new USGA greens
- Sponsored by Brett Young

7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Event Night
Sponsored by MGSA
Ambassador Room,
Canad Inns

Thursday, November 13th

7:30 am

Registration

8:00 am - 10:00 am

Taz Stuart
Etymologist, Poulins
Golf course issues
pertaining to pest
- Sponsored by Even Spray,
Griggs, Aquatrols, Keso Turf,
Syngenta

10:00 am - 10:30 am

Morning Break
- Sponsored by Specialty Turf

10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Chris Tritabaugh
Superintendent Hazeltine
National Golf Club
Preparation for job interview
Sponsored by

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Lunch
- Sponsored by Syngenta,
Even Spray, Keso Turf

1:15 pm - 3:00 pm

Eric Baumeister
Service Education Manager,
Toro University
Reel Technology
- Sponsored by

3:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Afternoon Break
- Sponsored by

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Wyatt Beaudry
Canada Golf Car
Fleet Maintenance
of Golf Carts
- Sponsored by Syngenta,
Even Spray, Keso Turf

7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Event Night
Sponsored by MGSA
Ambassador Room,
Canad Inns

Friday, November 14th

7:30 am

Registration

8:00 am - 9:00 am

CGSA Representative TBA

9:00 am - 10:00 am

Fred Sherman
Rain Bird Irrigation Canada
Irrigation Self Audit
- Sponsored by Syngenta,
Even Spray, Keso Turf

10:00 am - 10:30 am

Morning Break

- Sponsored by

10:30 am - 12:00 pm

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Reel News

Fellow MGSA members, my name is Marvin Doerksen, I am Graduate of the Golf Operations Management Institute of Canada and presently the Turf Equipment Manager at Breezy Bend Golf Club. My golfing career started in 1998 and my passion for the game and the industry continues to grow. I've had the opportunity to experience many golf operations including operating a rural 18 hole golf club in Gimli, Mb, to working at Wake Forest Golf Club, Arnold Palmer's old stomping grounds in Wake Forest, North Carolina to The Ritz Carlton Members only Golf Club in Sarasota Florida.

One of my goals over the past few years was to understand the relationship between the turf and the turf equipment, as in equipment setup, traction speeds, reel speeds, height of cut versus effective height of cut, quality of cut, after cut appearance, ball roll and constant speeds from green to green, being able to troubleshoot and adjust, spin grinding versus relief grinding, cutting unit levelling and the most common of backlapping, clip rate, frequency of clip and so on! All with the intent of being able to attain the best possible playing surfaces while maintaining the healthiest stand of turf.

There are many associations available to the turf industry but few directed to the turf technician except for the IGCEMA – International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association. This is a must join for all turf equipment technicians, first to become a certified Turf Equipment Manager and one of the best sources of information and contacts worldwide.

The links are at the end of this article.

The latest topic of discussion at our club of late is FOC – Frequency of Clip. The article below provided by the NGCOA along with the links should assist us all in understanding the importance of FOC.

Any questions or comments can be emailed to marvindorksen@gmail.com.

Enjoy the rest of the season.

Even if the so-called current economic "recovery" continues, superintendents will continue to operate with less money and resources while dealing with increasing

pressure from management and golfers on course conditions. Always looking for new or enhanced ways to save time, money, and increase turf health, many superintendents are taking a renewed interest in frequency-of-clip (FOC).

Updated reel technology from the big three equipment manufacturers has breathed new life in to the discussion by allowing superintendents to control and adjust frequency-of-clip like never before.

Across the country, more superintendents are adding FOC to their toolbox of settings to help them better manage turfgrass. So, what exactly is frequency-of-clip? If you ask ten superintendents, you are likely to receive ten different answers.

Frequency-of-clip is simply another measurement superintendents can use, much like height-of-cut or Stimp meter readings. Frequency-of-clip measures the distance between mower shear points (or clips) in the grass and is affected by three separate inputs: number of reel blades, reel speed and mower speed. "Frequency-of-clip is one of those things that, as superintendents, we probably don't utilize to its full capacity," said Scott Newman, GCSAA superintendent at Spring Creek Ranch in Tennessee. "For us, FOC is part of the daily conversations we have about mowing heights and groomers. We adjust it before the member-guest to get green speeds up without rolling. But what I would say to other guys is 'why not try it?' It only takes five seconds to change."

FOC'S IMPACT ON THE GRASS

The actual FOC calculation can be derived using the formula, from this example, an operator walk mowing at 3.8 MPH with a 15-blade reel turning at 2,200 RPM would be cutting with an FOC of .122. It is important to note that increasing (or tightening) your FOC actually equates to a lower FOC value and decreasing FOC results in a higher value. So when a superintendent says he's "increasing/tightening his clip rate," he's actually adjusting the FOC on the mower to a lower setting. As the mower travels forward, the

bedknife pushes against the grass in front of it. At the same time, the reel blade is gathering

grass as it moves toward the bedknife. The opposing forces gather the grass together at the shear point. After the grass is cut, the grass springs back into place – this cutting action produces very small peaks and valleys in the grass. Although indistinguishable by the human eye, these high and low points have a profound effect on ball roll. On fairways and other higher cut areas, some turf professionals suggest that your FOC should be within 10 percent (higher or lower) than your height of cut. At these higher heights-of-cut, when the FOC is greater than 10 percent of the height-of-cut, short, choppy wave patterns may appear, known as marcelling. Keeping FOC approximately equal to or less than the height-of-cut eliminates marcelling and improves ball roll.

On greens and lower heights of-cut, the relationship between FOC and height-of-cut is not as intrinsically related. Superintendents and technicians should experiment with different settings to see what works best. This is covered in greater detail below.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Traditionally, a superintendent wanting to increase ball speed would likely lower the height-of-cut, double cut and/or use a greens roller. Not only do these practices cause extra stress on the grass and sacrifice turf health, they also require the use of more labour, water and chemicals. A superintendent preparing for a member-guest tournament can tighten his FOC to increase ball roll significantly without lowering the height-of-cut.

Keith Bartlett, Superintendent of St. George's Golf & Country Club in Etobicoke, ON, stated: "In layman's terms, adjusting the FOC gives us one and a half cuts for every single cut from competitive mowers. The other thing that I like is that the reel speed is consistent through the whole pass, it doesn't change."



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Slowing down and speeding up doesn't affect the quality-of-cut. Having the flexibility to adjust FOC setting helps address the added pressure from players to keep the greens fast. Our green speeds are now up over 10.5 and 11 feet every day.

It is really another tool we can use to meet expectations." Jamie Scott, Superintendent of Shawneeki Golf Club in Sharon, ON, said: "With our old mowers, we used to have to cut so low because of the amount of stragglers that were left. I had to do much more work to get the green speeds where they need to be. Now I do less work with the same result. Plant health went through the roof, less hand watering, less inputs, less babysitting, less everything." Scott continued, "at this course, we really need to get some speed out of our greens and by adjusting the frequency-of-clip on our Jacobsen mowers, we've been able to get speeds up along with our heights and get a cleaner quality of- cut. We mow and put a light roll behind it and have no trouble Stimping out 11 and 12 feet every day. We

used to mow at .110 or even .105 to get to that speed. Now, the FOC settings allow us to mow at .130 and maintain 11 and 12 feet no problem." "For an upcoming tournament, I wanted to increase our green speeds by three to four inches, but I wasn't keen on lowering the height-of-cut and we didn't have the time to double cut," said Mike Rienzi, GCSAA superintendent at Kiva Dunes in Gulf Shores, Alabama. "My technician suggested we tighten up the FOC on our walkers. I watched him do it, which took all of 5 seconds. We went and Stimped the greens after mowing and we actually increased green speed by more than four inches. I was floored at how easy and effective FOC adjustment can be." In day-to-day conditions, superintendents can adjust FOC to maintain current ball speed and actually raise the height-of-cut.

Trevor Broersma, GCSAA superintendent at Washington National Golf Club outside of Seattle, started experimenting with FOC adjustments earlier this year. "By playing around with the frequency-of-clip on our walking greens mowers, we were able to

raise our height-of-cut from .115 to .130 and still maintain an eleven foot roll on our greens," said Broersma. "We also found that with the higher clip rate, we don't have to mow every day. We are now rolling every other day which is giving us the most consistent speeds we've ever had, it's amazing."

Although FOC is a very precise formula, it is not always an exact science on the turf. Superintendents new to FOC will work with their technicians to experiment with different settings, usually moving up or down 10-20% at a time. To monitor changes, superintendents may use a prism to evaluate stragglers and record Stimpmeter readings after FOC changes. Some superintendents will actually weigh clippings to compare grass volumes at different FOCs. After experimenting, superintendents will arrive at an ideal series of FOC settings for day to-day play, post-topdressing or aerifying, tournaments, or severe weather conditions. Some mowers allow up to six FOC presets that can be programmed into the mower's control box.

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MAKING MOWER ADJUSTMENTS

Traditionally, the only way to change frequency of clip was to change reel blade count and/or alter mow speed. To help superintendents increase FOC quickly and easily, equipment manufacturers have recently added blades to standard reels, with Jacobsen and Toro adding 15- and 14-blade reels to their lineup. In addition to changing blade count and mow speed, all mowers offer some level of FOC control, most using gears and pulleys. Some manufacturers have taken FOC controls one step further. On Jacobsen mowers, for example, superintendents can adjust the FOC on an LCD screen in matter of seconds, and because the electronically-controlled reels are

driven from individual motors separate from the tractor, the FOC remains constant, even if the speed of the mower changes.

Valuable industry links:

<http://www.igcema.org/>

<http://www.biggamidlandsection.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Effects-of-Green-Speed-and-Consistency-when-Changing-the-Frequency-of-Clip.pdf>

www.youtube.com/jacobsenturf

http://www.turfnet.com/page/qoc_week.html

<http://www.toro.com/customer-care/commercial/education/pdf/09168sl.pdf>

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