

President's Message



There are many demands on our time and money. Getting the most of both takes serious thought and research. We, in the golfing industry, are well aware of the increasing amounts of time and particularly money, that it takes to run a golf course.

A large part of our increasing cost is in the chemicals that we must use to give our members and the golfing public, the beautiful golf courses they want and expect.

Ten years ago we could treat a golf course for nematodes at a cost of from \$25 to \$50 an acre. Today to *try* to get the same control the cost runs up to \$300 an acre. A large portion of our most effective chemicals have been taken off the market, some rightfully so, some not.

The chemicals we have available to us now are not as effective as what we had in the past, and they can cost up to ten times as much.

WHAT ARE THE ANSWERS?

We don't have the answers right now, but we are working hard to find them.

The University of Florida, with what little funding can be scraped up, is working on research to answer some of these questions.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

The nine chapters of The Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association have raised nearly \$50,000 to go towards this research, that is how important we think it is.

How important do you the club member, or club official think this research is? Do you like the idea of your dues, or your clubs expenses skyrocketing as they have been? We all have to share the burden of this.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

You can support your superintendent in our efforts to raise funds for *The Florida Turfgrass Research Foundation*. Individual donations are crucial to this research effort, without individual participation in this effort, it will fall flat.

Some of the golf clubs, who would appear to have the most to gain from this research effort, have been the most reluctant to support it.

Money given to *The Florida Turfgrass Research Association* or an endowment fund in the foundation, is tax free.

Consider this. We have to control mole crickets. We spray our course with a product that costs approximately \$7 per pound and we use 1-2 pounds per acre. This product will give us control for 2-3 days depending upon whether it rains or not. We treat 60 acres at a cost of from \$400 to \$800 depending on which rate we use. And the next week we start over again.

With the research we are trying to get done, it is realistic to say that this cost can be cut dramatically.

If each club would donate an amount equal to, or more than, what they spend on ONE SPRAY APPLICATION, it will go a long way towards our research goals. And by doing so it will not only save the clubs money, it will also provide a much safer and desirable way to control insects.

Please take time to seriously consider your commitment to a cleaner environment and support our research efforts.