

Take a little fictional imagination and mix it with a lot of factual science and...

NASA received this radio transmission from deep space last month. The decoded message is being released here in this column:

"Greetings from the planet

Envirotron, home of the Steinernema. My name is Java the Nut. I am a Nematode. I am the spokestode for the Steinernema. We have taken The Nematodic Oath to seek out and destroy mutant mole crickets that have spread across the Bermudan Galaxy. Sensor scans of your planet indicate that

the vile mole cricket is attempting to overrun your planet's turf areas.

"Quite frankly, we do not care for humans in general, but you Earthlings have developed a process that will benefit our quest to seek out and destroy our mortal enemy, the mole cricket, so we have agreed to tolerate you. We have drawn up a set of fairly rigid, but simple, parameters which you must follow if we are to cooperate with you to solve your mole cricket problem.

"First, you must not under any circumstances use nematicides in any area that you want us to attack. Nematicides are just as lethal to us as they are to our earthly descendants, the Sting, Lance, Ring, and Root Knot nematodes. Unfortunately, those

nematodes have chosen to join the mole crickets and also feed on your turf. So, you must make a management decision with regard to our services.

"Second, we have found the most beneficial time to attack is in the early spring and fall when the populations of adult mole crickets are at their highest levels. We are only capable of inhabiting and destroying the adult forms. By destroying the adults, we can reduce the populations of newly hatching nymphs, and thus reduce the amount of labor and pesticides formerly required to combat the mole crickets.

"Third, you must apply us at night when it is cool. Solar radiation is also deadly to our kind. You will need to provide some irrigation water to help us move down into the soil so we can find the mole crickets. We may be applied with your regular spraying equipment, but as a consideration, please be sure it has been cleaned out to get rid of any residues that may be harmful to us.

In return for observing these conditions, we will agree to do the following: We will look for adult mole crickets to destroy for nearly three of your Earth's lunar cycles, even if none are present when we first arrive. Once we have found and infected a mole cricket, he will die within one or two days. Our offspring will devour his remains and then search for others to destroy.

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The mole cricket chronicles

Green Side Up



Joel D. Jackson

Joel Jackson, CGCS

Jarrell: Seeds of sense seem to be sprouting

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To quote Rep. Mica: "The Rules Committee is now scrambling to issue a new rule to bring the EPA bill to the floor. Beware. The power brokers are working behind the scenes to concoct substitute language for real risk and cost analysis. I hope the taxpayers — and my colleagues — see through these brazen attempts to misdirect reform."

It is extremely encouraging to read Rep. Mica's words, and we should open up a dialogue between his office and our association and encourage his efforts.

Another promising development is the nomination of Stephen Breyer to the Supreme Court. Judge Breyer has the reputation of being critical of government's mismanagement of risk. His confirmation may turn out to help balance some of President Clinton's other extreme green appointments.

We all have been concerned, and some even directly affected, in recent years, about individuals claiming "chemical sen-

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sitivity."

With no clear medical guidelines, and plenty of extremists willing to use any means to halt pesticide use, this issue has had the potential of becoming a nightmare for all of us in the golf industry.

The good news here is that a blue ribbon panel of scientist recently concluded in Dallas that reproducible studies are needed to determine whether exposure to chemicals actually causes multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS), and many of those doctors don't even acknowledge the exist-

ence of MCS as a human ailment. Getting declared "chemically sensitive" should be a little harder than getting an excuse to miss a phys ed. class.

The rest of the good news is about our own industry organizations to bring golf's positive environmental story to the public. The USGA, the GCSAA, the FTGA, and our own FGCSA all have significant projects in progress that demonstrate our good stewardship. The level of support from manufacturers and distributors continues to grow.

And Tim Hiers has won the first-ever John James Audubon Steward Award from the New York Audubon Society! There is no more deserving individual, and all superintendents can take pride in Tim's accomplishment and the fact that a golf course superintendent has earned such a high honor. Congratulations Tim!

Let's hope these optimistic developments spur us on to grander accomplishments on behalf of our industry, rather than lull us into a false sense of security.

Joel Jackson: The mole cricket chronicles

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"We bring you the technology of Envirotron to help Earth live in harmony with the universe. Our presence on your planet will provide you with natural alternative pest management tools. You may

integrate us with selective chemical programs necessary to maintain levels of mole cricket activity acceptable to your species.

"We will gladly join forces with our cousins, the Red Eyed Flies of Antar and the Parasitic Wasps of Patagonia in a coalition of natural mole cricket deterrents that you

humans call bio-controls." . . . End of message.

Bio-controls are just one of many areas of scientific research funded by golf course superintendents and other allied groups that support the wise use and preservation of the earth's natural resources.

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