That's right! All of us have seen it before — that unacceptable area in our fairways or lawn. Just as important, an area where chemicals have been over-applied and a burned condition exists, and that can mean extra work for you. It's difficult to spray accurately and consistently on golf courses because every golf course is made up of countless slopes, contours, and bends. But with Blazon™ Spray Pattern Indicator you can take the guesswork out of spraying, forever.

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During the buffet lunch at our September meeting of the Central Florida Chapter at Errol Estate Country Club, I took pen and pad in hand and stalked the buffet line like a hungry snook moving in on a nervous school of mullet. Well, I was hungry for some original ideas for this article, and I had my fellow superintendents somewhat cornered in the slow moving line. I made eight successful strikes before the school, I mean members, scattered for their tables and tee times. After being productive, here are the ramblings and pearls of wisdom from the “Errol Estate Eight” as I call them. Alphabetically:

Karl Anken, Tuscavilla Country Club — “We are trying to cut back on the amount of fertilizer we use. It is a challenge to educate the golfing public that “LUSH GREEN” is not necessarily a healthy green for grooming and conditioning.”

Jim Ellison, Bay Hill Club — “We have 152 bunkers on the course and it was taking two men 3-3 1/2 days per week to edge and clean up the traps. We are now trying one man three days a week with a weedeater to keep them trimmed lightly without excessive trimmings to clean up and with out the harsh, sheared look around the edges. Another problem we have had was the mainenance of the cart path edges. We have reduced a formerly 60-70 hour per month task to just 4 hours per month by utilizing a 26 gallon tank mixed with Round-up and mounted on a golf cart. The driver edges the path chemically with a fixed nozzle by driving slowly. It has worked great so far this summer.”

Brad Fellrath, Sweetwater Club — “I am using flexible scheduling to eliminate the over-time on weekends. We also have frequent meetings to stress productivity and set goals. We have each operator service his equipment at the end of the day to save the mechanic some time. We utilize R & R and other generic parts whenever feasible. I like to “brainstorm” with other superintendents to get more ideas.”

Charles Garrett, Florida Irrigation — “People should consider installing computer controlled irrigation systems for more efficient use of water and electricity to save on utility bills and conserve water. Of course there is also the side benefit of record keeping with the computers.”

Dick Medford, Daytona Beach Golf & Country Club — “We have eliminated our rough cut. This speeds up play which means more rounds of golf, and it frees up a mower or eliminates it. We schedule our mechanics to start before the crew to check out the equipment to avoid wasted time in the morning due to balky equipment. The second mechanic ends his shift after the crew leaves to service and/or repair equipment for the next day. The mechanics also service all seasonal equipment in advance of renovations to minimize down time at this critical time when the course is closed. We plan 10 hours of work for an 8 hour day so that the crew will always have something to do and won’t be wasting time finding something else to do when a task is done. All of our purchasing is done by competitive bidding between vendors.”

Joe Ondo, Winter Pines Golf Club — “I like to purchase versatile pieces of equipment that can perform more than one task by using quick height adjustment. We also share seasonal equipment with neighboring courses during renovation. We are now on an efluent system with the city of Winter Park and this will help on utility costs.”

Dave Wilder, Wedgefield Country Club — “My job is to use all the chemicals and fertilizers as efficiently as possible. I’m keen on calibration.”

Steve Wright, Suntree Country Club — “We are trying (cont. on page 34)
We work at ground level... so you can play on top!

The fact is, Central Florida Turf is working hard to provide you with superior workmanship in construction of new golf facilities, irrigation with all turf installations or renovation of existing golf courses... and all at a competitive price!

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part-time labor on the weekends to eliminate the overtime, and during the winter we work half days on Fridays to cover half days on Saturdays and Sundays. Like most courses we use a competitive bidding purchasing method for bulk consummable supplies. We also installed an “Off Peak” meter on our irrigation system to water during the least expensive of electrical use. The initial cost was paid back within months and we saved at least 10% off of our annual bill. However, during the prolonged drought, we were penalized when we had to pump during “Peak” hours. It is another tool to consider.”

As you can see there is no one, magic formula out there to make it fast and cheap. At each level of maintainence demanded by the club, there will be subtle ways to maximize efficiency and minimize waste. That’s our challenge, to continually find those ways, through experimentation and education, that help to stretch that dollar with the screaming eagle. There is a quotation from Walt Disney that is used throughout our corporate literature that goes something like this “. . .you can design and build the greatest attractions in the world, but it takes people to make it work.”

No matter what gimmicks, products, or equipment we try to employ to save or stretch dollars, it will be the people who work with you that will do the most to affect costs and productivity. In order to make those people effective and productive, you must EDUCATE, MOTIVATE, AND COMPENSATE them in a manner that generates pride and self esteem in their work and themselves and that is one of the greatest tasks that faces any superintendent.
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The registration last fall of Nemacur SC (the liquid formulation) for nematode control on golf courses was very welcome, since the new label seems to have several advantages over the granular formulations of Nemacur and Mocap that are also registered for the same purpose:

1. Less active ingredient would be applied per acre, resulting in lower costs to the course, less material to be stored and handled, and presumably less risk to the environment.

2. Spray equipment is inherently easier to calibrate accurately and provides more uniform application than granule applicators. Every course should have one or more appropriate sprayers in excellent condition and with which the application crew is very familiar, thus more likely to be used properly.

However, the great increase in the amount of acreage treated with Nemacur as a result of this new registration may be increasing the risk of an undesirable effect of this material. Fenamiphos, its active ingredient, is highly toxic to birds. There have been rumors and at least one confirmed instance of significant bird kills after spray application of Nemacur SC, in which label instructions seem to have been followed very carefully. Cattle egrets are apparently the bird species most commonly affected.

Egrets often follow any kind of machinery just as they follow cattle, hoping to pick up insects disturbed by its passage. Mole crickets often come to the soil surface after Nemacur application, so the birds can readily feed on mole crickets emerging from treated soil. There may be enough active ingredients in the insects to affect birds that feed on many of them. In addition, physical limitations of irrigation systems generally make it impossible to apply irrigation to the entire course simultaneously, so birds may in some cases be attracted to a treated area before the sprinkler system has reached it. They thus may be directly exposed to the chemical before it is washed into the soil.

The danger of this problem should be apparent: a few well-publicized bird kills could affect this registration of Nemacur SC, and possibly other labels as well. Golf course superintendents should take every effort to minimize the risk of bird kills when applying Nemacur. Do everything possible to get the chemical watered in immediately after application; delay means risking exposure of wildlife, pets, etc. to the material. Applications made late in the afternoon or evening may provide more time to get Nemacur well irrigated into the soil before the early morning period of high activity of egrets and other birds. Courses that are heavily infested with mole crickets may be able to reduce the risk of intoxicated insects attracting birds by scheduling treatments for months when the insects have not yet hatched, or are very small and thus less apparent and attractive to birds.

EPA's proposed decision to cancel the golf course and sod farm uses of diazinon was supported by the FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP). The agency's presentation and defense of its proposed decision earned praise from SAP members, other EPA officials, some representatives of environmental organizations and others who agreed with the action. The preliminary report said the SAP found that the weight of evidence supported the proposed cancellation of the two used and stated that to respond to the concern about the risk of adverse effects to birds from the use of the pesticide on home lawns, parks and other sites, it would be appropriate for EPA to call in data on these other sites. The Panel agreed with EPA that the diazinon risk to birds was unacceptable and that bird kills could not be eliminated by changes in application. SAP recommended that EPA investigated the hazards of diazinon-alternatives. For diazinon, regulatory actions other than cancellation will not work, the SAP preliminary report declared. (P&T CN, 5/28/86, p 20 & 21)

Chemically Speaking
June 1986

Lofts Turf Field Day Draws Crowd to NJ Research Center

Lofts Inc. recently hosted its annual Turf Field Day. Each year Lofts opens its research headquarters to members of the turf industry including golf course superintendents, lawn care operators and distributors of turf seed.

The program began with a presentation on seed quality, presented by Dr. Richard Hurley's, Lofts' Research Director, followed by a discussion on summer lawn establishment, led by Rutgers University's Dr. Bruce Clark. Dr. Louis Vasvary, also of Rutgers, spoke on insect problems, diagnosis and control. The final topic of turf-type tall fescues, was covered by Dr. Thomas Turner of the University of Maryland.

Following a picnic lunch, guests toured Lofts' research plots. It was an excellent opportunity to see first-hand the comparative performances of several varieties under various conditions. Certain new varieties could be observed such as Repell Perennial Ryegrass. Repell contains a natural fungus, an endophyte, which resists certain turf insects.

Lofts' Field Day is an excellent opportunity for professionals to learn the latest developments in the turf field and discuss common interests with their colleagues. To be notified of next year's Field Day, contact Lofts Inc., Chimney Rock Road, Bound Brook, NJ 08805. Telephone: (201) 356-8700.
WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW MAY BE KILLING HIM.

This strapping 13 year old is dying inside.

More often than not, you can't see the symptoms of drug abuse. And you won't know if your child has a drug problem until his grades start to slip. Or there's some money missing. Or the police show up at your front door.

The sobering fact is, 60% of all high school students are "doing drugs." Many drink enough alcohol to be considered alcoholics. They do coke. Hash. Ludes. Rush. And a lot of drugs you've probably never heard of. And what's even more frightening—the problem is getting worse.

There is a place to get some straight talk about teenagers and drugs. Straight, Inc. A non-profit, drug treatment program that helps kids of all ages with drug and alcohol problems.

The Straight program is based, in part, on the very same concepts of self-help as Alcoholics Anonymous.

Like AA, the program relies heavily on positive peer pressure. It's simple. The kids end up helping each other. And it works.

Straight is more than a drop-off center. Straight believes in total family involvement. Total family commitment. Parents must attend Open Meetings along with their kids. Every week.

There are parent meetings. Sibling meetings. Family and individual counseling. And, most important, there is a sense of caring. Of sharing. Of respect. And a success rate that's hard to ignore.

So if you think your child may have a drug problem, call Straight today.

Because it's not only what you know that counts. It's what you do about it.

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3001 Gandy Boulevard
St. Petersburg, FL 33702
813/577-6011

In Tampa 813/223-4362

EDITOR'S NOTE: On Friday, January 30, 1987, come to the session (your spouse, your family and you) and hear Dan and Irene Jones speak on alcohol and drug abuse — the whole family suffers.
There are three formulations of Nemacur distributed in Florida. Each is registered for specific uses, and it is illegal to use any formulation for a use for which it is not specifically registered. For instance, the liquid product, Nemacur 3, is registered for turf grasses “FOR USE ON GOLF COURSES” only. Its use on a sod farm is thus not permitted by this label.

Nemacur 10% Turf and Ornamental Nematicide is registered for turf grasses in golf courses, cemeteries, sod farms, industrial grounds, parkways and roadways, and for a wide range of ornamental plants in the production nursery. On the other hand, Nemacur 15% Granular nematicide is labeled for any use on turf or ornamentals. Do not use the 10% product for field crops, and do not use the 15% product on turf.

The manufacturer of these products has chosen, for their own good reasons, to limit the registrations of each product to specific markets. It is strictly against the Florida Pesticide Law and FIFRA to use either Nemacur product or any other pesticide for a purpose for which it is not labeled.

There has recently been some discussion of the relative merits of Nemacur 15G and Nemacur 10G for nematode control on golf course greens. “The new 10G is not as effective as the 15G,” according to some consultants. Our response?

1. There seems to be no logical basis for a difference—the 10G is formulated on the same carrier with essentially the same process, excepting the quantity of active ingredient.

2. Some of the questions seem to be coming from evaluations made awfully soon after application—often less than 2 weeks. It may be possible to see a response to nematicide application in that period under ideal conditions (strong nematode pressure that is abruptly stopped by the treatment, soil fertility and other growth factors all favorable for rapid root growth), but it may also take as long as 4 weeks, particularly in slow growth periods such as early—mid—spring.

3. Regardless of the comparative efficacies of the two formulations, it is illegal to use the Nemacur 15G for turf, so golf course personnel must make the best use of Nemacur 10G if they choose to use a granular formulation of that compound. They may, of course, also choose the liquid formulation, Nemacur 3, or Mocap 10G.

4. In view of the questions about the relative merits of the three formulations of Nemacur, we have initiated a simple comparison of Nemacur 3 at 10 lb a.i./acre, Nemacur 10G at 10 and 15 lb a.i./acre, the Nemacur 15G at 10 and 15 lb a.i./acre on heavily-infested ‘Tifgreen’ bermudagrass at the University of Florida Turf Research Unit. At the time of the annual IFAS Turfgrass Field Day (28 May), 13 days after application, there were no visible differences among the treatments. We will keep you posted.

NEW SULFUR COATED UREA FOR GREENS

LESCO, Inc., Rocky River, Ohio has introduced a new line of small-particle sulfur coated urea fertilizers specifically designed for low-cut turf. The Elite product line includes six formulations of small-particle fertilizers which provide more particles per square foot than coarser grade products that can cause speckling.

LESCO Vice President Art Wick explains, “We've developed the Elite line in response to customer needs. Our small-particle fertilizers increase the number of particles applied on low cut turf to assure outstanding response, consistent greening, a more uniform distribution pattern. The sulfur coated urea provides steady growth and long residual. Mower pickup is virtually eliminated because the new small particles readily filter into the turf.”
Phoenix and Arizona’s Valley of the Sun has a brand of cuisine that is as distinctive as it is diversified.

The range of cooking is cosmopolitan and western. So is the variety of decor in the hundreds of restaurants that dot this desert and oasis playground that has grown to become a hospitality and cuisine center of the Southwest.

The restaurant atmosphere swings from Mexican to Mongolian, Polynesian, Chinese and Japanese. Even highly rated French restaurants with world-class style and service have sprouted on the sun-swept landscape.

Many of the restaurants have entertainment. Emphasis is on the more intimate, informal, relaxing type of evening fun — a trio or small band for dancing, a pianist-solist, banjo or guitar player and “join the gang” songfests.

Those famous and luxurious resorts are fine bets for dining out, and all of them have evening entertainment. There are a half dozen nationally acclaimed resorts that feature excellent food, outstanding atmosphere and entertainment at a good price value.

Most visitors will want to sample the distinctive western-style dining offered by a host of restaurants with Old West motifs. Many of these places specialize in barbecue ribs, steak and other western cuisine. A heavy helping of porch-fronted buildings, rail hitching posts, corrals, western music and atmosphere goes along with generous food servings.

The service is good and brisk but informality is mandatory. For example, if a male diner wears a tie in one western restaurant, it may be snipped off by the waiter and hung up with thousands of similar trophies.

The fare often includes platter-size steaks, chili beans, garlic bread, tossed salad and a hearty frontier-brand of coffee. The aroma of the cooking alone is enough to double one’s appetite — and the desert air helps to stretch it a bit farther.

Many guest schedule a desert “cookout” for either breakfast or dinner a part of their entertainment package.

Meanwhile, back in town, there are high-rise restaurants which offers diners a view of the changing city and desert landscape.

Gourmet cuisine and service are available throughout the Valley at a price tag 20 to 30 percent below large midwestern and eastern cities.

Whatever the price — the quality, atmosphere, color and versatility of the restaurants in the Valley of the Sun make the area shine for diners.

For accomodation reservations, call toll-free (800) 528-0483 For visitor information call (602) 254-6500.
APOPKA — Of all the reasons why some plants don't thrive indoors, one is right off the wall.

"It's probably the last thing you'd think of, but we're now sure that the mercury in some paints is highly toxic to Ficus and Dieffenbachia, two of the most popular indoor plants used in commercial buildings," said Dr. Charles Conover, director of the Agricultural Research and Education Center in Apopka.

"Ficus trees were 'falling apart' a month after they were installed in newly-painted buildings," Conover explained. "We had reached the point where we had done everything possible to acclimatize plants so they would flourish indoors, yet they would begin losing leaves within a few days. Something was killing the trees.

"After talking with paint manufacturers, we suspected mercury — added to some paints to retard mildew — might be the cause," he said.

Six months of tests at the Apopka research center, which is part of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), have shown that Ficus benjamina and Dieffenbachia are the only two foliage plants of the 16 tested that are sensitive to extremely low levels of mercury vapor given off by some paints. Ficus is very sensitive while Dieffenbachia react to mercury vapors more slowly.

Conover said mercury is not the only material used by paint manufacturers to retard mildew. And, he pointed out, mercury vapors from paints are much lower than federal safety standards and should not pose any danger to human health.

To prove the mercury is the only thing causing the rapid deterioration of Ficus and Dieffenbachia, Conover and Dr. Richard Poole compared the performance of healthy plants placed in painted and unpainted rooms. Paint that contained no mercury was used in one room while other rooms had paints containing varying amounts of mercury. All other growing conditions such as light, water and fertilizer were the same.

Poole, a plant physiologist at the IFAS research center, said Ficus in the unpainted room and the room with paint containing mercury maintained their leaves and attractive appearance throughout the experiment. But Ficus in rooms with paint containing varying amounts of mercury lost leaves and some plants eventually died.

As the mercury content in paint was increased, plants deteriorated more quickly. Ficus trees placed in rooms that had been painted six months previously also showed moderate leaf drop, indicating mercury vapors from paint can remain active for many months.

"The results of our research explain some of the severe leaf drop problems that commercial interiorscapers are experiencing when they install Ficus trees in new buildings or newly-painted buildings. We are recommending that interiorscapers consider the type of paint utilized in commercial buildings and specify paint without mercury.

"When severe leaf drop on a Ficus tree occurs suddenly after installation or repainting, the paint formulation should be obtained to determine whether mercury is present. Of course, another option would be to use other types of indoor plants instead of Ficus," Poole explained.

Conover said their studies on mercury in paint have opened the door to a whole new area of research on other heretofore unknown environmental factors that may affect the health of ornamental plants.

"It's entirely possible, for example, that we may be able to use plants to detect or signal the presence very low levels of toxic chemicals in the indoor environment," he said.