Milorganite marks 70 years of fertilizer & saving landfill space

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — Milorganite, the organic fertilizer produced by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD), celebrates 70 years of success this year. In what is certainly one of the world’s largest recycling efforts, MMSD uses waste, frequently destined to fill up landfills and generate dollars for Milwaukee-area taxpayers.

“Milorganite’s iron and other micronutrients are absorbed slowly by the plant roots, almost like a time-release capsule, resulting in a superior green growth that lasts for 8 to 12 weeks,” explained Alan Nees, director of maintenance.

University research continuously documents Milorganite’s resistance to nutrient leaching, thus avoiding contamination of groundwater and wells. Because the Milorganite manufacturing process uses drying temperatures between 840 and 1200 degrees Fahrenheit, it’s a stable, pathogen-free granular product. Milorganite meets the toughest EPA regulations and guidelines for use in a variety of situations.

MMSD singled out for environmental leadership by GD

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — The Milorganite Division of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) was one of four winners selected from a field of 25 nominees in the inaugural “Environmental Leaders in Golf Award,” presented by Golf Digest magazine.

Established primarily for golf courses, the award criteria included originality, sustainability, documentation and credibility (the degree to which the design solves a problem particular to its locale). The judging panel was composed of five leaders in causes related to conserving the environment and six leaders in the golf industry. Organizations represented on the panel included the Environmental Protection Agency, the national Audubon Society, the National Wildlife Foundation, the National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides, Friends of the Earth, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, and the U.S. Golf Association.

Milorganite’s award was based on company service and produce environmental benefits. As a recycled, beneficial use product, Milorganite has long been a positive alternative to other biosolid disposal options, such as landfill or incineration.

The product meets the most stringent environmental quality and safety criteria for fertilizers in the United States, and Milorganite is an iron-rich, organic alternative to chemical fertilizers. Milorganite was an early leader in supporting research for the advancement of knowledge in the golf turf industry.

The other finalists for the Environmental Leaders in Golf Award were the town of Primavera, Ore., which rehabilitated a formerly contaminated river bed by building Meadow Lakes Golf Course on the site; Eagle’s Landing Golf Course, an ecologically responsible public facility in Berlin, Md.; and Old Tabby Links, an environmentally sensitive private course on Spring Island, S.C.

SMITH HONORED BY ALMA MATER

Dick Smith, president of Wayne, Pa.-based Smithco, Inc., has been inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame at his alma mater, Dickinson College. During his collegiate career, Smith was well known for his play at the swingman position, alternating between forward and two guard. The induction ceremony took place on the Dickinson athletic field during halftime at a recent homecoming weekend. Smith was presented with a gold Hall-of-Fame trophy, a lifetime pass to all future Dickinson sporting events. In addition, his basketball jersey, #34, was retired to the school’s trophy room.