



# MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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## V.P.I. EXT. SERVICE NOTICE J.F. SHOULDERS-EXT. SPECIALIST V.P.I.

Gentlemen:

The unusually mild winter and much warmer temperatures than are usual for this time of year have caused much concern in regard to the timing of spring turf management practices. In view of this situation, we are giving you our thinking in regard to certain pertinent practices:

1. *Cultivation of Greens.* Normal cultivation practices of aeration and vertical mowing should be delayed until not more than a week earlier than usual for your location. Performances of these practices earlier in spring may result in the greens remaining open for an excessive period of time in event of cool or cold weather during the last of March and early April.

Cultivation practices should not be omitted because preemergence crabgrass control is practiced. It is important, however, to use topdressing material that has been sterilized to kill weed seed to reduce the possibility of reinfestation with crabgrass and other weeds. Refer to Virginia Tech Publication 591, "Cultivation of Putting Greens."

2. *Crabgrass Control.* If preemergence control is planned, apply the material as soon as possible. If mild weather continues, crabgrass germination may occur two to three weeks earlier than the average date for the area. Refer to Virginia Tech Publication C.S. 76, 1974 edition, "Chemical Control of Turfgrass Diseases and Turfgrass Weeds," for information.
3. *Fertilization.* (a) Restrict nitrogen applications on bentgrass greens and bluegrass and/or fescue turf to an "as needed" basis, applying no more than ½ lb. per 1000 sq. ft. in a single application between now and mid-May. The application of iron on bentgrass greens will be helpful in maintaining color.  
(b) Apply potash in accordance with soil test results. Refer to Virginia Tech Publication MA 121 or 122 (Lime, Phosphate and Potash Guides), Publication 155 (Nitrogen Programs for Bentgrass Greens), and MA 120 (Nitrogen Programs for Bermudagrass Greens) for information.
4. *Insect Problems* may be more severe this spring due to greater winter survival than usual. Watch for signs of

early insect activity. Refer to Virginia Tech C.S. 125, "Insects of Commercial Turfgrass," 1974 edition, for control recommendations.

5. *Desiccation and Wilting.* Greens may be more susceptible than usual to damage from short dry periods this spring. Be alert for signs of wilting and water as necessary but plan your water program to encourage deep root growth rather than to impede it.

These are the major practices about which superintendents have voiced their concern in recent weeks. Copies of the publications to which I have referred should be available from the Virginia Tech Extension office in your city or county.

Sincerely yours,

J. F. Shoulders  
Extension Specialist, Turf

### A CASE TO PONDER

We used to make I-beam truck axles in our Cleveland plant, said Charles H. Smith Jr., Chairman, Sifco Industries Inc., in relating the story to Walter J. Cambell, editor of Industry Week.

"Recently, we learned our former customer was planning to buy axles in Japan or Spain. We decided we would try to get the business for our plant in Brazil.

Today, we are making those axles there for delivery to the U.S. We found we could buy the steel in Japan, ship it 12,000 miles to Brazil, unload and haul it 100 miles in-land to our plant, produce the axles, pack for export, ship them 6000 miles to the U.S., pay 10% duty, plus 10% import sur-charges since August 15th, pay inland freight in the U.S. and deliver them to the customer cheaper than we could make them in Cleveland, 5 miles from our steel source. Actually, we are now using Brazilian steel because the mills there met the Japanese price".

Now there's a merry-go-round case of labor's influence on the market!

Tri-Stater News  
Ed Boyd, editor  
Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois