



MID-ATLANTIC

# News Letter



CHARTER

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## President's Message

By now those of you who were in attendance at the National have gotten back into the routine and are, along with many of us in our profession, taking a hindsight just to see how far we have progressed in turf management in the last 20-plus years. It's really astounding and somewhat startling to see what really has been accomplished by so many dedicated and interested individuals and groups. We do indeed have a profession of which we all can be unduly proud. Charley Baskins, our National Past President, and the Board of Directors, along with the headquarters staff, are due another round of applause for the progress made this year on the National level.

Well, it's that time of year again when we are all making landscape plans or designing plant beds, etc. Whether you plan some complete renovation or making some first time plantings, go over your areas and check for the effects you want to accomplish with trees, evergreens, flowering shrubs, or flowers. Get your ideas and designs on paper to make sure nothing has been left out or overlooked. Always have a plan ready at this time of year so that when planting season arrives you are ready.

Always incorporate new ideas and innovations, get a fresh approach with your flower beds, try to achieve continuous bloom throughout the growing season. Plan your beds, if possible, in sunny spots so that the colors are more fully observed and situate them in areas that are free from encroaching roots of trees and shrubbery. Make sure the soil is well prepared and fortified with humus. Use one of the many fine plant foods that are available to sustain the type of plant material you are planting.

If you order your planting materials, don't wait until time to plant. Order in plenty of time so that you will be ready when warm weather arrives.

Alex Watson

## A Member Speaks Up

I've been a member of the Mid-Atlantic GCSA and the GCSAA for a comparatively short time in relation to many of our other superintendents. However, I feel compelled to write this letter because I think that both the National and the Mid-Atlantic are falling far short in one respect. The area in which the associations are falling short is in the endorsement of each and every superintendent. This is to

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## The Thinking Superintendent— A Maintenance Tip

Years ago, while listening to old timers like Reg Giddings, Ruben Hines and Bob Scott, I heard them talk of using hydrated lime for control of turfgrass diseases on greens back in the days when they did not have the fancy (and expensive) disease control chemicals we have today. They said when disease appeared they just went out and sprinkled a mixture of sand and lime they kept mixed in the shop ready to go.

O. J. Noer mentioned lime as a control for scald on greens in a bulletin titled "The Role of Lime in Turf Management," published by the Milwaukee Sewage Commission in 1958. He suggested hydrated lime at about 10 pounds per green mixed with sand and broadcast or applied with a power sprayer at weekly intervals during hot weather for control of algae. The idea is to keep the lime on the surface to counteract toxic organic compounds formed by soil organism in wet soil.

Dr. Fred Grau, writing in *Golfdom*, September, 1961, suggested we take another look at lime as a control for disease on putting greens. He said many superintendents keep hydrated lime on hand and use it weekly during the summer. Very light applications of 1 to 2 pounds per thousand square feet dusted on in late afternoon and allowed to stay on until watered in next morning would check disease and algae and renew turf vigor.

Since lime can be applied at any time, and since pH changes take place in the soil very slowly and there are benefits to be obtained by using lime against disease and algae, it seems like good management to me to make lime applications during the summer, instead of during the winter. I have followed this practice for years and will do so again this year.

A word of caution: apply lime a week or 10 days before or after fertilizer applications. If applied together, the nitrogen in the fertilizer is released into the air and lost. If a green is loaded up with nitrogen and a heavy application of hydrated lime is made during very hot weather, serious trouble could result from the immediate release of nitrogen. I know, it happened to me in 1968.

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