WATeR OuT FoR MuLcH PoIonoIgI

by Gerry Gerard

Hardwood or bark mulch which in storage has been piled high and deep can cause unexpected problems. Alcohol may form at the bottom of the pile; under anaerobic conditions, alcohol may form in any decomposing material, and in rainy periods, wood alcohol forms at the bottom and in the middle of the pile.

The Ph of the hardwood mulch will drop into the 3.0 to 3.5 range, which prevents the bacteria that break down the mulch from getting necessary oxygen. Growth is limited to anaerobic bacteria which produce alcohol (methane).

As I unfortunately observed this spring, alcohol injury to actively growing plants is almost instantaneous. The alcohol draws water from the plant tissues and from the ground. This, within a matter of hours, turns the grass that borders mulched shrubs and flower beds white. Many plants, especially annuals, will not survive once the symptoms appear.

To avoid this situation, hardwood mulch piles should not be higher than eight feet or wider than twelve feet at the base. In addition, during long storage, occasional turning of the mulch pile is helpful.

1986 Slate Chosen by Nomination Committee

Gerry Gerard as the nominee for president heads the slate picked by the Nominating Committee chaired by past president Ken Braun and to be voted on during the December 10 meeting at Annapolis. Other nominees include Lee Dieter for vice president, George Renault for secretary, Walter Montross for treasurer, and for the two three-year openings on the Board of Directors, Steve Nash, Les Tanner, and Howard Gaskill. In addition, nominations can be made from the floor.

In addition, one minor by-laws change will be voted on at the meeting. Under Class G, Non-Resident Associate Member, the phrase “and receive death benefits” should be deleted and that sentence conclude with the words “right to vote and hold office.”

Match Play Title Won by Ben Stagg

In a round played on misty November 12 over rain-softerened Hunt Valley Golf Club, Ben Stagg of Hog Neck Golf Course won the annual MAAGCS match play championship, edging Jeff Miskin of Montgomery Country Club. With the new point system put into effect this year, six men had a chance to win on the final day, but Ben was the high point man.

In open play, low net honors went to Ken Keller with a 67, host Bob Orazi coming in second with 70. Ed Porterfield won low gross with 78 over John Hoover’s 82.