

**!!! ATTENTION
CLASS B AND
ASSOCIATE
MEMBERS !!!**

If you are eligible now or in the next few months for a classification upgrade to class A or B and you are worried about the dreaded "TEST" this is for you.

On October 28th the semi-annual study session to help prepare you for the upgrade exam will be held at the Meadow Club golf course by your membership chairman, David Sexton.

If you have met all the requirements the actual test for your classification will be available, or a practice exam can be taken to help you prepare for a future testing date.

In order to qualify for class A you must have completed 3 years as a Golf Course Superintendent. To qualify for class B you must have completed 1 year as a Golf Course Superintendent.

In addition you must submit an application for reclassification to the Board of Directors by the October 10th meeting at Bodega Harbour. The application does not need to be attested for reclassification and they are available from the Association office or by contacting David Sexton.

Depending upon the weather and aerification schedules the Meadow Club may be available for complimentary golf after the morning study session which will start at 8:30 am.

Any questions, please call David Sexton, (415) 457-2050 between 8:30-9:30 am Monday-Friday.

A LOOK AHEAD

- October 10**
Bodega Harbour GC, Joint Meeting
with Sierra Nevada Chapter
- November 6,7,8**
Superintendent's Institute, Santa Rosa
- November 21,22**
GCSAA-GCSANC Seminar
Integrated Pest Management
- December 6**
Christmas Party

FUNGICIDES

How you apply it can be at least as important as which one you use, says famed researcher

Do nozzle type, dilution rates, spray patterns, pH and pressure make a difference when applying fungicides?

"You bet'cha," says Dr. Houston Couch, Professor of plant pathology at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Couch, well known for his book, Diseases of Turfgrass, was the speaker at the Fourth Annual South Florida Workshop and Exposition in Fort Lauderdale April 17.

For two hours, he discussed a checklist of items necessary for the correct application of fungicides. This checklist is important, he said, because of golf course superintendents need to improve the effectiveness of the fungicides they are applying to the nation's golf courses.

"With the IQ of Zippo the chimp, a crescent wrench and a screwdriver, you can double the effectiveness of your fungicide application," Couch said.

Superintendents must optimize the applications of their fungicides because they are faced with increasing expectations.

"The Stimpmeter is the worst thing that happened to golf," he said.

"They roll the golf ball and tell the guy on the spot what they want. To get the number right, the superintendent will roll the green to harden it up, back up on the watering and lower the cutting height. But biologically, under these conditions, the grass has a real a problem. Along comes a fungus that really sort of likes this world, and all it's got to do is snarl and this grass dies."

The problem is even worse because of South Florida's climatic conditions, he added. "A lot of you are growing grass in a part of the world where the Lord did not mean for that grass to grow. You know that. This is where he created fungus to kill the grass."

In order to fight the fungus problems, Couch recommends several procedures.

GRANULAR FUNGICIDES

Although he spent a majority of his time discussing spray fungicides, he did delineate his findings on granular fungicides: mow and irrigate the day before application to have the longest possible interval between application and mowing or watering; and apply the fungicide in the morning while the grass is still wet.

"Granular formulations of non-systemic fungicides require two to three times the active ingredient level of spray formulations to produce the same degree of disease control."

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Chuck Dal Pozzo
Technical Representative



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