WAKING A GIANT

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a continuous chain of chemical reactions that occur due to environmental stimuli, then it stands to reason that every action also has a reaction.

When nitrogen, in a readily available form, is applied, a mechanism is triggered within bermudagrass plants. This mechanism, or rather transport shuttle, immediately starts absorbing the nitrogen until its concentration drops below a critical level in the soil. Much like a labrador retriever, bermudagrass will try to gorge itself until it can no longer function. Unlike a dog, however, bermudagrass must expend energy, i.e. break down stored carbohydrates, to absorb nitrogen from the soil and incorporate it as complex proteins.

By further reducing carbohydrate reserves with early nitrogen applications, spring root decline can become a catastrophic event, if followed by a late season frost. In other words, if a late season frost damages a significant portion of the new leaf tissue, there may no longer be enough stored carbohydrates left to make a full recovery.

With the possibility of disaster on the horizon, it would seem best to allow Mother Nature to take care of her own, and apply only light applications of soluble nitrogen until the possibility of freezing temperatures has safely passed. As someone much wiser than myself once said, "It's best to be gentle when waking a sleeping giant."

CALIFORNIA CLIPS

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State Chapter Bylaws Changed

A review of the state chapter bylaws last year revealed some discrepancies and inconsistencies owing to various changes made over the past several years. To address these inconsistencies, the board approved the hiring of an attorney to review the bylaws for legality and consistency and to make required changes. Mike Duffy, a specialist in Non-profit law from Tustin, CA, who holds both a masters and a Doctorate in law, and is a professor of law, was hired to perform this review.

Some minor changes were necessary. The most significant change included redefinition of membership classifications and dues structure.

Article III, Section 1 now states: *The membership of this association shall be limited to those associations which are organized as regional golf course superintendents associations and are within the state of California.* This means that the local **associations**, not each individual chapter member, are members of the state organization. Each chapter appoints two representatives to the Board of Directors who are responsible for representing the desires/wishes/needs of their individual chapter.

This change was made for several reasons:

1. to protect the local chapters from any tax liabilities connected to affiliation with the state,
2. to guarantee equal representation on the Board of Directors for each local chapter,
3. to provide for fair distribution of funding to the state assoc. from among the local chapters
4. to assure that royalty monies we receive from Adams Publishing for use of our name to publish California Fairways are not taxable.

The Bylaws have been rewritten by the attorney. The changes will be presented to the board for approval at the May 14 board meeting and, once refined and approved, a copy will be mailed to each local chapter office. Copies are also available from the state office to anyone who wishes to review them.

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