The condition of the soil on any golf course or fine turf area changes throughout the year. And for proper turf management, you need to change the way you aerate.

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Professor H. B. Musser devoted his career to grass seed research. As a tribute to this outstanding Pennsylvania State University Turf Seed Agronomist, the Musser Foundation was formed.

The foundation's purpose is to assist graduate students in turf research through a fellowship program. This means students who have finished their undergraduate work and are going into turf research may receive financial assistance at this critical point in their careers. Only the interest earned from the H. B. Musser Fund will be used for fellowships, so the dollars you contribute keep on working in perpetuity.

If you or your company are involved in the sale or use of turfgrass or turfgrass-associated products or services, there's no better way to help yourself and the future of the turf industry than an annual contribution to the Musser Foundation.

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Model GTL-140 gas-powered trimmer from Echo, Inc. comes with a flexible plastic blade which the manufacturer claims is easier to use than nylon line yet trims grass and weeds like a steel blade. Its 13.8cc Kioritz engine is on the lower end of the shaft to eliminate the need for an expensive flex shaft.

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Three consecutive fall applications (usually with overseeding) appear necessary for significant annual bluegrass control. After three years, it must be decided whether to continue application or initiate a preemergence program. Application of preemergence materials may preclude further fall overseeding and for all practical purposes eliminate fall aerification programs.

Are there drawbacks?

Although the cost of applying MH at 1.5 lbs/A can be justified, this type of annual bluegrass control program requires excellent communication with club officials. Due to the discoloration associated with application of MH (even though it occurs in late fall and winter), it is important that those using the golf course be informed.

Spray equipment must be precisely calibrated and functioning properly (new nozzles, proper overlap, etc.). Sloppy applications of MH will be very obvious, particularly when severe discoloration occurs with colder weather.

Fall application of MH on turf-type perennial ryegrasses has caused stand losses over the winter. Therefore, caution should be exercised when treating areas that have been overseeded with perennial ryegrasses.

Initially, use of MH for annual bluegrass control should be tried on a limited scale in combination with overseeding. Observation of the treated area will assist the superintendent in determining the amount of discoloration at his location and the amount of control. Also, any sprayer problems can be identified and corrected before expanding the program. Several golf course superintendents have initiated annual bluegrass control programs with fall applied MH and in almost all cases, they have increased the use of the program.

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Ornamentals Northwest Seminars, Memorial Coliseum, Portland, OR, August 23-25. Contact ONW Seminars, Extension Business Office, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331. 503/754-3311.

Tennessee Nurserymen’s Association Annual Convention, Opryland Hotel, Nashville, TN, August 23-25. Contact Dr. Neil L. Woodiel, P.O. Box 57, McMinnville, TN 37110.