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But if you'd like to know why ten top superintendents are so enthusiastic about this terrific creeping bentgrass, call for our new booklet 91-02-PL today!

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Does the public expect too much from its golf courses?

Larry Kassell, the Pacific Northwest’s advertising whiz and disseminator of little-known facts, tells us that golfers take an average of 10 million steps per year on the average golf course green. That’s about 700 steps per foursome.

Golfers fully expect all golf course superintendents to keep this downtrodden turf healthy and green. They expect this from the first signs of spring until the first snowfall—sometimes beyond.

Not unreasonably, supers wonder if golfers expect too much.

“We have been greatly affected by media presentations of our tournaments,” notes William Spence, superintendent at The Country Club in Franklin, Mass. Spence, speaking at the GCSAA conference, said maybe the time has come for the public to re-evaluate its expectations.

“I worry about the time,” he observed, “when somebody comes up with an artificial turf for golf courses. Is the turf we’re providing now artificial, in and of itself?

“We’re not going to get perfection. That second law of thermodynamics (as time advances, disorder increases) will get us in the end.”

Steve Cadenelli, the 1991 GCSAA president, agrees with Spence’s observations— to a point.

“Golf course standards today are near perfection,” Cadenelli says. “But they are geared more for appearance than the needs of the plant.

“Our management practices are now being challenged by a fragile environment. Obviously, things must change. New standards...more in tune with practical and economic realities...must be developed.”

Spence and Cadenelli both agree that there’s a problem, and it could be getting worse. The solution may be to change public expectations about the look of our nation’s golf courses.

“I don’t think we relinquish all control and turn over our GCSAA cards to Mother Nature, though,” Spence contends. “An occasional blemish or randomness should not be criticized—just recognized.”

Cadenelli’s reference to “economic realities,” with the recent news from the New York Times, really hits home. According to the Times, “at least 10 percent of 2,600 residential developments centered on golf courses are in some sort of financial distress.”

This puts maintenance dollars—most particularly for those golf courses in struggling residential developments—in jeopardy.

If superintendents are forced to cut costs, the golfing public may be forced to change its expectations concerning the appearance of golf courses.

“In the future, management inputs will change drastically,” Cadenelli contends. “The decision-making process will become increasingly complex, and the future of the game will depend on the superintendent’s ability to make solid decisions.”

Cadenelli defines quality as species plus input plus technology times the ability of the golf course manager. What he’s really saying is that, if input decreases, species or technology or the manager’s ability must increase to keep the same quality.

Or, there’s the “Spence Alternative” (sounds like a Ludlum book, doesn’t it?): educate the public, help golfers accept lower standards that are more compatible with current environmental and financial considerations.

Which will it be? Either way, as Cadenelli says, “The professional golf course manager must face the new world with new thinking.”
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Choosing the right chain saw

**Problem:** The Florida Department of Transportation would like your assistance in locating a supplier/manufacturer of an electric-powered chain saw for use in overhead limb trimming. We have specs for air, hydraulic and gasoline-powered equipment, but would like to have a demonstration of an electric-powered saw. *(Florida)*

**Solution:** Greg Mazur, Davey’s technical advisor for utility services, says Homelite and Stihl have light-duty electric chain saws. Homelite has models EL12 and EL14; Stihl has models E14 and E20. The numbers indicate bar length. Mazur also says Sears carries the Craftsman line of electric chain saws. Contact local dealers for demonstration.

Electric-powered chain saws will not be very practical for overhead limb trimming. If not impractical, it would be very difficult and unsafe to have electrical cords attached to the saws and power source. The saws on the market require some sort of power source either from nearby buildings and/or mobile generators. I have not seen cordless electric saws designed for pruning.

**Drain tube not a bacterial cure**

**Problem:** Does the drain tube cure wet wood bacteria? *(Pennsylvania)*

**Solution:** Installing the drain tube does not cure the bacterial problem. However, the drain tubes can help the trees overcome the problem.

Trees having wet wood disorder suffer from gas produced by the bacterial fermentation of sap inside the trunk. As a result, sap may ooze out from openings on the trunk. Affected trees will show undersized off-colored leaves and a thin crown. A properly installed drain tube can help the tree to overcome the gas build-up inside.

There is no fungicide treatment for wet wood disorder. Provide proper watering, fertilizing, mulching and pest management as needed to help improve plant health.

**What, how to seed**

**Problem:** In recent years, we have been doing lots of lawn seeding. Which tall fescue varieties would you recommend for use in our area? Would you also please make comments regarding seeds and seeding method. *(Pennsylvania)*

**Solution:** Use a blend of at least three cultivars. When choosing cultivars, check the results of the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program, which can be found in the “Pocket Seed Guide” mailed with the July, 1991 issue of this magazine, or in the upcoming July issue.

Make sure that you get a certified seed having good percentage germination. Try to use current year’s seed for better results.

An important factor in proper seeding is to maintain soil-to-seed contact. It is difficult to achieve this in lawns having heavy thatch. Ideally, lawns with greater than one inch of thatch should be dethatched prior to seeding. Yearly aerification may minimize the thatch build-up problem if the thatch is less than one inch thick.

As far as seeding methods on established lawns, one method would be to spread seeds after aerifying. With this approach, seedlings may emerge in clumps from aerification holes. The seeds deposited on other areas in the lawn may or may not establish well because they are not in contact with the soil.

Another method is to use verticutting equipment such as a verticutter or a slicer/seeder, and then seeding. Most commercial people prefer a slider/seeder (aeroseeder) which will slice the ground and drops the seeds in the groove in one operation. This method is better, in that it will allow the seed-to-soil contact. This method can also be used to perform no-till renovation. Unless seeding into an existing lawn of fine-leafed tall fescue, the existing vegetation should be first killed by treating with non-selective herbicides such as Roundup. Seed after waiting for seven to 10 days.

After dethatching lawns with heavy thatch, you can use any of the above methods to renovate a lawn. However, the slider/seeder method would give better results.

Because of excessive thatch in some situations, the sod may have to be stripped first. In this case, prepare proper seedbed by tilling and raking. Then spread one-half of the recommended rate of seed in one direction and the other half in another direction. Gently drag a leaf rake to ensure seed-to-soil contact. Then spread straw over the seeded area. Keep the seeded areas moist but not we during germination and establishment.

**Biocontrols for bagworms**

**Problem:** Are there any biocontrol programs we can use to manage bagworms on evergreens? Sometimes we also see the bagworms on other plants such as honeylocust. What would you recommend, and when is the best time to provide treatment? *(Pennsylvania)*

**Solution:** You can use *Bacillus thuringiensis* (B.t.). It can be purchased under the names Dipel, thuricide or Foray. Reportedly, Novo Foray B.t. has slightly longer residual activity than other products.

These bacterial biocontrol products can be sprayed onto trees.

The bagworm can attack both the evergreens and deciduous trees. They can be found on plants such as junipers, arborvitae, spruce, linden, pyracanthia, crabapples, bald cypress and honeylocust. If the problem is not severe, hand-pick the bags and destroy them.

It is important to inspect susceptible plants during May and June and spray when the bags are 1/4 inch long or less. After treatment, periodically monitor the bags for insects inside the bags. If the larvae are still present, re-treat.

Dr. Balakrishna Rao is Manager of Technical Resources for the Davey Tree Co., Kent, Ohio.

**Questions should be mailed to “Ask the Expert,” LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT, 7500 Old Oak Bldg., Cleveland, OH 44130. Please allow two to three months for an answer to appear in the magazine.**
It's not only your job. You live and breathe it.
It could be something you realized a long time ago, when you were a kid looking out the classroom window wishing you were on the other side. Maybe it was years later, when you couldn’t wait for the weekend to come so you could get out there. Or maybe you just always knew. That, for you, forty hours a week stuck inside an office was no way to live.

So here you are, with a job that lets you be outdoors a good portion of every working day. And love for nature and the environment had a lot to do with it.

At DowElanco, we know those

Wasn’t it love for nature that got you into this bu
feelings play a big role in the way you approach your job. Of course you want beautiful turfgrass, but you want to protect the environment while you're creating it.

So we're doing some things to help you out. One example is the work we're doing to develop better product packaging. In fact, right free training materials for your staff, and free equipment that will help you handle and use pesticides more safely.

And, most important, we're sharing information that can help re and the environment in the first place?

now, we offer some of our products in water-soluble packets, and others in returnable containers.

We've also developed a research staff that's entirely devoted to turf and ornamental projects. Their work is leading to concentrated products that require less volume and fewer applications.

Then there's our Responsibility Comes First program. It gives you the opportunity to receive you use pesticides more effectively, and in smaller amounts. You'll find it in our free books on responsible pest management. We'd like to send you one. Return the coupon below, or call our toll-free number. It's the first of many steps you can take to protect the environment.

Are We Doing This Just To Be Nice?

We've just published three books on how to use pesticides more responsibly. The question is, why?

Well, we believe it's in our best interests to look out for your best interests. By helping you create an effective, responsible pest management program, we'll make a customer instead of just a sale. When that happens, everybody wins.

The chemistry is right.
In the South, where weeds are a problem most of the year, you don't get much of a break from using herbicides. Studies show it doesn't harm root systems. So Southern turf stays strong and healthy.

And Surflan lasts up to a month longer than other herbicides. Just two or three applications gives you year-round control of more than fifty weeds, including goosegrass, crabgrass and *Poa annua*. That can help you put less chemical into the environment.

Surflan is also very gentle on off-target plants. In fact, it can be.

People use a herbicides. Mild usually
cide. So the milder your herbicide is to turfgrass, off-target plants and the environment, the better off you are.

That's why you should seriously consider Surflan* herbicide for your weed control program.

**How To Keep Weeds From Sneaking Up On You.**

University studies show crabgrass and goosegrass germinate when soil at 2" reaches the following temperatures for three consecutive days: loam 50-52°F, heavy wet clay 53-57°F, sand 49-51°F. Measuring soil temperature allows you to predict germination, and time your herbicide application for maximum control.

Surflan is very mild on all warm season grasses. When used properly on established turf, university