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GOLFERS WARNED: BEE STING CAN BE FATAL

Bee stings can be fatal to hypersensitive golfers.

That reminder comes from James W. Brandt, president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, who adds:

"Every year, thousands of golfers and other outdoor sportsmen are stung by insects such as bees, wasps, hornets and yellow jackets. Most stings are not serious, causing but slight discomfort. In rare cases of hypersensitivity, however, one bee sting can cause death."

Brandt suggested that all golfers see their doctors now.

"Ask the physician to administer a simple allergy test. If negative results show, he will begin a immunization program and prescribe inexpensive emergency medication," Brandt said.

He noted that medical authorities claim hypersensitivity to insect venom, while extremely rare, is very dangerous if undiscovered and left untreated.

The American Medical Association, he added, has reported that for about 95 per cent of those persons treated for bee stings, therapy proved effective.

"Many bee-sting fatalities could have been prevented. All that needed to be known was a person's susceptibility prior to the sting," Brandt stated.

The Danville (Ill.) Country Club golf superintendent commented on a study of case histories conducted by the Insect Allergy Committee of The American Academy of Allergy.

"It indicated," he said, "there's a higher incidence of insect sting reaction among allergic persons or individuals with allergic tendencies, but only a few will be so sensitive that death could be probable."

Based on other information from the American Medical Association, Brandt called attention to the following hints that may help avoid attracting insects and prevent stings:

1. Insects only sting in self defense when threatened or disturbed, especially if their nests are endangered.

2. They are very sensitive to air motion and are more apt to attack anything that stirs the air and excites them.

3. Bees seem to be attracted to and/or angered by dark colors. Light pastel shades don't seem to annoy them.

4. Insect repellants, while not foolproof, may be helpful and hypersensitive golfers would be wise to use one.

5. Insects are attracted to floral odors. Try not to use aftershaves, colognes, hair or other cosmetic preparations before teeing-off.

6. If a bee, wasp or yellow jacket flies close by or lands on you, try to stay still or move slowly. Chances are if you attempt to brush it away the motion will frighten the insect, and it will sting.

Brandt cautioned golfers that it takes time to build resistance and treatment now could save one's life.

"Why take an unnecessary chance. If you aren't hypersensitive, the most you can spend is a small amount of time and money. If you are hypersensitive, you have done yourself and your family a great service," Brandt said.

Defending champ Art Donaldson is expected to be among the entries when the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America holds its annual golf championship January 15-17, 1969, at the King's Inn Golf Club, Freeport, Grand Bahama Island.

Golf superintendent for the Capilano Golf and Country Club, West Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Donaldson won the crown last year at Monterey, California, with a 150, over the 36-hole distance.

Tournament chairman, Stanley E. Clarke, Jr., past president of the South Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association, the host group, said that registration forms and entry fees must be submitted to GCSAA headquarters, 3158 Des Plaines Avenue, Des Plaines, Illinois 60018, no later than December 15.

He added that major trophies will be presented during the 40th International Turfgrass Conference and Show which will be held January 19-24, 1969, at the Fontainebleau Hotel, Miami Beach, Florida.

Additional information can be had by writing GCSAA headquarters.

Kenneth G. Weill, service manager of commercial products for the Jacobsen Manufacturing Company, Racine, Wisconsin, will be a demonstrating participant in the Fairway Mower Maintenance Clinics of the 40th International Turfgrass Conference and Show, January 19-24, 1969, at the Fontainebleau Hotel, Miami Beach, Florida.

James W. Brandt, president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), the sponsoring group, made the announcement. He said the informative clinics are scheduled to run simultaneously but will be repeated so that the many people expected at the conference will have an opportunity to attend all the clinics.

Weill has conducted clinics of this type throughout the United States, including Hawaii. He recently conducted a service training program in Europe. A Jacobsen employee for 26 years, he is also the director of education and the director of field service for the firm.

In addition to slides, Weill will use an actual mower in his presentation. Overhaul and grinding manuals will be available without charge to those who attend the clinics.

Jay Dermer, Mayor of Miami Beach, Florida, will extend the City's official greetings at the opening session of the 40th International Turfgrass Conference and Show, January 19-24, 1969, at the Fontainebleau Hotel, Miami Beach, Florida.

Sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, the Conference will feature some 40 outstanding speakers, including research scientists, agronomists, golf course superintendents, and officials of other golf agencies, James W. Brandt, GCSAA president said.

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