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WATCH FOR FERTILIZER QUACKS

If you're approached to buy a new and unusual soil treatment material, think before you buy. You may be talking to a fertilizer quack.

Sam Aldrich, University of Illinois agronomist, says many of the materials have no proven value on Illinois soils. He suggests you consider these points before you buy:

— Study the specific claims. Ask about the guaranteed analysis and whether the elements are in an available form.

— Ask whether the material has been tested by an unbiased research institution such as the U. of I. Testimonials from farmers in other states — under different soil and crop conditions — are likely worthless. And chances are, the farmer made no real comparison with standard fertilizers.

— Compare the cost of actual plant nutrients with the cost of equal nutrients in standard fertilizers.

Aldrich says the quacks often claim that their product stimulates the release of locked-up soil nutrients, feeds the soil bacteria, conditions the soil, guards against drought and in general supplies nutrients more efficiently than conventional fertilizers.

Some salesmen do not guarantee a level of nitrogen, phosphorus or potassium to sidestep regulations of the Illinois fertilizer law.

In some cases, the materials supposedly provide benefits from micronutrients, but the content is not guaranteed and may be less than is already in the soil.

Aldrich points out that the nutrients may not be available even if they are present and several elements present are not used in plant growth.



Prof. Emeritus H. B. Musser

Professor Burton Musser, a valued friend of the turf industry, passed away August 12, at the age of 74. Prof. Musser retired from Penn State University in 1959 after many years of distinguished service. "Burt", as he was affectionately called, was responsible for the development of Penncross bent which many of our golf courses use today.

He was a speaker at many turf meetings and wrote numerous articles. His contributions have been far more than would be expected from many men. Prof. Musser was honored at a pre-retirement dinner in February, 1959. In January, 1966, he was awarded the Greens Section award of the USGA for "distinguished service to golf through work with turfgrass." "Burt" was also a Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy, another distinguished award. His life, though rich in spirit, was also modest. He was a man who spoke only when he had something important to say. Yes, "Burt" will be sorely missed by all of us who were privileged to know him.

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed?

Or are you just contented that your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings, and mingle with the flock,

Or do you stay at home and criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part to help the work along,

Or are you satisfied to be the kind that just belongs?

Do you do your job well without a kick,

Or do you leave the work to just a few and talk about the clique?

There's quite a program scheduled that I'm sure you heard about,

And 'twill be appreciated, too, if you will come and help out.

Think this over, member, you know right from wrong.

Are you an active member, or do you just belong?

Author unknown