

The Bull Sheet is looking for news. Something of actual experience or observation that we can use. Something that will help the golf course superintendent perform a better way in maintaining the golf course. Your cooperation will be appreciated. Send it to me. Do it now.

Do you have a problem pertaining to our profession? If you do, send it to the Bull Sheet. We may not be in a position to solve it, but we sure will give it a try.

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BETTER BAN IT?

Two Kentucky doctors, Berel L. Abrams and Norton G. Waterman of the University of Louisville School of Medicine, ran lab tests on \$13.47 worth of coins of all denominations and \$150 worth of small bills which they'd borrowed from various individuals. Findings? — 13% of the coins and 42% of the bills were contaminated with bacteria which could cause disease.

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Dutch Elm

Here's how it runs: Premise — European wasp feeds exclusively on elm bark beetle larvae. Premise — European wasp can survive winter temperatures of -20 degrees — the same as elm bark beetle. Premise — European wasp propagates at twice the rate of elm bark beetle. Irrefutable conclusion — Since MSU scientists have already released several thousand European wasps, elm bark beetle will ultimately be wiped out, the fungus will be annihilated, and even the wasp itself will disappear when its food supply is gone. Aristotle would be proud. Price tag for this project — unavailable.

— **Iowa State:** Professors and others at Iowa are taking pictures of the dreaded fungus through an "electron microscope." So far the photos have cost \$5,000, but the theory is that they will help scientists develop larger vessel structures and "rejection mechanisms" so that infected elms can isolate their problem and cure themselves.

— **Syracuse University:** Researchers here are experimenting with the sex life of the elm bark beetle. They are using their grant money to isolate and synthesize the chemical which the female uses to attract the male. You'll be glad to know that you can buy this chemical commercially after the breakthrough. Don't mix it up with your Old Spice.

— **Cornell University:** Here there is hope that by Arbor Day, 1972, elm trees will be available which will be resistant to the disease. Say CU: "Trained observers have detected a distinction in the relative dimensions of xylem vessels of susceptible and resistant strains and there is abundant evidence to indicate this is related to growth rate and is a consistent marker characteristic innate in these strains and not modified by environment." This kind of language cost the ERI \$75,000, and we hope they understand it.

— **University of Maine:** Working with a buzz saw instead of scalpel, professors are working on techniques of "tree surgery" for cutting out infected parts of elms. This \$5,000 study is aimed at determining at what stage of infection and at what point of severance, surgery can save infected elms.

— **U.S.D.A.:** Finally, we pass on this funny little fact, in hopes that you'll grasp the humor of it. Among the requests for research grants which the ERI has received, is one from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Alas, the branch government which gave Senator Eastland \$200,000 annually for **not growing** cotton and deals out millions of dollars to thousands of others for not growing something else, comes to the private sector for a pittance-worth of research money for Dutch elm disease.

ERI is to be commended for putting together the most concise, most all encompassing, and most humorous periodic statements on the Dutch elm question. And we hope they'll forgive us for poking a little fun their way.

Courtesy "The Landscaper"

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