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# TORO DISTRIBUTING

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**TORO**

By Donald Gerber

Superintendent Chicago Golf Club

Recently I read a newspaper article which may interest some of you. The subject of the article was radioactive isotopes, the man made substances that give off radiation which enables them to be traced wherever they travel. Admittedly, this may be a dreary subject to many of us. However, one of the applications of radioactive isotopes should be interesting to all of us. For example, by tagging plant nutrients it is possible to determine when, where and how plants use them. When it was proved thus that tobacco plants made little use of commercial phosphates, the fertilizer manufacturers changed their analysis. In some areas farmers fertilized their corn at considerable cost before it was detasseled. Use of radioactive phosphorus proved that plants do not use the applied fertilizer after they are knee high. Is it not conceivable that some day radioactive isotopes may influence the manner and methods that we use to grow turfgrass, trees, shrubs and flowers?

I have cited this subject because it illustrates the fact that, although we are constantly confronted with new (and old) problems, science and the men associated with science shall provide us with much of the knowledge which will make our endeavors more fruitful and rewarding. The extent to which they shall aid us will be governed by the support, cooperation and influence of our profession.

But let us not be content with agronomic proficiency. The role of the golf course superintendent in the game of golf has expanded and is becoming increasingly important. Not only shall we be responsible for the maintenance of a golf course, we shall assume administrative and managerial duties. Our prestige shall be the sum of our personality, ability, effort and ambition.

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