

## ANNOUNCING

**DESTRUCTIVE TURF INSECTS** is the title of a new long-awaited book by Dr. Harry Niemczyk, turfgrass entomologist. The book covers pests of warm and cool season grasses, contains over 130 color photos and is written in easy-to-read language. Included is a color photo guide to identifying insects and mites that inhabit the soil, thatch, leaves and stems. Nine chapters cover: Life Cycles; Principles of Control; Preventive Programs for Select Major Pests; Equipment and Methods of Detecting Turf Insects and References. Available October 20, 1981, the book is 8 x 11, spiral bound with a durable plastic cover. \$18.95 plus \$1.25 per copy postage and handling. HDN BOOK SALES, 2935 Smithville W. Rd., Wooster, OH 44691.

I've trod the links with many a man,  
And played him club for club;  
"Tis scarce a year since I began  
And I am still a dub.  
But this I've noticed as we strayed  
Along the bunkered way,  
No one with me has ever played  
As he did yesterday."

It makes no difference what the drive,  
Together as we walk,  
Till we up to the ball arrive,  
I get the same old talk:  
"To-day there's something wrong with me,  
Just what I cannot say.  
Would you believe I got a three  
For this hole--yesterday?"

I see them top and slice a shot,  
And fail to follow through,  
And with their brassies plough the lot,  
The very way I do.  
To six and seven their figures run,  
And then they sadly say:  
"I neither dubbed nor foozled one  
When I played--yesterday."

I have no yesterdays to count,  
No good work to recall;  
Each morning sees hope proudly mount,  
Each evening sees it fall.  
And in the locker room at night,  
When men discuss their play,  
I hear them and I wish I might  
Have seen them--yesterday.

Oh, dear old yesterday! What store  
Of joys for men you hold!  
I'm sure there is no day that's more  
Remembered or extolled.  
I'm off my task myself a bit,  
My mind has run astray;  
I think, perhaps, I should have writ  
These verses--yesterday.

Edgar A. Guest

## SUCCULENTS AS HOUSE PLANTS

Succulents are plants with thick, juicy stems and/or leaves. They are found in many plant families. Succulents generally make good house plants because they do not require much care and grow well under average home conditions of higher temperature and low humidity. "Succulent" is just a descriptive term - not a botanical classification, says James A. Fizzell, University of Illinois Horticulturist in Cook County.

The cactus is a favorite among succulents used as house plants. Some are **Echinocactus**, **Esposte**, **Echinocereus**, **Opuntia**, **Ferocactus**, and **Trichocereus**.

Another popular group of succulents is the Aloes. These are available in many forms. Two well-known ones are the **Barbados aloe [Aloe vera]**, and the **Aloe variegata**. Sap from these plants is often used on burns. One of the Euphorbias, **Euphorbia lactea**, is also often selected as a house plant. This Euphorbia grows erect like a tree, has a thorny, three-sided trunk and small leaves that end to drop off soon after they are formed. It is commonly called Crown of Thorns.

The Crassula is another well-liked succulent group. A prize member is the jade plant. (**Crassula argentea**).

Several of the Sedums - **Sedum pachphyllum**, **S. adolphi**, and **S. morganianum** - make good pot plants. The **morganianum** - commonly called the burro's tail - is used in a hanging basket.

Other well-known succulents are the **Byrophyllum** and **Kalanchoe**.

The cultural care (soil, temperature, watering) of all the succulents is similar. Generally, they need a porous soil mix that is well drained and has some organic matter and soil in it. Succulents perform best in a reasonably rich soil mix. The more tropical succulents prefer soil on the acid side, while the desert-type succulents like slight alkalinity. A soil mix of one part garden loam, one part organic matter such as sphagnum moss, and two parts coarse sand or perlite works well.

Most succulents prefer sunlight. A few will grow under lower light conditions but will have different colors than when grown in full sunlight.

All of the succulents need good air circulation.

As a group, the succulents require less water than many other house plants. They can go for longer periods between waterings and can get on the dry side with less damage than many other plants. Overwatering results in root loss and wilting of succulents.

During the longer days of the growing season when the plants get more light, they need more water. During the shorter days of winter, they need less.

Succulents should be fertilized when the plants are growing actively (usually the longer days of spring and summer). Never use more than one-fourth to one-third of the amount recommended on any of the house plant fertilizer packages. Discontinue feeding when the plants show no further growth.

James A. Fizzell, Sr. Extension Adviser

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## FOR SALE

2 new 1979 never been used Jacobson Commercial 20'' Rotary Mowers \$350.00 each.

1964 Worthington 6 blade 5 gang rough mowers, including frames. Reel stock good \$2000.00.

Contact **Ed Fischer**, Old Elm Club, 312 — 432-6276.