

### BROTHERLY LOVE

This is a tough one because it happened too soon. I've written about some of my friends who left us after a full life and now I need to write about my brother **Rodney**, who died suddenly and left a void in all the hearts that knew and loved him. Rod didn't have a mean bone in his whole body. Generosity, quick wit, loyalty, friendship and love were his everyday virtues. Dedication to his job and to his family were his prize possessions and he never swerved from this path. Damn it! How I am going to miss him coming over to my golf course, walking and whistling, looking for his older brother to have a cup of coffee with and asking me over for another Sunday dinner. He wore a leather cowboy hat better than **Gary Cooper** ever did and he walked like the heros **Zane Grey** used to describe in his books. I am going to miss **Rodney's** call and I wish now, that I called him more often. He went straight home every day except for a few beers at his beloved watering place, Hackneys in Wheeling. If he didn't show up his friends would call him and ask him if he was sick or what is wrong?

Friday night, December 5, **Rodney**, my sweet wonderful kid brother didn't show up. He went to his bed and died. God! how **Peter** and **Andy** my two brothers, **Geeg**, **Johnny** the bear and **Shultz** are going to miss him, as well as all of you who knew **Rodney**.

Paul Voykin

### SOIL ANALYSIS: WHO, WHERE & HOW

The cost of fertilizer materials escalates each year. Application expenses, equipment and wages are also increasing. Accurate measurements of existing nutritional levels must be available to plan sensible fertilizer applications. Experience and up to date records are very helpful in planning fertilizer programs. Periodic soil testing, however, should always be part of the planning of fertilizer programs. Not only will soil tests insure that adequate levels of fertilizer are being added, but they can also prevent costly over applications.

Soil testing does have limitations. One extremely important point to remember is that a green or fairway cannot be tested. The soil that is tested is only a sample and may or may not represent the soil from that green or fairway. This fact makes proper sampling essential. Modern soil testing labs have developed standard test methods which are generally more accurate and sensitive than are needed. In most cases the calibration of a fertilizer spreader to the degree of accuracy obtainable by soil tests is not possible. Soil sampling, therefore, has the greatest potential for error.

Soil sampling is easy and if done properly can well represent the area sampled. The following simple steps should be followed to assure that representative samples are obtained:

1. Sample each green and fairway separately.
2. Avoid unusual areas. Do not sample wet areas, low spots, near traps, bare areas, etc.
3. Use either a cup cutter or a soil tube to assure that uniform soil cores are being taken. These tools also provide an easy way to obtain an equal volume of soil from each core.
4. Each soil core should be taken to a depth of 6 inches.
5. Ten to 15 cores should be obtained at random for each green or fairway.
6. Thoroughly mix the cores and withdraw a one-

half to one pint sample from the mixture.

7. Submit this sample along with a completed soil test information form to the lab.

The soil testing program in Illinois is a decentralized service provided by local laboratories. There are approximately 60 of these local laboratories in the state which periodically submit samples to the Department of Agronomy, University of Illinois for check testing. For a current list of the laboratories and their addresses, write to:

**Dr. T. W. Fermanian**  
106D HFL, University of Illinois

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