

THE DANIEL FUND

To members of the turf industry:

Dr. W. H. Daniel, who has guided the Purdue University turf program since its inception in 1950, has completed thirty-five years of service and is retiring 30 April 1985. His many friends and colleagues wish to acknowledge his devo-



tion and contributions to the turf industry by establishing a fund in his name. The Daniel Fund will be used to provide scholarships for deserving turf students and to further turf research.

We are asking for your assistance in this endeavor which will not only honor Bill Daniel and his achievements, but will also represent an investment in the future of the turf industry. There are some advantages associated with your gift.

FEDERAL TAX ADVANTAGE — Those who itemize may deduct 100% of charitable contributions subject to a general limitation of 50% adjusted gross income. Those who used standard deductions may deduct 25% of the first \$400.00 charitable contributions.

INDIANA TAX ADVANTAGE — Indiana residents may increase their giving power by taking advantage of credit for support of education. You may have one-half of your gift returned by the State of Indiana as a tax credit by filing the CC-40 form, i.e. - a \$400.00 joint gift could cost you as little as \$100.00.

Many firms and employers provide matching funds for your gift. Others may wish to contribute because of past or present association with Dr. Daniel or the turf industry.

All contributions to The Daniel Fund will be forwarded to the Purdue Agricultural Alumni Office for deposit and administration. The Board of Directors of the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation will be responsible for decisions regarding expenditures from the fund.

The Midwest Regional Turf Conference, March 4-6, 1985, will be the last one organized by Dr. Daniel. We plan to announce the development of The Daniel Fund at this time and so we request that contributions be received prior to February 15, 1985.

Please make checks payable to: Ag Alumni Trust - Daniel Fund.

Send them to the attention of: Mrs. Jo Horn, Midwest Regional Turf Foundation, Department of Agronomy, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907.

We truly appreciate your help in this worthwhile endeavor.

**Eugene Johanningsmeier, Chairman
Midwest Regional Turf Foundation
Purdue University**

REMEMBER

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the person who did it.**

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Treated Fuels Add Color to Fireplace

A fireplace aglow with colored flames can add brightness and cheer at Christmas time.

How is this accomplished? By using evergreen cones, small blocks of wood or kindling, wood chips, sawdust, or even one-inch diameter rolls of tightly wrapped newspapers secured at both ends can be treated chemically to produce colored flames. After soaking in chemical solutions and drying these materials will give off varied colored flames when burned in a fireplace.

Copper sulfate will produce a green color; calcium chloride or calcium phosphate, an orange; copper chloride, blue; lithium chloride, carmine; and potassium chloride, purple. Pharmacies, fertilizer plants, or chemical houses, are good sources of these chemicals.

Do NOT use chlorates, nitrates or potassium permanganate. Chemicals should be kept away from children and pets at all times. To avoid storage, purchase only sufficient amounts of chemicals for treatment.

Treating should be done outdoors. Use rubber gloves and take care not to spill the chemicals or solutions. Chemicals should be dissolved in a plastic or wooden pail or earthen crock since they will ultimately ruin metal containers.

An old five-gallon paint bucket will serve well as a treating vat. Mix no more than two gallons of solution at a time. Ratio should be one pound of chemical to one gallon water. Use one chemical per batch. It is not necessary, however, to clean the bucket before changing chemicals.

Materials to be treated may be placed in an onion bag and submerged in the solution. Use a weight to keep the material submerged. After soaking the material a day or two, lift it out and drain it over the container. Then spread it out to dry. If the material is allowed to dry on newspapers, these may be rolled, wrapped tightly, and burned in the fireplace when dry.

Burning of treated materials should be confined to a well-ventilated fireplace.

Treated cones and wooden blocks make novel holiday gifts. Bags to contain these can be made from dyed mosquito netting.

**James A. Fizzell, Sr. Ext. Adviser
Horticulture, U. of I.**

REBLOOMING CHRISTMAS PLANTS

Two of the most common flowering house plants at Christmas are the Christmas Cactus, and Poinsettia. Since these plants grow so easily many people try to rebloom them for the next year. However, reblooming them for the holiday season often ends in failure. Why? According to James A. Fizzell, University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Horticulturist in Cook County, because these plants flower when nights get long. If you want December flowering, special attention to photoperiod (duration of the night) is essential right now.

For Christmas Cactus, be sure you have the true Christmas Cactus, *Schlumbergera bridgesii*. The plant flowers in December and January, and 12 to 14 hours of total darkness each night is essential until flower buds form. Remember, the plant must receive high-light levels during the normal daylight period; otherwise, it may lose many of the flower buds that will be forming. Any light striking the plant during the dark period will delay or prevent flowering.

Although this is easily controlled in the greenhouse, it is far
(cont'd. page 18)

Christmas Plants' cont'd.

more difficult in the home where all light must be shut out at other than daylight hours. Daily shading or covering the plants, or moving them to a very dark room until the next morning is a necessity.

Once the buds appear, the plants will flower regardless of day-length and night temperature. Temperature is also important in initiating buds. With normal room temperatures, the above procedure regarding light must be followed. If the temperature is between 50-55 degrees at night, flower buds will form even if the plant does not get the prescribed long nights. No flowers will form if night temperatures are above 70 degrees. Of additional importance is bud drop. This is frequently related to extremes in water or exposure to drafts. All of the above information is appropriate for Thanksgiving Cactus, too, as long as the start of darkness begins 3-4 weeks earlier.

Requirements for reblooming Poinsettia are essentially the same as for the Christmas and Thanksgiving Cactus — the number of hours of darkness (13) in a normal day at this time of the year and cooler (60-65 degrees) night temperatures. For Poinsettias, 40 days of reduced light are usually required before the first signs of color appear on the leaf bracts. Once this coloration is visible, the plants can be returned to normally lighted rooms. As discussed for Christmas Cactus, Poinsettias must also receive direct sun during the normal daylight hours.

**James A. Fizzell, Sr. Ext. Adviser
Horticulture**

Green Grass Still Growing for Grau

Fred Grau, class of '31, writes: "The School of Agriculture (president, senior class of '21) gave me a 'feel' for higher education. Six years of farming, building highways in Nebraska, Kansas and Iowa taught me that I needed higher learning.

"My GRASS career began in 1927 when Dr. Keim gave me 25¢ an hour to care for the turf plots at the Living Plant Museum on Holdrege Street. (Ed. Note: the plots mentioned by Grau were probably those that formerly were where Regents Hall is today.) Caring for the Living Museum was a full-time job and very educational. Then I became a 'greenkeeper' on alternate days (hit the books the other days) at the Shrine C.C. (now Hillcrest) on East 'O' Street. We composted stockyard waste for topdressing the greens and thus insured a crop of weeds.

"The AZ scholarship medal in my freshman year was a high point (Elvin Frolik beat me by 1/10 of a point in '30).

"The U.S. Golf Ass'n. called me to Washington, D.C. in July of '31, with a month stopover in Chicago at the Midwest Turf Gardens."

After receiving a Master's degree in '33 and a Ph.D. in '35, "...Penn State absorbed 10 years of my life with time out to tour Europe and a stint with the Office of Engineers grassing airfields. As the first extension agronomist in turf in the U.S. there was a lot of pioneering."

Back to Golf

"The U.S. Golf Ass'n. claimed me as director of the Green Section from '45 to '53. It was challenging to help establish and organize turfgrass organizations and research projects across the U.S. and Canada.

"Organizing the Turf Committee in the American Society of Agronomy was another challenge. Today there is a turf section that has permanent status.

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