

A Few Things to Think About Before Starting the Season

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There are just a few thoughts and questions to ask yourself before starting the season. They are in no particular order of importance. Hopefully, there will be something that makes you think a little.

1. Early Ordering and Budget Work Over the Winter

OK, so you have all your chemicals and fertilizers in stock and you're ready for the season, but did you just reorder the same as you've done in previous years, or did you really think about your needs and how they might be changing? Are you aware of any new products on the market and can they help you? When you did your budget, did you really think through every part of it, or did you just add a little to each budget category?

2. Did you make good use of the winter?

During the slow season, did you take the time to further train and educate your full time staff? You could do this by taking them to meetings, seminars, or by holding class in your own shop. If you have a new Pro or manager, did you take the time to get to know him and talk about the coming year.

3. Do you have a general plan for the year?

We all have to adjust to the weather, but do you have an idea of what you want to accomplish each stage of the season?

4. When was the last time you measured tees, greens and fairways?

With some of the newer fungicides being used at rates as low as 1 oz., it was very important to know the exact size of your tees, greens and fairways.

5. Ask yourself, "How can I improve myself this year"?

As hard as we try, none of us is perfect. Think about your weaknesses, as a golf course superintendent and what can be done to improve yourself this coming season.

6. Do you have your priorities straight?

The summer can be pressure filled and intense for all of us, but don't put your job before God and your family. Last summer was tough on everybody, including the person at home listening to you complain about it.

7. Do you have an outlet?

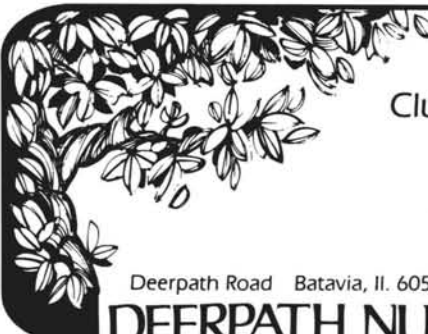
We all need an outlet for the pressure during the season. It could be golf, fishing, exercise, tennis or just getting away with your family for the afternoon, but you have to do something to relax and take your mind off your job.

Credit: Verdue 4/84

Effect of Sample Preparation and pH on the Cation Exchange Capacity of Thatch

T.K. Danneberger, A.J. Turgeon and T.R. Peck
Agronomy Journal, Vol. 76, Number 1/155-156

Where a substantial thatch layer has developed, it can serve as the primary medium supporting turfgrass growth. Chemical and physical properties of thatch are important in interpreting soil test results and plant growth response. Most research has been concerned with thatch control. Studies at the University of Illinois have focused on edaphic properties of thatch. Data from this study indicates that the nutrient-retention of a thatch layer could be substantially improved by ensuring that the thatch pH is sustained at a reasonable level.



Clump River Birch
[Betula Nigra]
Specimen Quality
3 and 4 clump stems

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