

A History of DuPont

by Frank Gasperini, DuPont

The DuPont Company is one of the oldest manufacturing companies in the United States. It was founded by E. I. DuPont in 1802 as a manufacturer of black powder. DuPont built his powder mill on the Brandywine River near Wilmington Delaware to take advantage of the water power needed to run the mills.

Throughout the 1800's DuPont grew as a manufacturer of black powder and became known for high quality. DuPont powder was the standard of military and civilian gunpowder specifications. During this time the company was a family business with DuPonts, long time employees, and second and third generation employee families working together. Due to the inherent hazards of the business, attention to safety became almost a religious pursuit within the company. This devotion to safety in all aspects of product production, movement, and end use persists in the modern DuPont Company.

DuPont was one of the first companies to use a sports celebrity sponsorship for its products. The golf tour was not yet established — but Annie Oakley was paid a retainer to use DuPont powder and appeared on DuPont posters and advertising in the late 1800's.

Throughout the late 1800's and early 1900's DuPont remained in the gunpowder and explosives business. Black powder still remained the company's primary business, though worldwide this was a declining market.

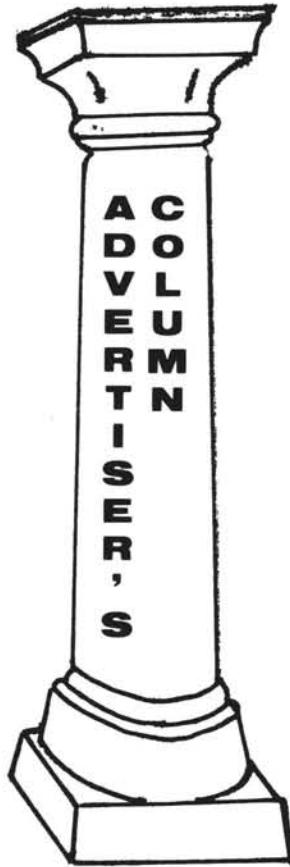
After WWI DuPont entered the dyes business and several other chemical supply businesses such as industrial acids, lacquers, etc.

It was not until the invention of "NYLON"® in a DuPont laboratory in the mid 1930's, and its commercialization in 1939, that DuPont became a major diversified chemicals company. The uses for "NYLON" grew explosively spurred by WWII. Introduction of plastics, paints, and many other synthetics followed. DuPont emerged from WWII as a major company on a world-wide scale. At one point in the 1950's DuPont owned a major portion of General Motors.

DuPont has been involved in the turfgrass industry since the early 1950's "Uramite"® slow release nitrogen fertilizers were widely used on golf courses and other recreational turf areas.

"TERSAN"® OM, which was introduced in the 1950's, was a major mercurial fungicide during a period when most disease control materials were based on heavy metals.

During the 1960's DuPont introduced "TERSAN"® 75, "TERSAN"® SP, and "TERSAN"® LSR fungicides, and



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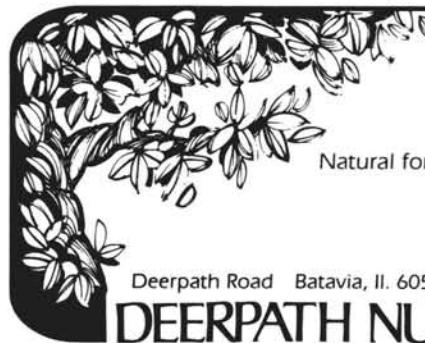
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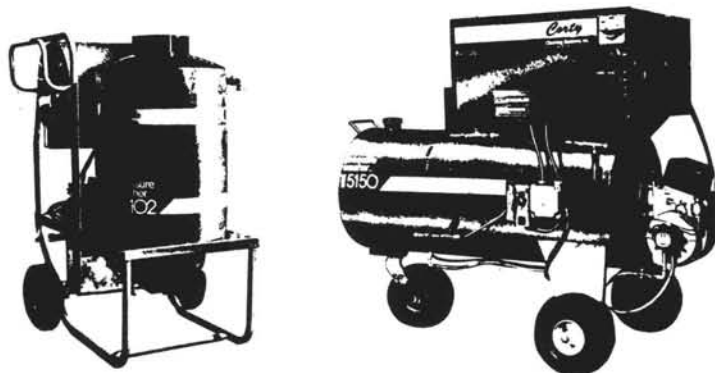
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(DuPont cont'd. from page 18)

"TUPERSAN"[®] herbicide. Our old friend Bob Miller was "Mr. DuPont" at that time and wrote many of the first truly modern fungicide programs himself — including the "TERSAN"[®] 1-2-3- program. Many active and retired superintendents in the Chicago area were instrumental in helping to do the research needed to introduce these products along with "TERSAN"[®] 1991. "TERSAN"[®] 1991 was introduced as the first systemic fungicide for golf course use. It was, and is, an important product to DuPont.

In the years that have passed some of the products have gone off the market, or been sold, and we have lost our friend Bob Miller. "TERSAN"[®] 1991 is still a major golf course fungicide nationally and we are busy developing new products for the turf and ornamental markets. We are currently looking at non-phenoxy broadleaf herbicides, grass killers for ornamental beds, and new fungicides.

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