

Dear Fred,

Page of your most recent issue carries an item of great significance. I hope that this will not be the last time that you will carry an item on soil microbes. I'll venture an opinion that the population of microorganisms in putting green soils (sand?) will fall woefully short of the figures quoted for "lawn soils".

I have introduced the term "shock absorbers" to help poorly informed people understand some of the functions of the Living Soil complex. Adequately nourished and "adjusted" periodically, the soil complex can absorb many shocks from chemicals, fertilizers that bypass the organisms, heat, cold, flooding, drought and traffic.

Beneficial forms can overpower the pathogenic types when the proper adjustments are made. Some day, perhaps not in my time, soil microbiologists will be able to "assay" the content of the Living Soil so as to guide treatments that favor the disease-suppressive types. Treatments made to turfgrass will be evaluated for their effect on the soil flora and fauna.

This is only a beginning on creating an awareness of the tremendous value of soil microorganisms and the factors that affect their well being or their demise.

Fred Grau

### Fred's Weed Patch

On my morning rounds of the golf course I noticed as I came past the 6th tee a piece of paper that seemed stuck on a branch of the hawthorne there. Being a born picker-upper of any litter and paper I naturally stopped. But this paper was special for it was a note to me. It was a scorecard torn in half and had written on it, "Fred's Weed Patch". The author of the note was right, the shrub bed was full of weeds. But I know the author wouldn't believe me if I told him that I had scheduled that particular shrub bed to be weeded two days before I saw my note.

But like anything in life you tend to put priorities on the jobs around the course — one has to do so to keep the place running. Like where would "Fred's Weed Patch" fall in line with the following: greens being mowed, fairways, tees and rough all kept cut, spraying the weeds in the rough, fixing that sprinkler that is leaking on the 8th tee, getting the traps raked from the last rain, getting your flower beds planted, making up the payroll, replacing that compressor for the lake, cleaning out the field tile for the 5th hole so it drains the next time it rains, banks need mowing, ballwasher broken on the 2nd tee, repair that divot on the 8th green, weld that mower bracket, oil is leaking from the tee mower, Jose quit to take that other job that pays 10 cents more per hour, the new flowers are wilting, the office needs all your bills, the fairways are getting dollar spot, the tees already have it, the clover you already sprayed is just getting healthier and growing four leaves, and oh yes, that weed patch of Fred's needs attention.

### Last Minute Up-Dates:

Walter Fuchs, Sr. wants to thank everyone for their cards and phone calls. He promises to make one of our Midwest meetings yet this summer. Ted Woehrl had a double by-pass surgery in mid June. Send him a get well card at 3390 Witherbee, Troy MI 48084.

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