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Fusarium Nivale, Sclerotium Rolfsii, Basil Cell Carcinoma ...

by Robert Breen Sr., Arrowhead Golf Club

Fusarium Nivale, Sclerotium Rolfsii, Basil Cell Carcinoma, Rhizocolonia-Salani, Melanoma, Melmitha Sporium Vagans, Squamous Cell Carcinoma are but a few of the diseases that, unless specific precautions are invoked, a Chicago area superintendent may encounter in his career.

If some of the above do not sound too familiar, it is because they are not turf diseases but types of skin cancer that has afflicted several superintendents as a result of overexposure to the sun's ultraviolet rays.

In the past, much of the sun's ultraviolet rays were prevented from reaching the earth's atmosphere by a stratospheric ozone screen; however, this protective screen is being depleted by the misuse of chlorofluorocarbons in industry. The House Energy and Commerce Health and Environment Subcommittee has stated that skin cancer has reached epidemic proportions as a result of this abuse and is asking the present administration to initiate diplomatic negotiations to persuade the industrial world to make deep cutbacks in the production and use of chlorofluorocarbons.

Lawrence L. Johnson, M.D., a dermatologist who practices in St. Charles, describes the three most common types as follows:

The most common type of skin cancer is called a **basal cell carcinoma**. This cancer comes from a layer near the surface of the skin called the basal layer. These cancers are the most common type of cancer in the United States. They are usually slow growing and not too aggressive. They rarely go inside the body and hurt people. However, if not taken care of, they can be quite destructive to the skin and to the tissues just under the skin. Most basal cell carcinomas if caught early enough can be easily removed and cured in one treatment.

The second most common type of skin cancer is called a **squamous cell carcinoma**. This cancer comes from the layer of skin called the squamous layer. These are not nearly as common as basal cell carcinomas, but they are considered more dangerous. Although they usually do not go inside the body, they do have that potential. Squamous cell carcinomas are most common on the lip and in the oral cavity where they can go inside the body very quickly.

The only cancer of the skin that is truly dangerous is the **melanoma**. This tumor arises from pigment cells not skin cells. Melanomas can also be found in the eye or the central nervous system or in another area where pigment cells exist. The melanoma can occur on any area of the body. In contrast, basal cells and squamous cells occur usually in sun exposed areas of skin. The incidence of melanoma cancers is increasing at an alarming rate. Deaths have even been recorded in teenagers from melanomas. Melanomas can arise spontaneously or from an irritated mole. Usually melanomas are black or dark brown, but they can be almost skin colored. It is imperative that melanomas be caught early because surgical excision is the only good treatment.

The person most vulnerable to skin cancer is an individual with blue eyes and a fair complexion. This does not rule out others who spend much of their life outdoors.

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(Fusarium cont'd.)

Dr. Johnson suggests a sunscreen for all Caucasians who are exposed for long periods to the sun's ultraviolet rays. A sunscreen is a lotion designed to give protection in varying degrees. A sunscreen with a SPF of 10 offers ten times as much protection compared to no protection. The ultimate in protection is attained with a sunscreen offering a SPF of 15. Baby Oil, mineral oil or cocoa butter do not contain any protective ingredients and should be avoided. Dr. Johnson also suggests a Sam Snead type hat as being preferable to a cap.

If you are at all in doubt about whether or not you have skin cancer, I would suggest you see a dermatologist as in most cases the treatment is painless, consisting of freezing the affected area with liquid nitrogen. The dermatologist will also have a better opportunity for early detection of melanoma, which has increased 85% over the past several years and can prove to be life threatening.

Immigration Information

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Views and Reflections

by Edwin Wollenberg, Retired Supt.

It's a beautiful day and the sun is warm and bright. And that's the way you would expect it to be in coastal Florida. But the weather in the Chicago area, I've heard, has almost been on par with "Cracker Country". It must have started many superintendents and their crews scurrying and wondering if they are ready for a new season.

This is the first year in 39 past seasons, that I don't have this responsibility. I'd be remiss in saying I don't miss it.

Received the March issue of the **Bull Sheet** this past week, and it felt so good to be still in touch. And I would like to thank the Midwest Board for my Class AA membership and keeping me on the mailing list. Also to welcome back our very capable and traveling editor — I detected a very definite "Aussie clip" in his article.

Enjoyed President Evans article "A Rebuttal" very much. I always admire our young superintendents with formal education, who get their point across with diplomacy and in a tactful manner. My rebuttal would have been very short and to the point, like, "You're a stupid rectal orifice". That's about as diplomatic as I could get. Anyway, I have put up with this type of character for more years than I like to admit to. It took me 20 plus years, scores of letters to my green committee and board, to explain way they shouldn't and couldn't play with frost on the grass in the fall and frost coming out of the soil in the spring. And the golfers hardest to educate were doctors and attorneys, who should know about the good and bad. Which leads me to a true story that is very apropos here. (cont'd. page 12)



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