

(Knowledge cont'd.)

In order to do this properly I follow these guidelines:

1. Base your recommendations only on the information you deem reliable. Often this requires a site visit.
2. Put your recommendations along with any safety concerns in writing. Don't rely on someone else's memory.
- 3: If an application of some type is involved recommend that they hire a professional.
4. If the individual is a do-it-yourselfer, take the time to explain to them the concerns listed earlier.
5. Never put the tools of your trade (specialized chemicals) in the hands of an amateur.

Now you may think this is taking things to extremes but in reality we have already reached the extreme. Chemicals use is an area that is greatly misunderstood by the general public. People's perception of how professionals handle chemicals in the work place and beyond will ultimately determine the future in how or if the chemicals are used.

Credit: Illinois Turfgrass Update May/June '92

## Students: Give Them a Chance



by Tony Rzadzki  
Cantigny Golf Club

For the past five seasons at the Cantigny Golf Club, I have had the opportunity to work with five turf students. At first I thought what a millstone. It's hard enough to manage a Hispanic crew besides throwing in one or two (book smart) Americans.

I was absolutely wrong. Over the years these students have given me more reward than anxiety. They are here to work and they are here to learn. Each one that has been here was going to school and needed on the job training to fulfill their college requirements, so they had to perform, and perform well.

What is nice about working with them, and why I do it, is that they keep you sharp. They have an unquenchable inquisitiveness. They are aggressive because they know that their time is short and they need to learn as much as possible. What is really interesting is that you can learn from them as they learn from you. They all have different personalities, as we all do, and it challenges your management strategies and helps you to develop within yourself.

What I have done over the years is to try to fuel their fire. I expose them to all the facets of golf course operation. I teach them to safely operate every machine we have. I currently have a student that is a foreman for one of our nine hole courses. I am letting him manage his course to let him know what is expected now, and what will personally be expected of him in the future when he has his own course to maintain. They can't learn it if they don't do it.

I am proud to say that two former students of mine are currently assistant superintendents. I am sure that soon they will be vying for superintendent jobs.

To me sharing knowledge is a small act that we can all perform. The benefits to others is enormous.

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