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About Tomorrow Today

Part III in a series of environmental awareness articles by Scott A. Witte, Asst. Supt., Barrington Hills C.C.

Thank you for joining me again in this issue of the **Bull Sheet!** Before I begin with Part III, remember that the first two parts of this series are in the April, and May issues respectively.

We have recently discussed the landfill crisis, and the importance of recycling. I would now like to introduce yet another environmental term known as "Precycling", not to be confused with "Recycling". You see, in 1989, the city government of Berkeley, California initiated a campaign to encourage consumers to buy products packaged in recyclable materials. They called it "Precycling".

"We recycle items after we've bought them," they explained. "We can precycle while we shop. What we buy has a direct relationship to what we throw away ... So it's time we take a serious look at what we buy in the first place. Why not reduce waste by not buying something? Perhaps this maybe the easiest way to help save the Earth! Simply by making correct buying choices, by precycling, we can prevent excessive and unsound materials from getting into our waste stream. The consumer buck must stop here, with us."

It was a good idea in 1989 — and it is an even better idea today! This is something we can do wherever we shop, or whatever we shop for. A primary reason for this precycling is that packaging alone makes up one third of what Americans throw away; and it is a luxury we can't afford. As far as "Earth Works" is concerned, precycling is an integral part of any recycling effort.

The following are some precycling tips:

- ★ The key to precycling: **THINK AHEAD**. Figure out how you're going to dispose of a product — **AND ITS PACKAGING** — before you buy it.
- ★ Think of packaging as part of the product. You get what you pay for: If the package is designed to be thrown away immediately, all you're getting for your money is cleverly-designed garbage!
- ★ When purchasing plant protectants and fertilizers, etc., the National Recycling Coalition suggests: "In the marketplace, you may ask, "What is this products function?, what is its formulation? and so on". Now ask, "How is it packaged?"
- ★ Be aware of environmentally conscious companies who package their product in an enviro-friendly manner.
- ★ Look for containers that can be reused or recycled, and buy bulk whenever possible. For example: 1. The "PAR EX" 1000 lb. Bulk-Bags. These bags are durable, reusable, and there is no need to dispose of several paper or poly-bags. 2. The closed system, micro-bulk unit offered by Ciba-Geigy as the "Banner TurfPak". This unit **ELIMINATES** container disposal and rinsate concerns. The Turf Pak offers an electronically controlled flow of material and holds 15 gallons. When emptied, the TurfPak is returned and then refilled. 3. Products such as Riverdale "Dissolve" herbicide, "Duosan WSB" fungicide by Grace Sierra, and "Turf-Mark", by Becker Underwood, all come in water soluble packets. This allows for minimal operator contact during mixing and minimal container

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disposal. The cardboard boxes that these products are delivered in are of course recyclable.

★★ Use Your Influence!

You may not think that one opinion can help change the way products are packaged, but don't sell yourself short. You have influence — The Pennsylvania Resources Council says, "When we spend our money, we 'vote' for the products that reflect our values. In environmental shopping, every individual's participation does make a difference." Furthermore, we all know what happens when products stay on the shelf for too long ... They are replaced with better ones!

I encourage you all to be environmental shoppers. Whether at your home or at your work place, any effort you make toward precycling or recycling will have a great impact on the world around you. By preventing excessive and unsound materials from getting into the waste stream, we begin to attack the land-fill crisis from the root of the problem. It is most important to remember that our environmental shopping will help curb the way that future products are bought and sold. I pray that they will be as "Environmentally-Friendly" as possible.

Thank you for your interest, see you next month!

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Greg Fuchs, Marketing Account Rep., Turf Products Ltd.

GCSAA to Sponsor Asian Golf Course Conference and Show

LAWRENCE, Kan., April 29, 1992 — The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) announced today that it will sponsor the Pacific Rim Golf Course Conference and Show in Singapore on March 15-21, 1993.

Meeting the educational needs of Pacific Rim golf course management professionals and offering manufacturers and suppliers a cost-effective way to sell their products internationally is the force behind GCSAA's new event said GCSAA President William R. Roberts, CGCS.

"The booming golf market in this area of the world presents an excellent opportunity for GCSAA. It is our intention — as it has been with our domestic activities — to produce a first-class conference and show with the highest quality level of education possible, and to make the event professionally rewarding for all," he said.

The association already sponsors the largest annual trade show in the industry — the International Golf Course Conference and Show — scheduled for Jan. 23-30, 1993, in Anaheim, Calif.

The Pacific Rim event will be structured and operated identically to GCSAA's U.S. conference. A full program of educational sessions, seminars, a distributor program and trade show — all planned with multiple-language interpreting — will be offered to exhibitors and attendees.

International representatives from Toro, Jacobsen, Ransomes/Cushman, John Deere, Rain Bird, Robert Trent Jones II and Club Car have already committed to participate in the Pacific Rim event.

Exhibitor information will be mailed to industry representatives in July. Attendee information will be sent in August.

Insects in Trees Responsible for "Sticky" Cars

by James A. Fizzell

Insects feeding in trees produce a sticky substance called Honeydew that drips on anything beneath the tree. Most people think their trees are dripping sap when it is really the bugs.

Aphids and scale insects both drip honeydew. The insect causing the most problems this season are aphids. These are pin-head sized insects feeding on leaves and new shoots of most shade trees; or on bark of willows, spruces or pine. They feed by sucking sap from the plants. But, because sap tends to be under pressure the insects get more than they can use and secrete the excess as a light, sugary syrup.

You may notice a lot of ants in trees with aphid infestations. The ants "farm" the aphids and collect honeydew upon which they feed.

Scales are sucking insects, too. The most conspicuous is cottony maple scale that appears like popcorn on twigs about the first day of summer as eggs are laid. Scales get their name from the waxy covering they produce as protection. Once they make scales they cannot be killed by insecticides.

Honeydew drips constantly from infected trees making everything beneath them very sticky. Shed skins of the insects drop as well sticking in the honeydew. If that and the stickiness isn't bad enough, a black, sooty mold often grows on the honeydew making a real mess.

Feeding of the insects may damage leaves or stems but is not likely to harm a large tree.

Scales and aphids are hosts of a large number of predators including lady bugs, lacewings, and parasitoids. If you see tiny black beetles with a red dot on each wing cover among scales, or brown spiny grubs among the aphids, you can be sure nature is at work eliminating the problem.

Where dripping is particularly objectionable over cars or patios, and no predators are present, the recommendation is either forcibly hosing down the tree to wash aphids off or spraying with malathion to kill aphids and young scales.

Be sure to read instructions on any chemicals before you buy or use them.

Technical Editor

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