

(Trees & Golf Courses continued)

not be dysfunctional. Proper pruning improves the future branching habit.

Young trees benefit from touch-up pruning which is best done on an annual basis for the first 3 to 5 years. Do this and you will minimize many future structural and aesthetic concerns. This is surely a good way to keep people busy in those long winter months. Dormant season pruning should be emphasized.

There are pruning classes available if your people do not have the knowledge or are uncomfortable with their attempts at pruning. Do not allow unskilled people to prune your trees.

Other tree maintenance concerns we will try to briefly discuss are fertilization, pest management, cable/brace techniques and diseases of trees. We wish to emphasize the importance of proper mulching throughout this program.

Trees are important to your golf course and to our environment. Let's spend our time on what we can do to help the trees and keep the world of golf pleasant and beautiful.



### And A Pinch of Baking Soda

Ready for a really handy fungicide? Dr. Kenneth Horst and his colleagues at Cornell University are seeing startling results using sodium bicarbonate (baking soda) to control powdery mildew and other fungal diseases. The compound, mixed with various spreader/sticker agents, not only prevents the growth of several fungal diseases, it cleans up plants already stricken.

Horst's work is primarily with ornamentals, but colleagues have had good results with grains, cucurbits, small fruit, and turf. Horst is unsure why a common compound such as baking soda works against diseases, but he says it controls mildews better than any other product he has seen, including those chemicals specifically marketed for mildew control.

Working with Church and Dwight, makers of Arm and Hammer baking soda, Horst recently met with EPA representatives in Washington. The goal: to get pesticide registration waivers or exemptions so that this product can be used in the agricultural market. The meetings, says Horst, were "very productive", and he expects to have sodium bicarbonate registered for use on ornamentals within 8 to 12 months. Registration for food crops would follow quickly, he believes.

**Credit: Pesticides Coordinator Report**



Midwest Golf Development, Inc. is pleased to announce a new service to its clients. With the purchase of a WK DAHMS - Stone Slinger from Canada, we now have the ability to rapidly and efficiently spread sand in golf course bunkers and waste areas.

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