



# Making the Same Mistake, Twice

*My column last month, "A Lesson Learned?," told you of my poor judgment in not using a respirator when measuring out toxic, powdered chemicals and the persistent nosebleeds that resulted. This month, I will tell you about a similar experience some 10 years later, during the early 1960s when I was at Bob O'Link Golf Club.*

Again, working in cooperation with agronomist O.J. Noer, we agreed to a joint venture of field-testing fine, powdered sewerage sludge on putting green turf. We began our project by calibrating our drop spreader output on the concrete floor of the maintenance shop on a 10 foot by 10 foot area of 100 square feet. In the process of sweeping up the material and weighing it, etc., we created considerable dust but we felt that with all the doors and windows open that the dust would not be a problem.

The testing procedure on our putting green nursery proved to be excellent and we moved on to the regular greens on the course. We applied ¼-pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per week for four weeks in a row and the results were just what we had hoped for. However, we did encounter one large problem in the process: I developed a serious pulmonary problem that put me in the hospital for three weeks. After several doses of antibiotics, my doctor informed me that the pathologists had discovered a type of bacteria

in my lungs that was normally only present in the intestinal tract. Immediately, I made the assumption that the sludge might have been the source. Regardless, I recovered and learned once again that when you are in our field of work, you must have all personnel use respirators when working with any potentially hazardous chemical.

Lesson learned: Learn from your mistakes and don't let them happen a second time.



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