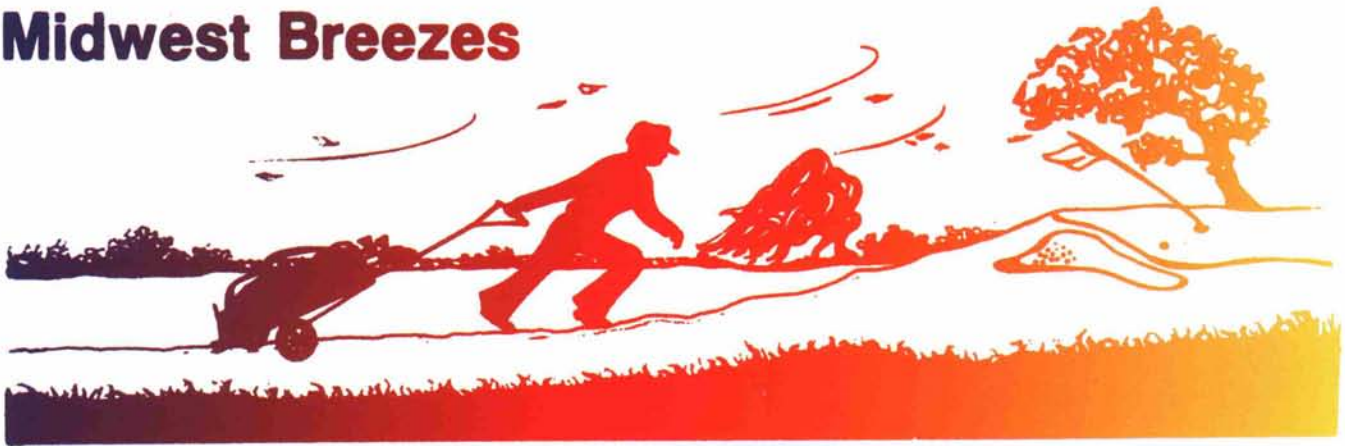


Midwest Breezes



Recently at the Chicago Botanical Gardens in Glen-coe, I noticed that the gardeners were mulching with a compost that was made up of screened and shredded decaying tree leaves. I was surprised to learn that this material could be purchased by the truckload from DK Organics in Lake Bluff. I am now using this material in all of the places where I have traditionally used shredded hardwood mulch.

- The color and texture of the leaf compost is similar to cocoa bean-hulls mulch.
- Many of my beds have been covered for 4 weeks now, and the rich, dark color has not faded from exposure to the sun.
- The material seems to hold moisture in our annual flowerbeds more effectively than hardwood mulch has in the past.

- The material is doing a comparable job of discouraging weed germination
- Other than an occasional small twig in the mix, the leaf compost has no wood-fiber content to rob the soil of nitrogen
- Leaf compost withstands washout. There are no buoyant woody solids in leaf compost to float or gather at the bottom of a sloped landscape.
- I am planning to roto-till the leaf compost into the soils of my annual flowerbeds, next spring, prior to planting. I anticipate that this should replace the organic matter to the soil structure which annual flowers tend to deplete over time.

*Brad Anderson, CGCS
Midlane Country Club*

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Wynstone's Ted Fist Takes Innovative Approach to Bunker Drainage

Wynstone Golf Club's original bunkers have become contaminated with sediment run-off over the years. In addition, the original faces of most greenside bunker have deepened with seasonal erosion. This degradation has led to an uncontrollable buried lie problem on the course.

Ted Fist, Golf Course Superintendent of Wynstone, plans to remediate these problems. Prior to renovating each bunker on the course, Ted has begun preliminary testing of various methods and products on two new bunkers, recently constructed by National Golf Builders and drawn up by Nicklaus Design.

Two layers of fabric material were used inside the bunker cavity: the first layer on the bunker floor is Mirafi Filterweave 402, a woven monofilament liner, that will keep clay from migrating upwards into the sand. Over this layer, Ted installed Sand Mat liner for erosion control of the sand.

No pea gravel was used to fill in the trenches. Instead, Ted chose to use an ADS product called BIO2 Diffuser which comes in pieces 15 inches high, 12 inches wide, and 87 inches long. The BIO2 Diffuser was placed into the drain trenches as a chamber system. The outflow drain pipe was connected to the BIO2 Diffuser. Ted explains, "the price of the sand was so high (\$78 ton delivered) I felt this was a good way to cut costs, and to also eliminate the possibility of pea gravel from migrating into the new sand."

The newly remodeled bunkers were filled with Pro-Angle sand at a depth of six inches at the base and approximately two inches on the edges and high flashes. Ted states that "so far the bunkers have not washed out at all even with the heavier rains that we have had this past couple of months." With the success of this innovative approach Ted plans to eventually use this system in every bunker on the golf course.

*Rob Nixon, Assistant Superintendent
Barrington Hills Country Club*

