

THE BULL SHEET, official publication of THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS.

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The President's Message

I would like to invite all Superintendent members to consider donating their club for a monthly meeting.

I would like to request that all Superintendent members seriously consider having a meeting at their club in the near future. It seems strange that we have over 300 members and have trouble finding monthly meeting sites. I realize that some clubs are unable to make their facilities available. But, I wonder if part of the problem may be due to some of the members' behavior. Most members work hard to keep their course in peak condition for their golfers. When they have a meeting they spend a lot of extra time preparing their course for their fellow Superintendents. They will invite their Greens chairmen, owners, etc., to meet their fellow Superintendents, etc. They want their Greens chairmen, etc., to also become acquainted with our educational methods, so we can continue to enjoy their support. If the behavior of some of the members happens to embarrass the host Superintendent, he won't take the risk of having another meeting at his club.

The purpose of our meetings is partly social and partly educational, with the emphasis on the educational part of the meeting. Any imbalance can only serve to deteriorate the organization. We should all stop and think what we want this organization to do for us, if we want to retain an organization that is a great asset to the local superintendents.

Dick Trevarthan



While remodeling his office, our friend Mike Mulvihill, Superintendent of Kankakee Elks C.C. tried to find a bull elk head for his wall. As you see, he didn't, but he came up with a head for a planter. Mike tells us that it really grows plants. He claims that the water holder keeps moisture available and the fertilizing is self-controlled. This urinal planter, while being nice to look at, also doubles as a relief site for his tall friends. His plans are to cover the locker room walls with this new decor.



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Copies of this message available from Scotts, the grass people, Marysville, Ohio 43040. No reprint permission necessary.

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Paul

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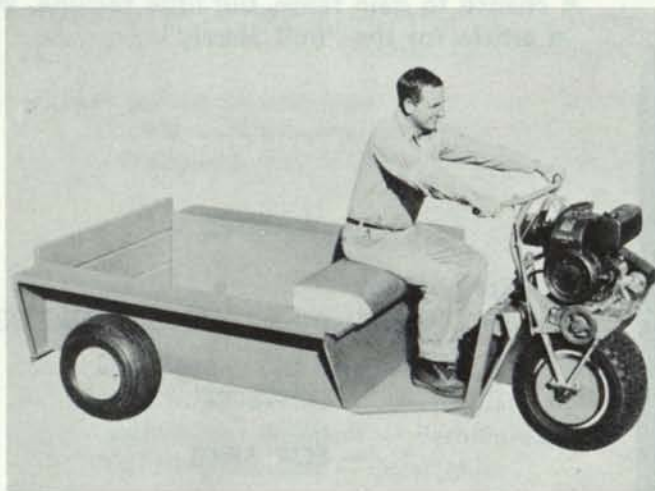
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BEE AND WASP CONTROL

by Stanley Rachesky
Entomologist, University of Illinois

Every year during the months of May, June and early July wasps and honey bees can be commonly seen swarming on a shrub in the backyard or near a section of your home. In the case of honey bees, this happens because the original honey bee colony divides; half of the worker bees leave the old hive to begin a new one. The swarms can last from a few hours to a few days and usually cause only a temporary problem to area homeowners. It is best to leave them alone as they will normally fly away. The colony is looking for a place to nest such as a hollow tree trunk or an entrance to a building wall.

When the swarm of bees or wasps decides to make its home in the wall of a building problems then begin. If control is initiated immediately no additional headaches will be encountered. However, once the hive or nest becomes established within the wall, the wall itself must be opened and the contents removed. If this is not done, the smell of decay from the uninhabited nest will occur, secondary insect problems such as larder beetles, carpet beetles, etc., will become evident or you may create a mouse problem.

Flight entrance to the nest and location of the colony can be found by tapping on the wall at night and listening to the buzzing from within. The center of the nest has a temperature of 95°F., therefore, you also may be able to feel the heat through the wall. Usually the entrance hole to the nest is located far enough away from the main body of the nest that control only from this point is useless.

For control of either wasps or bees:

1. Use one of the following insecticides: Sevin (carbaryl) 5% dust or Malathion 4% dust. These insecticides are readily obtainable at your local garden center, hardware store or farm supply.

2. Dusts are the best formulation to use for they disperse better.

3. Apply the dust first through the entrance hole **after dark — Bee careful!**

4. Drill a 1/4" hole in the wall above the colony and inject the insecticide through it. Seal the hole and all other escape holes.

5. Large colonies may require repeat treatments in about 10 days to eliminate emerging bees and wasps.

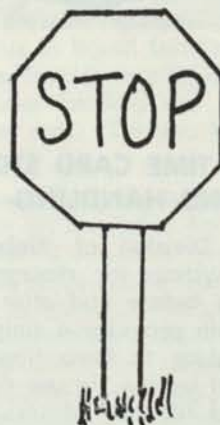
6. In approximately 2 weeks all buzzing activity should have stopped. Removal of the dead insects is next. When the nest is removed it should be discarded in such a manner so as not to attract other insects of the same species.

7. After removal of the nest treat the area with a spray of Diazinon 0.5% in oil to eliminate the chances of a secondary insect problem.

8. Control of a beehive or wasp nest located in a tree or shrub can be done by using a hose-end sprayer (the little bottle that fits on the end of your garden hose) or power sprayer and one of the following chemicals: Sevin 50% wettable powder or Malathion 57% emulsifiable concentrate (mix with water) plus DDVP or Pyrethrin.

Malathion will give a residual of about 3-5 days and either the DDVP or Pyrethrin is used as a quick knockdown. Once again do your control work at night when nest activity is low. And once again **BEE CAREFUL!**

Bee and wasp nests located in the ground can be quickly eradicated by using Chlordane. Mix a gallon or two according to label directions on the bottle. Pour directly over the nest site. Once again do your control work at night. After treatment place a few shovel fulls of dirt over the treated area.



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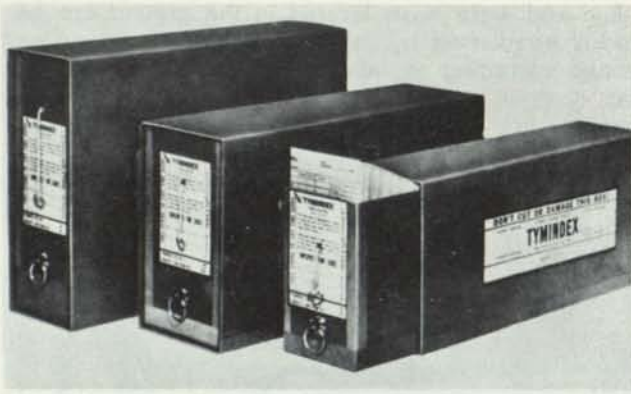
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TURF MANAGEMENT

A. J. Powell, Jr., Turf Specialist

Beware of "Satchmo"

Hopefully not everyone has had a "Satchmo" visit his turf operation. But chances are good that "Satchmo" has appeared but was not recognized. "Satchmo", by my definition, is an out-of-town peddler with a "satchel full" of "more gifts than a gift shop". For a minimum order of \$67.00, your wife will receive a new pop-up toaster or knife sharpener. And along with your pocket knife, pen and pencil set and bill-fold, you can have a choice between a \$17.00 briefcase or your very own manicure set.

Think again before you bind yourself in such a deal. Why is he so generous and your local dealer so stingy? Is he trying to steal your business or is he only concerned about the quality of your turf operation? **Of course**, all of his gifts to you and your wife would not make you feel obligated to him on a return trip. **Of course**, he would not hint around you, your boss, or laborers that you had accepted these gifts. **Of course**, he would not try to increase that minimum order on the next return trip. To be so generous, he must be considering you as very influential among your peers and associates.

What is your first impression of Satchmo? Suppose Satchmo visits a golf course. Inside his satchel of gifts he also carries a 674 page notebook that describes products for the club house ranging from salt to floor wax, products for the golf pro ranging from kilties to marshmallow centered driving range balls, and products for the superintendent ranging from axle grease to chelated iron. Many of his products are similar to those you are presently using, but without the actual label you may never recognize them. Many of his products are "fantastic new discoveries" packaged for your convenience. Hopefully, he comes to you first instead of trying to soft-sell one of your mechanics on the type of tube sealant he needs or your boss on the very recent discovery of "Poa Out" for complete **Poa annua** eradication. Very often his "bag" is name-tossing. John Brown uses six tons per year of his liquid mow and Pebble Run saves \$20,000 annually in labor by using his liquid sand that never needs raking.

If you have time, take a look at his products and judge their worth yourself. Always compare his delivered cost with that of your local dealer. Very often, Satchmo will be able to do no more than read his company's advertisements about the products in question. Play the Agronomist part and question the correctness of the advertisements. Put him on the spot, and he may never return. Although you have been very successful with a cheaper product, he may list 25 reasons why his product is better. Is a free coin purse any reason to switch from a good product to one that you are not familiar with?

Hopefully, you will feel that Satchmo is disrespectful since he is trying to sell you a miracle product. Soil microbes or soil enzymes boxed and ready to mix with fertilizer or water are often sold with astounding assurance that they actually cure soil problems of plant food availability, soil structure, and permeability.

Another product often misrepresented is the surfactant. No doubt, surfactants have been successful for special use situations, but general use to solve fertility or management problems is unfeasible. By decreasing water surface tension, surfactants have been used to relieve puddling in depression areas, to increase infiltration or decrease water run-off on small knolls, and to decrease dew formation. Therefore, know your needs and buy these materials accordingly. The percent surfactant in a material and its residual nature should be considered when comparing prices.

Satchmo practically always promotes liquid fertilizers. He knows that a good turf operation has labor problems and a pressure sprayer. He often stresses that the phosphorus in liquid fertilizers are very soluble and therefore quickly available. Also the liquid material offers foliar feeding and penetrates deeper into the root zone area. Do you believe these suggested advantages?

Concerning phosphorus availability, most granular phosphates are in an available form when applied. However with either a liquid or granular phosphorus material, if there is complete soil-phosphorus contact, usually 30% or more of the phosphorus is fixed in unavailable forms within a short time. Experiments conducted to date show that usually the same crop responses are obtained with liquid and solid fertilizers when equal amounts of nitrogen, phosphate and potash are applied.

Liquid fertilizers have helped from the labor standpoint for many turf growers because they can be applied through a sprayer. Many liquid fertilizers can be mixed with pesticides that are routinely applied. The actual effectiveness of liquid fertilizers does not differ greatly from that of granular fertilizers. Before purchasing, compare the cost of liquid versus granular materials that give the same amount of plant food. If the cost of the liquid material is greater, then assess whether the extra cost is worth the handling advantages.

Your local salesmen and distributors might not appear to be Santa Clauses, but they are interested in your turf operation. Being concerned is their "bread and butter" and they must give you good service or lose your business. "Satchmo" on the other hand, may only be interested in one or a few purchases because his margin of profit is high and he is not required to consult with you weekly or daily. As professional turf growers, work as closely as possible with your local dealers. And the next time that "Satchmo" visits your turf operation, ask him to accompany you to the next professional turf meeting. His response might amaze you.

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