

PRECAUTIONS FOR USE OF PESTICIDE

STOP! READ THE LABEL

1. Use only material from a reliable source.
2. **Read directions carefully and observe them.**
3. Observe STRICTLY any warnings or precautions on labels. GARDENERS AND SPRAY APPLICATORS WHO HAVE NOT HAD SPECIFIC TRAINING IN THE USE OF THE ORGANIC PHOSPHATES SHOULD AVOID THEIR USE.
4. Store in a place away from children and pets and only in ORIGINAL CONTAINERS.
5. **Thoroughness of application and timing** are fully as important as the proper choice of materials and equipment.
6. Do not apply Dormant sprays when temperature is below 40°F. or when freezing is likely to occur before the spray has dried.
7. The following plants are sensitive to oil: beech; birch; black walnut; butternut; hickory; Russian olive; most maples; and such evergreens as Douglas fir, spruces, yews, hemlock, magnolias and basswoods.
8. Most sprays and some dusts should not be applied when the temperature is 85° F. or above.
9. Avoid heavy runoff unless drenching is indicated.
10. If directions indicate the addition of a "spreader" to your spray material, use one that is recommended by the manufacturer of the pesticide being applied.

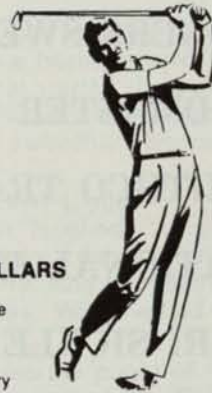
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Summer Turf Kill

During the past few weeks, many turf areas have begun their annual "brown-out." Needless to say, non-irrigated areas are going out before those that are irrigated. One of the main reasons why this happens is that the growing point of the turf plant gets too hot. When the growing points get too hot, the life functions which occur in that area no longer take place, or take place at a much reduced rate.

There are two ways the plant has to keep its growing point cool. One way is by the movement of water through the plant and resulting loss of water vapor from the leaves. This will occur as long as there is a supply of moisture in the soil.

Because the growing point of the turf plant is near the surface of the soil, the leaves of the plant aid in keeping it cool. The insulating effect of the leaves is most important. As the leaf surface area is reduced, the growing point becomes more exposed to the sun's heat.

The height at which you set your mowers determines the leaf surface area of your turf plants. The lower you mow, the warmer the growing point will become. The warmer the growing point, the browner the grass will become.

A bluegrass turf cut at two inches look far different this time of year than one cut at less than one inch. I have talked to some turf managers that have been able to sneak up their height of cut. The resulting increase in leaf surface area has produced a better turf. I really believe these mowers should be set just as high as possible.

In order for bluegrass to stay in an optimum growing situation during the summer, besides nutrients it must have adequate moisture and cool temperatures at the growing points. Without either adequate moisture or cool temperatures, bluegrass will tend to brown-out in the summer.

A couple of weeks ago we experienced the loss of turf even though we had more than an adequate moisture supply. The temperatures of the growing points got too high and a lot of grass died. The grass cut the shortest suffered the most and, of course, some species such as **Poa annua** will not take much heat at all.

Another point to note—The higher the height of cut, the better the turf withstands damage from traffic.

Give serious thought to the height your mowers are set for and if at all possible keep it up.

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 Extension Turf Specialist
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Mercury Madness

From the **NEWSLETTER**
By **Gerry Finn**

The "Mercury Madness." You've heard about it. More than enough, if you follow the line of reality. And here is where Dr. Leonard J. Goldwater enters the picture.

Dr. Goldwater is an expert on mercury and he's on a country-wide binge trying to let people know that its scare been magnified to the high heavens. He was aboard for the Massachusetts Turf Conference last month and he picked apart the over-reaction to the effects of mercury.

"It's sensationalized," Dr. Goldwater delivered in between his formal lecture at the Highpoint Motor Inn. "The dangers of mercury have been blown way out of proportion. For what reason I really can't say. But if you think about it, the mercury jitters follows every hint of malfunction in certain products. The public just lets the thing run away to the point of being ridiculous."

The outspoken Dr. Goldwater, who has been doing research on mercury at Duke University, admits that indiscriminate use of it can be harmful. Then, on the other hand he says that indiscriminate banning of mercury is just as bad.

"You fellows," Dr. Goldwater said, "you superintendents ... have to be realistic about the use of mercury. It is one of the most useful fungicides at your disposal but it must be used with discrimination. That's all that is needed. Don't run scared from it. Don't let the emotional tirades of certain people turn you from using it."

Dr. Goldwater emphasizes that all a superintendent guards against in use of mercury on a golf course is excessive application. "There are certain states which ban the use of mercury on plants," Dr. Goldwater revealed. "But I think this is a case of being

an alarmist. If everyone took a course in mercury they would find that it is present in some form or other in every living thing. That's why I can't understand why such a strong stand has been taken against it."

The mercury scare crept into industry some time ago when it was inflated as a health hazard in a hat factory in Danbury, Conn. That started the ball rolling and from there the mercury syndrome has spread far and wide. Who ever eats swordfish anymore, for instance?

Dr. Goldwater snickers at that suggestion. "All fish have mercury in them," he laughed. "If everyone picked up the swordfish scare, there wouldn't be another fish sold in this country. And I'm talking about things like shrimp and clams. What would we do without them?"

There's a natural concern for the plight of the golf course superintendent on the part of Dr. Goldwater. "I've been a golf fan and player for a number of years," he confessed. "I don't get to play very much these days but I can understand just how much mercury can help the superintendent in his attempt to do his job. That's why I'm going around to these conferences explaining that use of mercury is not harmful to the turf or the atmosphere. I'm one of those golf people who want people to know that the superintendent uses chemicals with a certain amount of logic and knowledge of what its reaction, if any, will be."

Thus, the super has a champion on his side. Dr. Goldwater both endorses and encourages the use of mercury on the golf course. "I can't see any harm in its use just as long as its application follows normal lines," he concluded. "The superintendent should be determined in his selection of fungicides. He shouldn't be scared off because of propaganda. If he runs scared, his golf course will suffer for it."

The Midwest Golf Course Superintendents' fall dinner and dance is coming up, so mark your calendar. The date is October 27th at Nordic Hills Country Club; the time is 6:30 for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, and dinner at 8:00 p.m. with prime rib as the main entree. Music will be provided by Rollie Clifford from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Prizes and corsages for the women and the price is \$25.00 per couple.

Clifford Wagoner, G.C.S.A.A. president, will be in the Chicago area on September 19, 1973, 6:30 p.m. at the Chicagoland Golf Course Superintendents Association meeting held at River Forest Country Club. All Midwest Association Class A or B members are invited to attend.

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