

GOLF SEASON

Did you ever wonder why most golfers will not fix ball marks?
Why when you put a rope, chain or some other restraining device they feel they have to go through that area?
Why do they complain about bad hole cups and then try to scoop the ball out with their putters?
Why do they moan when a low line drive does not stop dead and a high pitch does?

Why trees are the place to drop empty cans, cups, etc. instead of containers provided?

Why they will take 4 practice swings, 4 big divals and only replace the dival when they hit the ball? (I guess 1 out of 5 isn't bad)

Why the wettest area is where they drive the carts?

Why when you want to spray, its always windy, and very calm when the sprayer is broken down?

Why is it always hot and dry when you're having problems with the irrigation system?

Why when you schedule a major project, half the help is either late or no show?

Why the part you break is the one that **has** to be back-ordered?

Why the pin is in front when you are at the back and visa versa?

Why the salesman you **want** to talk to shows up when you are the busiest?

I am sure many more items can be added to this list and they tell me that they fall under "Murphy's Law". So I wonder why this law has to cover so much???

John Stephenson

Dear Ray;

I guess the wait and see attitude fits the bill, as far as Summer prospects are concerned.

"JUNE'S TUNE"

June in It's inevitable way,

Turns Spring into Summer, "Hip-Hip-Hurray"

While We've waited for that Seasonal delight,

It may be a Foe, looking to fight.

Let's hope It's normal, full of good cheer.

Heavenly peaceful, that kind of Year.

Be optimistical in your deliberations,

Helping others enjoy their Summer Vacations.

Rewards are tremendous, sweet or sour the pill,

Hang in there and be, "King of the hill".

Superintendently,

**Kenneth R. Zanzig
Green Garden C.C.**

WHOSE JOB IS IT?

This is a story about four people named everybody, somebody, anybody and nobody. There was an important job to be done and everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it. But nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was everybody's job. Everybody thought anybody could do it but nobody realized that everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that everybody blamed somebody when nobody did what anybody could have done.

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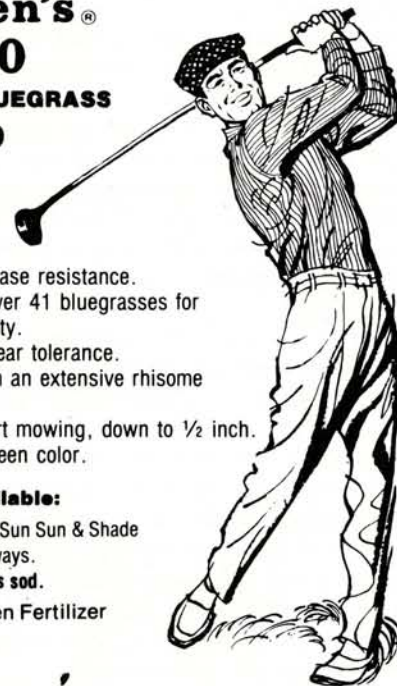
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FROM THE DIARY OF CEC KERR

The other day while visiting with Pete Vandercook, I suddenly exclaimed, "Pete, I visit golf courses throughout the United States — leading distributors, outstanding university scientists, and green house growers. I learn something new each day from each individual and still get paid from Mallinckrodt. I feel almost guilty drawing a pay check." It's great to enjoy your work. I believe you superintendents enjoy your work. It shows by the many improvements you continue to initiate in your program.

I have had the privilege of speaking on Public Relations to 1,400 superintendents at Dr. Joseph Troll's Massachusetts Turf Conference telling of fine practices of Bruce Williams, the greens aereification program of Bruce Searing, James John's rustic name plates identifying each employee's parking place, John Ebel's well-maintained shop and so many other activities by you superintendents here in Chicago.

I have had the chance to hold small group seminars throughout the midwest meeting at Illini Country Club and sharing ideas with men such as Mike Vogt, well trained by Mike Bavier, and superintendents in Ohio led by Paul Mechling and Warren Bidwell's son, Walter Simon, President of Northwestern Ohio Superintendent's Association.

The rare opportunity of attending the recent Chicago District Golf Association Green Seminar and hearing professional talks given by our own members, such as Carl Hopphan, discussing turf update with Dr. Wehner's water improvement studies, excellent discussion of sand topdressing presented by Dave Ward and the mowing studies conducted by Bruce Williams and Oscar Miles.

I have had the the pleasant task of speaking throughout the country about our new product, Vorlan, which was developed eight years ago in Germany. In eight years of usage, no resistant dollar spot has developed. This product is also approved for *Fusarium nivale*, leaf spot and red thread. We have seen 39 days control of dollar spot with Vorlan applied at 1 oz/1,000 sq. ft. by Tom Rodems at Kankakee Country Club. Seventeen university specialists have tested Vorlan showing superior dollar spot control to most competing products. It's fun to sell a winner!

Recently Bill Small, Dr. Fickle, Dr. Vargas and I visited snow mold plots at Boyne Highland Golf Course in Northern Michigan. Calo-clor was excellent at 3 oz/M ft₂ and is still the premier product along with Calo-gran. Scott's FF-11, a mixture of PCNB and 12-3-3 fertilizer, performs well. The addition of fertilizer greatly masks damage normally attendant with PCNB usage.

The data collected are controlling *Typhula incarnata*, *typhula ishikariensis* and *Gerlachia nivalls*. Very little snow mold activity has developed in the midwest except in Northern Michigan. Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota have been blessed with little snow mold activity.

Many superintendents in the midwest have been mowing fairways with the Toro 84 and picking up the clippings — reporting intense labor but resulting in fine turf.

Jacobsen HF5, the new generation of lightweight hydrolic fairway mowers, has made its debut at several prominent golf courses in the Chicago area. This mower has a lighter footprint than a riding greens mower.

There are at least fifteen courses in the midwest states that are aerifying fairways with a Ryan Greensaire II. This is an expensive labor program and yet the end result may justify the means. The development of the Terra 200 by Ray Christopherson may be an improvement. Aerification of fairways is a must!

The weather has been in the fortys during April with intense wind. Greens are drying out. They are difficult to rewet. Poa is yellow. Washington bent has been purple. The sand topdressed greens have experienced severe localized dry spots. Poa annua is standing still throughout the midwest. I just visited with Wayne Otto of Ozaukee Country Club, who is praying for warmer weather and warm rain. Aqua Gro is helpful in rewetting sandtop dressed greens. Thank goodness it is starting to rain!

Oscar Miles, Superintendent Butler National, experienced cold weather Pythium on his new Penneagle greens. With the help of Dr. Wilkenson and Cindy Brown of Michigan State University, both scientists isolated 100% cool season Pythium. Oscar is a true professional! He realizes the need of seeking aid from trained pathologists. Oscar applied 3 oz. of Upjohn's Banol to 10 gallons of water per 1,000 sq. ft. to literally drench the crown.

Cool weather Pythium and cool weather brown patch have been very common this spring. In the past these diseases seemed to occur only during hot humid weather. Dr. Wilkenson has observed cool weather brown patch in Illinois this spring. Symptoms on Kentucky blue grass appear as circular patches of light tan or brown grass. The centers may give the appearance of a "frog-eye" similar to *Fusarium* blight. Leaf lesions may occur like *Rhizoctonia* brown patch during warm weather. In many cases, reddening of the leaf tips is associated. Dr. Wilkenson reported another disease late last July to early September on bluegrass thatched lawns called yellow ring in the family *Basidiomycetes* and species *Trechispora* spp. The disease appears as a yellowing in the grass in a ring pattern. It hasn't occurred yet this spring.

Several superintendents have excellent sand topdressing programs. Thursday I visited an outstanding program of Jim Mitter's at Calumet Country Club.

It has been an education to observe the rebuilding of greens in the Chicago area after the C-15 problem. Several different programs have been followed. Julius Albaugh fumigated and sodded the entire golf course to Penneagle at Westmoreland. Pete Leuzinger at St. Charles Country Club fumigated, stripped 3/8" off, verticut and then seeded to Penneagle. Bruce Birchfield, formerly of Hillcrest Country Club, fumigated, stripped, aerified and seeded to Penneagle. Dudley Smith of Silver Lake Country Club fumigated, stripped and sodded to Penn-cross bent, doing half of the golf course at a time to keep the course in play.

(continued on page 16)

1983 CHAMPION The Pleasure of Victory

Golf Course Superintendent, Peter N. Voykin, from Twin Orchard Country Club was victorious in winning the Second Annual Charity Gin Tournament. The fund raiser was held at Hackney's Restaurant in Wheeling, Illinois.

Brother Peter easily breezed through his first few opponents with keen wit and strategy. We will not mention any names, but Peter's first opponents played as if they were playing FISH. In the final round it was Brother Peter against, "Quick Call", Mike Bavier. In the end, Peter's great skill, technical knowledge, and mostly LUCK had prevailed.

Many thanks to those who found the time in their heart to participate in this special fund raiser, and especially our friends at Hackney's Restaurant. Approximately \$1,000.00 was raised and donated to the Merry Ville Academy. Paul Voykin, typical of himself, lost in the first round.

Submitted by
Paul N. Voykin, Chairman

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Dear Pete:

Thank you and your colleagues in the Midwest for renewing my membership in the Midwest. It is a delight to be again elected as a teammate of the fellows with whom my brother Joe and I have worked for the happiness of golfers and the beauty of the country for so many years.

Pete, I am reminded that Joe, who has been gone four years now, was one of those who began getting the Midwest organized. And that was right after he returned from W.W. I and was with the old Golfers' magazine and before we started Chicago Golfer which I remember helped John McGregor and a few other greenkeepers and pro-greenkeepers start the Midwest. Golfers now don't know ... or have forgotten ... that a lot of the early history of golf course construction and management as a business, a science and a profession really started around Chicago. Charles Macdonald, founder of Chicago Golf Club, was a bossy old guy, smart and a power in getting the Green Section under way. He gave American golf new ideas by starting Chicago Golf construction. His son-in-law, H. J. Whigham, the second amateur champion, in his book on playing golf published in 1897, went into such impressive detail about course construction and maintenance that he wrote that a good golf course (in property and construction) could cost as much as "\$50,000 hard cash". And Bob White, who was pro-greenkeeper at Ravisloe and later became in 1915 the first president of the PGA, was the first guy in golf to go to a short course at a university for education in maintenance. He went to the U. of Wisconsin for what then was called "the farmers' winter school". He built other courses and served as pro-greenkeeper and died at Myrtle Beach, S.C. where he was one of the first pros to own a good part of a golf real estate development. Some of the rest of that earlier Midwest story in course maintenance is around my desk somewhere in an almost finished story I promised Gerber or one of your other teammates. The influence of the convenient stock yards in Chicago with tons of cheap organic fertilizer, and the early Green Section experimental satellites at Westmoreland and Lasker's Mill Road seem to be quite significant as I wrote them. But I am legally blind and I miss so damn many keys in pecking out copy. My typing is said by scholars to read like two-fingered broken Polish. And at 89 I get tired, and being alone here working at night begin to think "What the hell, I am drinking too much". So there goes the history of our novel art and science shot dead in the ass.

But your comment about the status of the greenkeepers or superintendents as the managers of golf courses and grounds ... whatever you want to call them ... aroused me.

Of course these fellows are short in many ways of the recognition, reward and the coordinated usefulness and value they damn well merit. And to put it sharply, Pete, I think it is because they are damn poor advertisers and talk to themselves too much instead of to their customers ... who are not only golfers but the immense number of Americans who are influenced by and responsive to the vast scope of the golf course man's leadership in beautifying America.

Pete, it's been about a dozen years since Joe and I sold Golfdom and Golf and retired. We got out at the right time. Both magazines, which were good money-makers, have been absorbed and vanished.

And let me tell you I learned something while golf business was going through change of life. I as the editor and Joe as the publisher had been very lucky to escape being losers by staying so long and so strong with the employees instead of accenting what we knew about the employers from whom all blessings flow; the amateurs.

And you can bet your ass that the USGA, which is headed by some all-star business talent and has about 1,500 committee members to assure government by consent of the governed, is updating and adjusting to the present.

The superintendents don't see their accomplishments or know how, in most cases, to convert them into relative money terms. Even while realizing that only about half the 10,000 U.S. golf course are 18 holes or larger I'd estimate that the superintendents net earning has improved one hell of a lot better than the pros in the past decade.

Think of the golf courses that have annual maintenance budgets of \$150,000 a year or over and how damn few pro departments ... including probably the cart revenue too, is higher.

And I wouldn't be a damn bit surprised now if the superintendents at major golf courses didn't have about the same ... maybe higher percent of college degrees as the members. And a hell of a lot more than pros even with golf athletic scholarships.

And think of the financial and business responsibility of the superintendent now. He is in charge of the whole damn plant which cost for the course maybe \$2,000,000 and cost \$300,000 a year to maintain. I know of some damn well built and managed courses in southwest Florida with maintenance cost of about a fourth per year of what it cost to build the places.

And there are damn few club members or officials I know who are aware that course superintendents take a day a month or more and at their own time and expense to go to meetings at other courses to learn how to do their own jobs better. Plenty of times I have told business executives of what superintendents at their golf courses do in this respect and hear the business bosses say they wish to hell they could get the same action and responsibility out of superintendents of their business plants.

Regardless of the versatility, vigor and low budget pressure on the supt. the man has got to look and act like the highly responsible executive he is instead of usually being seen, if he can't be identified, by members as a greasy, sweaty, one of the laborers. When he is in the clubhouse or at superintendent meetings he's got to look like a man in charge of the operation and maintenance of a property worth millions. There has been tremendous improvement in this selling picture. However, plenty of room for further improvement remains as the Everglades chapter of SW Florida's GCSA recently reminded its members in comment on the dress of superintendents when at meetings or playing at other courses.

The superintendents name on his headquarters and that place looking neat, smart and business like ... and maybe with a colorful garden or a test plot as part of the picture is good advertising.

In today's picture the superintendent at many clubs is netting more per year than the pro and without the inventory and payroll of the pro, but seldom is there much about the supts. looks and attitude to diplomatically indicate that it is the superintendent's job to provide the fundamentals of an attractive course that accounts primarily for the club's over-all success.

The superintendents local meetings rarely have space in the local papers or on the air for the simple reason the supts. have not learned how to tell their story, not only so that it makes the sports pages but where it would make business news and garden news in newspapers, TV and magazines - even in their own club magazines.

(continued on next page)



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Now, Pete, you see you have goosed me on a subject that I've been thinking about for years for the good of golf and golfers. Hell, I could write you a book on this need of golf course superintendents' informative advertising not only to help themselves but to make the picture more beautiful for all golfers and even the rest of the country.

Pete, the new chairman of the Green Section committee of the USGA is a great guy. I think you know, George Vard of Barrington. In the winter he has a home in Naples, about 30 miles south of me. George, as you know, was the Western Golf Assn. president and like other officials took a post graduate course in supts. headaches when the greens went out at Butler during a Western Open. I think that George as the Green Committee head and others of the high command of the USGA are considering a program that will spotlight the unique and immense public service of golf course superintendents that no other alignment of experts in any sport can match. From what I understand about the idea the USGA Green Section is considering proclaiming "Golf Makes American Beautiful" will be the greatest damn thing you ever could want in spotlighting the superintendents.

I hope to see you at Atlanta and tell you more about this notion which I think the supts. with the USGA can make one of the most talked about and valuable public services in sports.

Regards, and thanks to you and the old neighbor boys. The damn typewriter is on the bum and so am I.

Yours,
Herb Graffis

P.S. Pete, as you know I am legally blind so please forgive the typographical blunders and hope you'll be able to figure out what keys I intended to hit.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE ASSIGNMENTS "BULL SHEET"

July
August
September
October

Joe Williamson
Dave Behrman
Mike Hart
Ken Goodman

Easy to follow instructions:

These articles are to be presented to the editor of the **Bull Sheet** one month prior to your month's assignment, i.e. John Stephenson - June - submit to editor by May 10, **no later!** All copies are to be double spaced and type written. You may pick a topic of editorial value or report on special interests related to turf and your profession. Get these articles in early so that Ray can work around your articles space. Be Prompt!

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NEWS FROM THE NORTHWEST

Dr. William A. Meyer

Turf-Seed, Inc., Hubbard, Oregon

Of the 8 winters that I have experienced in the Willamette Valley, this past one set a record for being the mildest and wettest. There were only a few nights where temperatures got into the 20 degrees F. and since September 1, 47 inches of rain fell in 1/4 to 1/2" increments.

The 1983 grass seed crop is about 2 weeks ahead of normal years. Of course we could still end up with the same harvest dates with a few extra cold and wet weeks. This would then make our weather worse than what I have heard about the Chicago area.

The mild wet winter has caused the rust diseases on the seed crops of turf-type perennial ryegrass and Kentucky bluegrass to build up very rapidly this spring. These diseases can be controlled with fungicide applications costing between \$50 and \$100/acre. If they are not controlled the seed yield losses on most varieties which are susceptible can be up to 95%.

This heavy rust year should be a good challenge for the new stem rust resistant perennial ryegrass variety Manhattan II. We have been working in cooperation with Dr. C. Reed Funk of Rutgers University to develop this improved Manhattan for the past 8 years. Along with having much better stem rust resistance than the original Manhattan, it also has shown better mowing quality, better summer performance, a dwarfier growth habit and a much higher tiller density.

Improvement projects have also been in progress on Citation, Birdie and Omega perennial ryegrass, which have been performing well in our CBS blend. The varieties Citation II (tested as 282) and Birdie II (tested as 2ED) have shown improved turf qualities, stem rust resistance and recently were reported to contain a high level of the endophytic fungus *Epichloe typhina* (E.T.).

This endophytic fungus grows between the cells of ryegrass tissues and can be found in all above ground portions of the plant. Plants containing the fungus look and grow normally.

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SPREADERS—Cyclone, Diadem & Lely

The presence of this fungus within the ryegrass and many other cool season grass species was first reported in New Zealand in the 1940's. The importance of the absence or presence of the fungus within ryegrass plants was not appreciated until experiments in New Zealand recently showed that plants without this endophyte were highly susceptible to Argentine Stem Weevil, while those containing the fungus were highly resistant.

Dr. Funk reported the results of his research on insect resistance at Rutgers over the last 2 years at a Forage and Turfgrass Endophyte Workshop held in Oregon on May 3 and 4. His results were similar to those reported from New Zealand, but the insects involved were bill bugs and sod webworm in New Jersey turf. Those varieties which had a high percentage of plants containing the endophyte showed excellent insect resistance while those with no endophyte were highly susceptible. At this same conference he reported the recent analysis of seed lots of ryegrasses placed in the 1982 National Ryegrass Test by Dr. Phil Halisky. Citation II (tested as 282) had high levels of the endophyte in seed, while Birdie II (tested as 2ED) was found to have moderately high levels. These two varieties should show improved resistance to the above insects if the endophyte levels are maintained in each seed generation.

It was reported at this same conference that this organism is most likely spread only by means of seed transmission. The fungus is carried along as mycelium near the embryo of each seed. This mycelium grows into resulting seedlings and invades all above ground plant parts and the next generation of seed. When seed is stored the fungus can lose viability rather quickly depending on storage conditions. It appears the percentage of seeds containing the viable endophyte goes down quite rapidly after one year of storage, but detailed information on storage losses is not yet available. What this means is that we will have to start new generations of Breeders and Foundation seed much more often in order to assure the presence of the fungus in certified seed fields if insect resistance is desired. Refrigeration of seed stock lots showed aid in maintaining the viability of this fungus in seed. Once the fungus is transmitted from the seed to the plant tissues growing on a fairway or tee it appears that it will remain in the plant, helping to convey insect resistance until a golfer ends its life as a large divot.

The discovery of this E.T. in ryegrass and its association with insect resistance is certainly the topic of the day. Whether this same organism is conveying insect resistance in other cool season grasses is yet to be proven.

(continued from page 12)

Recently Bill Small, Dr. Fickle and I visited arsenical turf plots with Dr. Daniel and Dr. Freeborg at the Elks Country Club in Lafayette, Indiana and with Jim Brandt of Danville Country Club. We observed favorable *Poa annua* restriction with tri-calcium arsenate flowable. Several superintendents are testing this new formulation.

I almost forgot to mention the evening at Silver Lake Country Club recently. Several superintendents forgot they were old men.

Our research staff and I spent a day with Dr. Shurtleff, Dr. Wehner and Dr. Wilkenson, reviewing their current studies. You superintendents in Illinois are fortunate to have such a fine staff to aid with your problems. With research help and the rugged individualism of Warren Bidwell's famous words, "Leave the driving to us," turfgrass management in Illinois is in good hands.

LETTER TO PETE FROM ROSCOE RANDELL

CUTWORMS ON GREENS

The cutworm species, *Agrotis ipsilon*, or commonly called the black cutworm does not survive the winter temperatures of Illinois. But, it does arrive early in the spring of each year as a sooty-looking black moth to lay eggs on golf course greens, as well as stands of chickweed and other winter annuals, and around plant debris in fields on many farms. These moths migrate, beginning in March, from Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. In March and April the greenest areas as observed from above are stands of winter annuals such as chickweed, shepherd's purse, yellow rocket, henbit, and peppergrass.

Black cutworms attack a few thousand acres of Illinois cornfields each year; sometimes as much as 200,000 acres are severely damaged. Usually only one generation causes damage to corn, but on golf greens successive generations occur. Peak egg laying activity begins in early May with succeeding generations peaking in mid June, late July, and late August.

Cutworm control on the golf course is best achieved by applying an effective insecticide on the close-mowed greens about the middle of each month from May through August. The two suggested insecticides which effectively control the black larvae are chlorpyrifos (Dursban) and trichlorfon (Proxol and Dylox). Follow label directions as to amount and be sure to use 5 to 10 gallons of water per 1,000 square feet of turf areas.

Roscoe Randall
Ext. Entomologist, University of IL

'BRADFORD' PEARS NEED CORRECTIVE PRUNING

'Bradford' pear, the remarkably disease and insect free tree that has become a common sight along streets and in yards across the country, can develop serious structural problems if not properly pruned. Semi-mature trees have a dense, tight, closely branched habit, and, according to Joseph Jannarone, Superintendent of Forestry, Parsippany-Troy Hills, New Jersey, as the "main trunk grows and expands it literally pushes apart and severs entire tree branches at their intersection with the trunk." Corrective pruning solves the problem. Prune trees in the autumn after the leaves fall or in the winter. Remove multiple leaders, prune back lateral branches and generally open up the center of the tree. Watch for suckers or water sprouts throughout the summer and remove them.

The Shade Tree, Jan. 1983

REMINDER: At this Association's Monthly dinner meeting, the members are requested to be wearing a sport coat. This policy was established many years ago for professional image and respect to the many golf clubs that require sport coats when dining in the club house.

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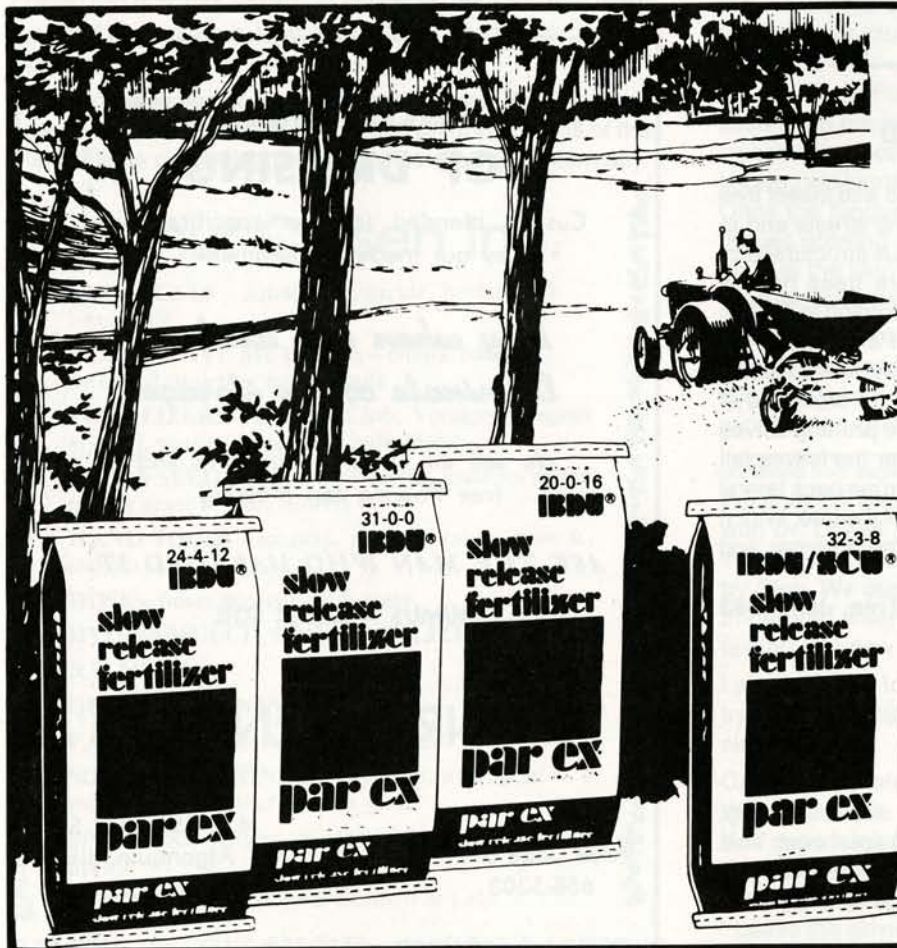
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*Daconil 2787 is a registered trademark of Diamond Shamrock Corporation.

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