

Midwest Breezes



Upcoming Events — Mark Your Calendar

March 2 - 3 — Midwest Regional Turf Conference at Purdue

March 3 - 5 — Landscape Exposition at O'Hare Exposition

March 16 — MAGCS Meeting at Indian Lakes Country Club

April 9 — USGA Regional Meeting at Westmore County Club, Milwaukee

Midwest Breezes

The 2 seminars held at Pheasant Run on December 6 & 7, 1987 sponsored by the GCSAA & MAGCS were a huge success. The attendance was 59 for the course taught by Dr. James Beard & Dr. Jeffrey Krans on Basic Turfgrass Botany and Physiology, the course on Irrigation Part II: Systems Design & Management by William Speelman and David Davis had 22 superintendents in the classroom. These courses both had a lot of meat (not meet, Dudley!) to digest and absorb. Those superintendents who haven't been to one of these seminars are really missing the boat. The instructors have always been great, there is plenty of time to question them, and there is a lot of new research discussed that hasn't been available before.

Congratulations are in order for the new inductees to the GCSAA Quarter Century Club: **Harold Frederickson** at Edgewood Valley C.C.; **Oscar Miles** at Butler National; **Dale Pieper** at Cherry Hills C.C.; and **Dick Trevarthan** at Prestwick C.C. All of these fellows received their pins in Phoenix during the annual conference.

Looking for an assistant? Call Steve Schoenfeldt at (815) 838-2454 or write him at 1060 Maple Court, Lockport, IL 60441. Steve has experience in golf course construction, having worked with the Wadworth firm and has been an assistant before.

Oscar Miles would like to correct the chemical used to lower the pH in the soil mentioned in Dudley Smith's article last month. Oscar uses phosphoric acid (not sulfuric acid) to lower the pH in his soils. The rate of phosphoric acid is 1 pint to 1 quart per 300 gallons of water when the soil temperature is cold. In summer he uses 2 to 4 pounds of iron sulfate per 300 gallons of water.

The Editor would like to thank Roger Stewart of Riverside G.C. for helping with the February & March issues of the "Bull Sheet" while he is down under on his walk about. If there are any questions and articles to be submitted for the March issue, give Roger a call at 447-1049.

Good News! The NCTE will be at Pheasant Run in St. Charles next December 8-9-10, 1987. This news should really make the commercial people happy for they were taken with the fees they had to pay for the few services they received at the Rosemont. Pheasant Run has just built a new exhibition hall.

Steve Cummins, formerly assistant to Randy Wahler at Knollwood Club is the new Superintendent at Lake Barrington Shores Country Club.

Bob Maibusch and Ray Schei flew down to Sebring, Florida (courtesy their wives!) to tour the Lesco plant and get a demonstration on a new Lesco mower. That's a long way to go, fellas, for a free meal and room at the Holiday Inn!

The GCSAA Seminars were again at a great success at Pheasant Run. Thanks go out to Pete Leuzinger and Pete Merkes, for all their work and arrangements.

Teletype from Australia: The weather is great and I just threw another shrimp (or is it shramp?) on the barbie for us. See you blokes in February! Received from the "Koala".

Roger Stewart is filling for the "Koala" while he is down under so if you find any mistakes in the **Bull Sheet**, please call Fred when he returns February 17. Did you all get that? February 17.

Equipment for Sale

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John Lapp, CGCS

The MAGCS August meeting at Arrowhead G.C. was attended by a large crowd because of the educational program. Stanley J. Horn, an immigration law attorney, spoke on the new immigration law and its affect on golf course labor. He explained that we will have to scrutinize documents of prospective employees much closer in regards to proof of eligibility to work. He advised that superintendents require 2 or more documents of identification such as driver's licenses, residency cards (green cards), and birth certificates. He suggested that superintendents photocopy these documents and keep them with the employee's file for our own protection to prove we made an effort to determine legal residency. This applies to all employees put on the payroll after November 6, 1986. Employees on the payroll prior to that date are eligible for the amnesty program providing they can prove (through rent receipts, payroll records, bank accounts, etc.) that they have lived in the U.S. and have been employed in the U.S. since January 1, 1983. They must file with Immigration Service between May 1, 1987 and May 31, 1987 to be included. Needless to say this new legislation will be cumbersome at best and it is advised that those people seek the counsel of an attorney such as Mr. Horn. It doesn't appear at this time that golf course employees will be considered under the agriculture exemption, as this will be for perishable crops only. Please note the article about the new legislation.



Stanley J. Horn, Immigration Law attorney and guest speaker at the August MAGCS meeting.

Immigration Reform Act Wide-Ranging

U.S. immigration reform legislation recently signed by President Reagan is the most sweeping measure on this subject in this country in decades. Among other things, it contains tough new penalties for employers who hire foreign workers without regard to their immigration status. Employer sanctions will be phased in after a six-month "educational period." The following year offenders would become liable for fines ranging from \$3,000 to \$10,000 for each illegal alien they hire. Employers who make it a "pattern or practice" to hire illegal aliens could be sentenced to prison terms ranging up to six months.

For employers, here are some of the key dates for carrying out provisions of the act:

- For the next six months: Federal officials will develop regulations and notify employers of the sanctions program. Records must be kept by employers, showing the legal residency status of their employees. The penalties apply only to new hires, not those working before the bill was signed.
- May 1987 through May 1988 — Officials will issue warnings for first offenses by employers caught knowingly hiring illegal aliens. Penalties would be assessed for subsequent offenses.
- May 1988 — Penalties would become fully effective, with fines beginning at \$250 per illegal alien and six months in prison for a pattern and practice of violations.
- November 1989 — The General Accounting Office must report the findings of a study on whether sanctions resulted in significant job discrimination based on residency status.
- February 1990 — If the study finds that discrimination has occurred, Congress must consider a joint resolution that, if passed, would end the sanctions. The resolution could become effective without the President's signature.

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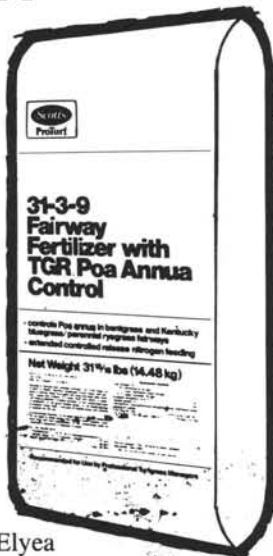


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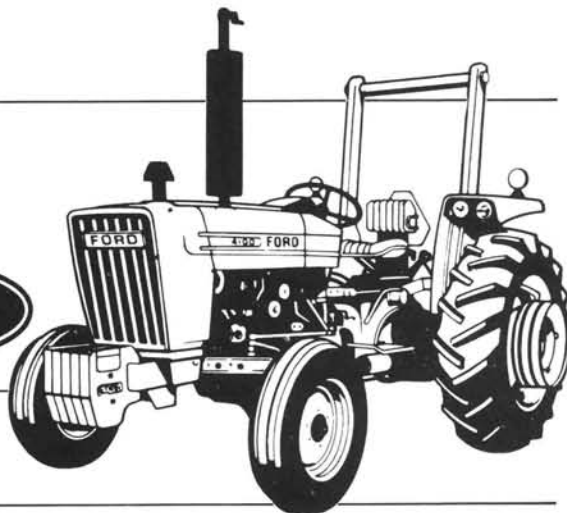
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A Seed is Not a Seed

by Dr. Norman Hummell
Cornell University

Whether it be for overseeding an athletic field, renovating a golf course fairway, or establishing a new lawn, seed is one of the most important purchases the turfgrass manager will ever make. To put it plain and simple: What you plant is what you're stuck with; and correcting the mistake of purchasing poor quality seed may be time consuming and very costly.

The seed market is literally flooded with seed of varying degrees of quality. It is often very tempting for the turfgrass manager to purchase seed of questionable quality to save a few dollars. But when one considers the longevity of the area established, and the headaches saved, the investment of high quality seed is really quite small. After you have decided which species and cultivars to plant, how do you know that the seed you buy is high quality?

The Seed Label

Many years ago the United States Department of Agriculture set standards that the seed industry must meet in order to sell seed. Later on, laws were written that clearly state what specific information about the seed should be on the label. Figure 1 shows an example of a turfgrass seed label.

The principal factors influencing seed quality are purity and germination. Purity is the percent, by weight, of pure seed of an identified species and cultivar present in that lot of seed. For example, 25.3% of the sample mix in Figure 1 is Adelphi Kentucky bluegrass.

While purity is an important number on the label, it is an indication of quantity, not quality. When seed is purchased, not all of the seed is viable. There are some dead seeds. The listed germination represents the percent of pure seed that is alive, and will germinate under standard laboratory conditions. A germination test must be run for each species and cultivar in the blend or mixture. Since seed will lose its viability in time, the date of germination testing is listed on the label and should be noted. It is normally recommended that the test date should be no more than nine months prior to the date the seed is purchased.

In the seed production fields, it is difficult, if not impossible to keep those fields completely free of weeds. As a result, weed seeds are often harvested along with the grass seed. After harvest, it is also difficult to clean all the chaff, stems, and leaves out of the seed. Therefore, a certain percentage of any seed blend or mix will contain weed seed, crop seed, and inert matter. The percent of each must be stated on the label.

Weed seed refers to undesirable plant species not normally grown for profit, such as chickweed. The first impression one might get looking at the sample label is that the 0.5% is low and does not warrant concern. That may be true if the weed involved was a large-seeded weed species. However, if all the weed seed in that lot was chickweed, that 0.5% would represent several hundred thousand chickweed seeds spread on a 5,000 square foot lawn.

Crop seed includes plant species normally grown for profit such as tall fescue, brome grass, and others. Unfortunately, the consumer would not know which crop species are present, unless the total crop percentage is above 5%. Seed companies are then required to list the crop species by name. Seeding a Kentucky bluegrass blend contaminated with tall fescue could be disastrous. The crop seed is a "Pandora's Box" that should not be fooled with. Purchase seed that contains little, if any, crop seed.

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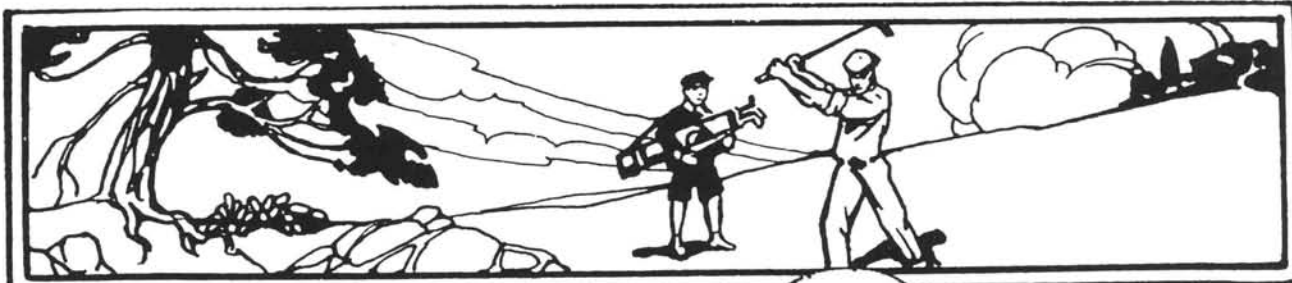
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Four Lines of Defense Against "Hypothermia"

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STEP ONE: EXPOSURE AND EXHAUSTION

The moment your body begins to *lose heat* faster than it produces it, you are under-going exposure. Two things happen:

1. You voluntarily *exercise to stay warm*.
2. Your body makes involuntary adjustments to preserve *normal temperature in the vital organs*.

Either response drains your energy reserves. The only way to stop the drain is to reduce the degree of exposure...

● THE TIME TO PREVENT HYPOTHERMIA IS DURING THE PERIOD OF EXPOSURE AND GRADUAL EXHAUSTION.

STEP TWO: HYPOTHERMIA

If exposure continues until your energy reserves are exhausted:

1. Cold reaches the brain depriving you of judgment and reasoning power. *You will not realize this is happening.*
2. You will lose control of your hands.

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2. **BEWARE THE WIND.** A slight breeze carries heat away from bare skin much faster than still air. Wind drives cold air under and through clothing. *Wind refrigerates wet clothes* by evaporating moisture from the surface. WIND MULTIPLIES THE PROBLEMS OF STAYING DRY.
3. **UNDERSTAND COLD.** Most hypothermia cases develop in air temperatures between 30 and 50 degrees. Most outdoorsmen simply can't believe such temperatures can be dangerous. They fatally underestimate the danger of being wet at such temperatures.
 - 50 degree *water* is unbearably cold. The cold that kills is *cold water* running down neck and legs, *cold water* held against the body by sopping clothes, *cold water* flushing body heat from the surface of the clothes.



● DON'T ASK, "HOW COLD IS THE AIR?" ASK INSTEAD, "HOW COLD IS THE WATER AGAINST MY BODY?"

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YOUR SECOND LINE OF DEFENSE: TERMINATE EXPOSURE

If you cannot stay dry and warm under existing weather conditions, using the clothes you have with you, *terminate exposure*.

1. BE BRAVE ENOUGH TO GIVE UP REACHING THE PEAK OR GETTING THE FISH OR WHAT-EVER YOU HAD IN MIND.
2. Get out of the *wind and rain*. Build a fire. Concentrate on making your camp or bivouac as secure and comfortable as possible.

NEVER IGNORE SHIVERING

Persistent or violent shivering is clear warning that you are on the verge of hypothermia. **MAKE CAMP.**

FORESTALL EXHAUSTION

Make camp while you still have a reserve of energy. Allow for the fact that exposure greatly reduces your normal endurance.

You may think you are doing fine when the fact that you are exercising is the only thing preventing your going into hypothermia. If exhaustion forces you to stop, however briefly:

(cont'd. page 18)

(Four Lines of Defense cont'd.)

1. Your rate of body heat production instantly drops by 50% or more.
2. Violent, incapacitating shivering may begin immediately.
3. You may slip into hypothermia in a matter of minutes.

APPOINT A FOUL-WEATHER LEADER

Make the best-protected member of your party responsible for calling a halt before the least-protected member becomes exhausted or goes into violent shivering.

.....

YOUR THIRD LINE OF DEFENSE: DETECT HYPOTHERMIA

If your party is exposed to wind, cold, and wet, THINK HYPOTHERMIA. Watch yourself and others for symptoms.

1. Uncontrollable fits of shivering.
2. Vague, slow, slurred speech.
3. Memory lapses. Incoherence.
4. Immobile, fumbling hands.
5. Frequent stumbling. Lurching gait.
6. Drowsiness (to sleep is to die.)
7. Apparent exhaustion. Inability to get up after a rest.

.....

YOUR FOURTH AND LAST LINE OF DEFENSE: TREATMENT

The victim may deny he's in trouble. Believe the symptoms, not the patient. Even mild symptoms demand immediate, drastic treatment.

1. Get the victim out of the wind and rain.
2. Strip off *all* wet clothes.
3. If the patient is only mildly impaired:
 - a. Give him warm drinks.
 - b. Get him into dry clothes and a warm sleeping bag. Well-wrapped, warm (not hot) rocks or canteens will hasten recovery.
4. If the patient is semi-conscious or worse:
 - a. Try to keep him awake. Give warm drinks.
 - b. Leave him stripped. Put him in a sleeping bag with another person (also stripped). If you have a double bag, put the victim between two warmth donors. *Skin to skin contact* is the most effective treatment.
5. Build a fire to warm the camp.

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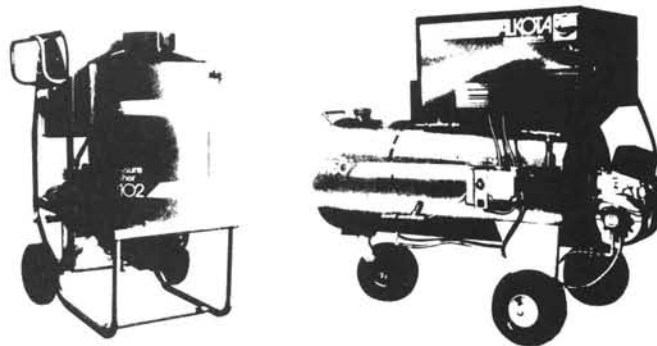
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