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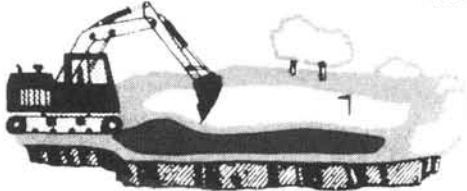
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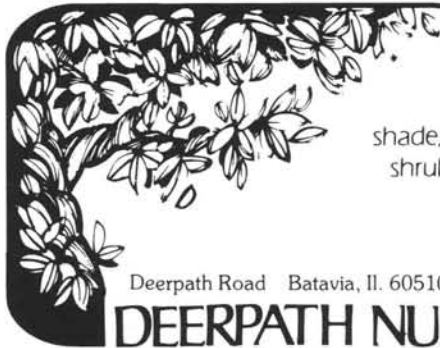
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Where Stones Come From

by Justin Isherwood

This article is reprinted from the June 1991 issue of the Badger Common Tater, the magazine of the Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association. Justin Isherwood is a potato grower from Plover, WI, and regular columnist for the magazine.

Farmers often ponder where stones come from. It troubles some more than others, usually for the reason those who are not troubled do not own stony land.

Farmers think about stones because they have picked stones, picked them last year and the year before. Picked stones as far back as they can remember and their pa too. Every spring more stones, stones where none existed before. Stones grinning their damn little smiles, smirking their damn little smirks. You've got to have an intimate working relationship with stones before you can see them grin.

This is hard on the heart of farmers, some become bitter and insular because of stones and the way stones grin. Others devote their lives and those of their offspring to the eradication and defeat of stones. Steady work they believe will free them and one day spring will arrive without stones, the gun hammer will click on an empty cartridge because there are no more stones to load in it and he and his generation will have won the last battle.

Farmers always believe they are close to final victory, believe this to their last days, believe this when they die and are buried beneath stones.

In the valleys and ruins of Buena Vista, in brown-earthed Stockton, in the stone-rimmed fields of Lanark and Amherst Junction are farmers who have written their wills. Prudent men who declare by all that is sane they will not in the last place have their burial marked by stone. Let it be pine, they say. Chisel my name in pine and leave me be. Shape my initials and passage in clay, identify my remains with cardboard, plaster, stitch it on a horse blanket but please, dearest kinsman and heir, do not weigh down my chest with granite stone. Let me to go nameless as spend forever under a stone.

The next of kin intent on mourning do not understand. They follow ritual scrupulously, going so far as to import stone and pay dearly for it and therein notch their beloved's name. Marking the grave with unforgiving stone.

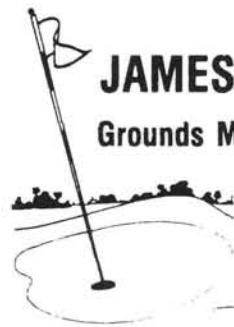
If ghost and ghouls are spawned by human torment then the valleys are in for a Stephen King dose of heck some day, from all those farmers with an external grudge on their chest.

In the farmships why stones reappear every spring is routinely discussed. Village folk argue other things, troublesome subjects like national debt, greenhouse effect and acid rain. Transitory things like apartheid, black holes and stock prices. But in the glacial valleys, in the dim of rural taverns late at night they talk stones and why stones come back to the fields year after year like migrating geese. One farmer confesses he has taken to painting the rocks he picks because he swears they look like the ones he picked several years previous.

He believes stones come back, how he throws 'em on a rock pile and they won't stay put, instead crawl off like wounded dogs to lick their wounds and return again to the field.

This farmer has read about people talking to plants, damn

(continued page 13)



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(Stones continued)

silly he thinks. Read how some scientists have demonstrated that plants feel pain and pleasure. Geez, he says, is that ever stupid. But he knows for a fact stones migrate. And not only do they feel pain, they exact it.

Stones have a homing instinct. Dump 'em in Romania, he says, and they'll find their way back, which is why he is painting stones. Green one year, blue the next, white another. Some day when a blue stone shows up he will have his proof. This is for the same reasons sea shells are found halfway up Mount Everest, the whole load of plate tectonics is driven by stones crawling their way home. If people had left stones plumb alone in the first place none of this would've happened. What with all the coal dug out of the ground and shipped thousands of miles away, the copper and iron ore and gold ... the surface of the earth is crawling to beat heck.

Another farmer believes he has solved why stones come up every spring. 'Cause we've been burying too many dead people. Same reason you get pus out of a wound by squashing down next to it. Go out west and you don't see no stone, that's 'cause the Pawnee stored their dead outdoors and this don't squash the stones. The more cemeteries you see the more stone there is. Seems this farmer has been to Scotland and it has an awful lot of cemeteries and the worst outbreak of stone he's ever seen except on the road to Galloway. New England is stove-up with cemeteries too and also has stone bad.

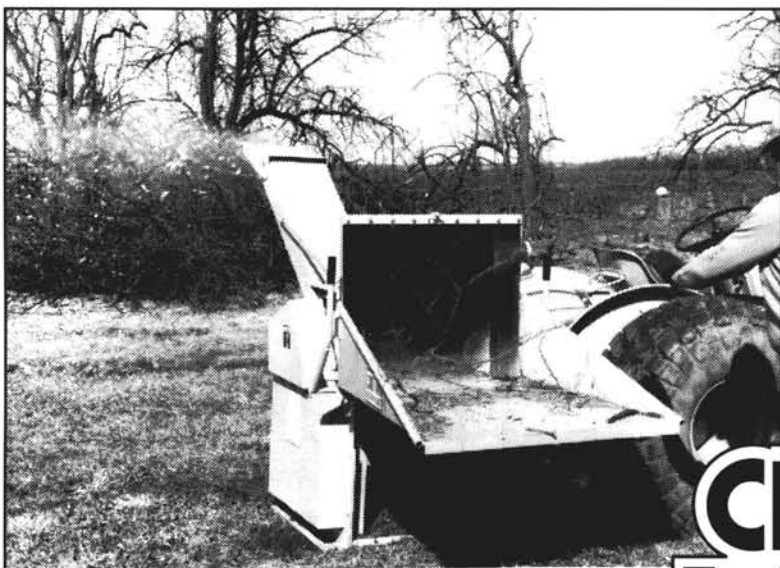
There is always a scientist or two among any farm coven and mythological stone lore sets them off. "What a bunch of jerks. Where did you guys get your science? Ripley's Believe It or Not? Stones don't think, crawl or get squashed out of the ground. The reason stones come back every year is 'cause a rock sucks, this according to a recent issue of Science magazine. Ever feel the bottom of a rock? Colder than dirt, ain't it? Cold in May when the top of the rock is hot enough to fry sausages. Cold and wet. Sometimes after weeks of warm weather you find ice there. Tain't the ice that does it though, it's the dark side of that rock sucking water that does it. Frost heave won't get you any altitude even if you wait a thousand years. But the cold side of a rock sucking water, day after day, season after season, brings rocks up from hundreds even thousands of feet down. We ain't ever gonna be free of stones. If it was frost alone, we'd have won the war a couple of generations back. It ain't ice, it's them stones sucking water and and just like a hydraulic cylinder lifts the stone out of the ground."

The back end of the tavern goes real quiet on hearing that. Had to admit it makes sense and overcomes the theoretical obstacles of frost heave and stones with a homing instinct. Sucking stones, who would have guessed? Does make it easier to talk about stones and at the same time get bile off your chest. Maybe this is what my grandfather meant when he talked about "those sucking stones," he wasn't talking dirty, he was waxing theoretical. Ain't science wonderful?

(Thanks to Jim Latham for sending this article which he clipped from "Agronomy News".)

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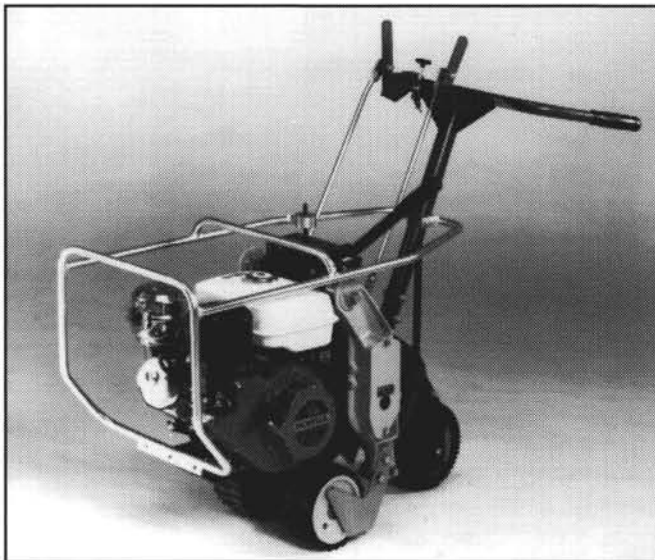
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Upcoming Events — Mark Your Calendar

September 16 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Ridgemoor C.C.

October — MAGCS monthly meeting at Biltmore C.C.

October 7 — ITF Northern Illinois Golf Day at Stonebridge C.C. and White Eagle C.C.

November 6 — Midwest Clinic at Medinah C.C.

November 11-13 — Penn State Turf Conference. Contact Dr. Joseph Duich, 814/865-9853.

December 2-6 — "Your Home Turf" Michigan State U. Contact Dr. Frank Rossi, 517/353-0860.

December 3-5 — NCTE at Pheasant Run Resort

January 1992 — Arrowhead Golf Club

January 16-18 — Mid-Am Trade Show/Hyatt Regency Chicago

January 20-22 — MRTF Conference & Show, Indianapolis Convention Center

January 20-22 — 62nd Annual Michigan Turfgrass Conference. Contact Mike Saffel, 517/353-9022.

February 10-17 — GCSAA Conference in New Orleans

April 1992 — Geneva Golf Club

June 22, 1992 — River Forest Golf Club

July 13, 1992 — Briar Ridge Golf Club

August 1992 — Mt. Prospect Golf Club

October 1992 — Settlers Hill Golf Club

The Sponsors for the monthly meeting at Ridgemoor C.C. will be Dow Elanco, BoJo Turf Supply and Green Visions. Be sure to thank these people for helping to make your day more enjoyable.

Pete Leuzinger was commissioned by the St. Charles Park District to paint a picture of a hole at Pottawatomie Golf Course. This picture was then duplicated and each of the players in the mens annual tournament was given a copy of the picture. Pete chose the Par 3, 190 yard 7th hole as his subject. The original oil painting is hanging in the Pro Shop at the club. Well done, Peter.

There has been a couple of typos in our newsletter lately. The first one that was called to my attention by our President was that the one year stating our Board of Directors was listed as 1989. Well, I must admit it surprised me, then I got to checking and that year never was changed from 1989. So it went 19 months before someone caught it. Thanks Bruce for bringing it to my attention. The second typo was in Bruce's last President's Message. "Send Fred some information or an article that could be sued." Thanks Bruce for your suggestion, but I would rather have an article that I could USE ...

Concerning your newsletter, it seems that quite a few members got only empty envelopes for the August issue of **The Bull Sheet**. If so, please give me a call and I will send another one as long as the supply lasts. It seems the south side zip codes are the ones that are missing.

NECROLOGY

It is with a deep sense of loss that we announce the death in July of a long time member Alfred Guy. Alfred retired as Superintendent of Shiloh Park Golf Course in Zion in 1975.

Passing away in early August was Scottie Stewart, a long time member of our association and a frequent contributor to our newsletter in past years. Among the older superintendents he was fondly referred to as "Caste Iron Scottie" for his firm belief that PVC was not the quality of pipe that caste iron was. Scottie designed many an irrigation system in the area and also installed the irrigation system for the Air Force Academy, you can bet it was caste iron with gravity drains.



Just passing away on August 20th was our friend Ed Stewart. Ed had a pretty hard time of it the past couple of years but seemed to keep bouncing back. He was never one to complain about his problems and was always cheerful when you spoke to him. Ed will be missed by his many friends and we all send our condolences to the family.

September — Ridgemoor C.C. — Event is the Annual MAGCS championship. All players must pre-register for the event and will be flighted, and paired according to handicaps. Failure to pre-register will result in not being able to participate in the event. Prizes will be low gross and low net within each flight. Net score will be determined by subtracting the players handicap from his score.

Event chairman — Kerry Blatteau

Pre-event co-chairman — Brian Bossert

Post-event co-chairman — John Fulling

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Our President, Bruce Williams, had an attack of gall stones that put him into the hospital for a few days in early August. We hope the problem has been resolved.

Fall Dinner Dance will be held October 15, 1991 at the River Forest Country Club. Hosts will be Debbie and Joel Purpur.

"Seasoning"

Autumn soon will close the gate,

On Summer's stress, won't that be great?

Those 90 plus days are on the wane,

Fall's colors soon will ease the strain.

Autumn says, hang in there, all's not lost,

Cool nights may bring a touch of Frost.

So watch the Season's, season the yearly stew,

I don't think I'd change a thing, would You?

Kenneth R. Zanzig



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Results of the August 12 MAGCS Golf Event at Woodmar C.C.

Event was a 2 man best ball. Winners in net and gross were:

Gross winners

1. Kerry Blatteau and Ron Dohman..... 70
2. Bruce Swieger and Peter Voykin..... 75
3. Phil Zeinert and Jeff Boldig..... 75
4. Rick Wilson and John Buck..... 77
5. Dave Louttit and Curt Adams..... 77
6. Tom Brodeur and Phil Taylor..... 78
7. Mark Johnson and Jim McNair..... 79
8. Bob Rigney and Scott Armstrong..... 81

Net Winners

1. Charlie Brugler and Joe Rents..... 60
2. Jerry Cooper and Tony Brzinski..... 61
3. Al Fierst and Bruce Williams..... 63
4. Ken Goodman and John Meyer..... 65
5. Jerry Crist and Leon Hartogh..... 66
6. Lynn Wesson and Steve Stewart..... 66
7. Rick Haan and Bud Edmund..... 66
8. Dudley Smith and Robert Jones..... 66

Longest driver winner..... Charlie Brugler
Closest to the pin winner..... Don Sella & Keith Johnson

The John Deere Golf Tournament August 19, 1991

J. W. Turf, Inc. wants to thank Paul Wagner and his staff for the excellent condition of this newly opened golf course. Thanks also to owner Ray Plote; Matt Lemcke, Pro; Chuck Holeska, Assistant Pro and all who helped make the day a success.

There was a five way play-off for first place with a score of 58, between Crystal Lake C.C., Itasca C.C., Sportsman C.C., Twin Lakes C.C., and Knollwood Club. Itasca won in the chip off. The other clubs shared the prizes equally for the next four places. 6th place was won by LaGrange C.C. with a score of 59.

Amateur Long Drive was won by Don Schaff from Naperville C.C. Closest to the Pin was won by Bob Kronn of LaGrange C.C.

The raffle for the \$500.00 gift certificate of Oswego Travel was won by George Podd from Schaumburg G.C.

Leaves, Limbs, Needles, and Boughs

by Fred D. Opperman

September to most everyone means the start of the Fall Season. At least to golf course superintendents it means cooler nights and warm days. With fall approaching you look forward to the fall colors. What color really grabs your attention? To me it is the color red. Red really stands out on the hillsides (golly, I think I'm still living in Pennsylvania where they do have hillsides) or in the trees along the roughs. Well, this month's selection of a tree has the brightest red leaves of almost any plant you can think of.

Acer campestre (a-ser kam-pes'tre) Common name is Hedge Maple.

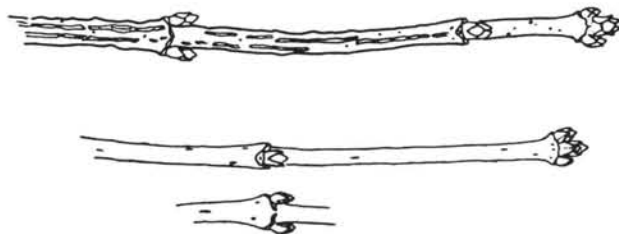
This is a tree that gets to be only 25 to 35' and the spread about the same as the height. It is a good street tree for it can stay under the wires.

Leaves: Opposite, simple, 2-4" across, dark green above, pubescent beneath, 3-5 rounded, entire lobes, deep dark green.



Buds: Terminal is imbricate, 1/8" long, grayish brown to brownish black.

Stem: Slender, glabrous, light brown, somewhat lustrous lenticelled. Second year stems gray-brown, more prominently lenticelled; stems often develop corky fissures; pith solid white.



Rate: Slow, 10 to 14' over a 10 to 15 year period; can be pushed in the nursery and may average 2' per year.

Culture: Transplants easily, extremely adaptable; prefers rich, well-drained soil, but performs well in high pH soils. Tolerant of dry soils and compaction. Can take full sun or partial shade and withstands pruning.

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Proper Planting and Post-Planting Care Are Keys to Establishing Trees and Shrubs Successfully

by Bob Mugaas, Minnesota Extension Service

PREPARATION AND PLANTING

Successful planting starts with proper site preparation. Digging the hole for a new plant is the first step. The hole should be at least 1-2 feet wider than the size of the root system (except for direct tree spade planted trees). A larger hole will allow better root growth, especially in poor soil. Rough up the sides of the hole as wide or wider at the bottom than at the top.

Planting depth is *critical*. For heavy soils, trees and shrubs should be planted at, or slightly higher than, the depth that they grew in the nursery. In poorly drained soils, plants should be planted slightly higher, with soil mounded up to cover the roots. Allow for settling, especially if the hole has been dug deep and backfilled. Air pockets should be eliminated by watering during and after backfilling. Poor soils can be amended with organic material or loamy top soil depending on the improvement needed. Peat is not recommended for poorly drained, clayey soils, as it can act as a sump and draw too much water into the planting hole. *Never* completely backfill with a soil amendment; only create a transition zone to the existing soil where the roots must eventually grow. Too much soil amendment can create moisture gradients and cause roots to be confined to the planting hole. Remove rocks and debris from the hole and never put rocks or gravel in the bottom of the hole to improve drainage unless it is connected to a drain tile.

Proper fertilization provides plants with the elements they require for survival and growth. A balanced or complete fertilizer is usually recommended for tree fertilization. Trees and shrubs should be fertilized at the time of planting with a slow-release, complete fertilizer, preferably one high in phosphorus. Fertilizer should not be placed directly on the roots, but should be mixed with the backfill. It is best to use a slow-release fertilizer and fertilizer briquettes, at the time of planting. These will not burn the roots and will have longer-lasting effects. Follow label directions.

PLANTING THE PLANT

Bare Root and Packaged Stock: Examine the stock and prune away any diseased or damaged roots or branches. Dig the planting hole and backfill with enough soil to hold the plant slightly higher than the depth it was growing in the nursery. Tamp the soil and center trees with the largest branches facing southwest. Straighten the roots and spread them evenly. Cover the roots with soil, avoiding any clods, rocks, etc. Gently raise and lower the plant while adding soil to eliminate air pockets. When the hole is three-quarters full, tamp the soil and fill the hole with water. This should take care of any remaining air pockets. Finish filling the hole with soil, and then water thoroughly.

Balled and Burlapped (B & B): Carefully set the plant in the hole at or slightly higher than it was at the nursery. The root flare and the top of the ball will indicate original planting depth. Take extra care not to loosen or break the soil ball. Fill the hole three-quarters full, tamping to remove air pockets. Cut and remove *all* twine from around the trunk. Pull burlap away

(continued page 21)

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