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the Bull Sheet

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On Course With the President

Judging by the amount of comments related to recent past writings, people really do read our newsletter! I guess I turned up the heat with the CDGA more than I expected. Yes, sometimes it does get a bit hot in the kitchen, but on the other hand sometimes it may take a small wave to smooth the sands on the beach.



When the article was published concerning a General Manager being on the panel at the Club Directors Workshop, a number of Superintendents spoke out to myself as well as various representatives of the CDGA. This may have upset some of the individuals within the CDGA, but our message as Superintendents, was delivered. I am very pleased with the response, concern, and outcome with the CDGA. I was assured by CDGA Official Don Gardner and others, that the CDGA **does not** want to lessen its relationship with Superintendents. The organization would like to continue to work together with common goals.

I was also told that the General Manager who sat on the panel was not invited to do so, and for the sake of saving embarrassment, was allowed to remain "up front". If this is true, it was a considerably bold move on his part. I still think it is quite a coincidence that the first subject talked about was the value of the General Manager. Whose idea was that? Bruce Sering made it clear at a CDGA seminar held at Butterfield Country Club a few years ago, how Superintendents generally view the G.M. concept. Our views have not changed as far as I know.

Despite this ripple in the water, I believe that our relationship with the CDGA is, and can remain, as good as ever. It brings great pleasure to see the development of the CDGA's services with Turfgrass Advisor Dr. Randy Kane. Dr. Kane's services and research continue to develop for the benefit of golf, especially for the Chicago metro area. We are really fortunate to have Dr. Kane in our back yard making house calls as the "Turf Doctor". His work with the experimental green at Cantigny will provide a vast array of cutting edge information from which we can all benefit. For this reason, the MAGCS increased the amount of donation to the CDGA Foundation to support the work of Dr. Randy Kane and the research green at Cantigny.

The MAGCS contributed \$6,000 toward support of Dr. Kane and the project. The increased exposure is a direct result of voluntary MAGCS dues contributions towards turf research.

To wrap things up, yes, maybe the title "CDGA, Superintendents Friend or Foe?" was a bit harsh. But if the CDGA had meant to lessen the Superintendents part in golf course management, which they claim they didn't, it would have been a very significant set back and the title would have been fitting. After discussing the issue with CDGA Officials, I feel the CDGA recognizes the importance of our expertise and our skills in management. As far as "General" Managers seeking additional authority, I don't think we should drop our guard, not for a minute.

Joel Purpur, President, MAGCS

Plant Protectants ARE Safer Than You Think

by John Lebedevs

Ever since the publication of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, the American public has had alarming concerns about the risk of agricultural chemicals. Much of the concern is due to media coverage. Coverage tends to overstate the negative (bad news always gets more attention than good news). Results from preliminary findings may be featured while follow-



up studies with positive or neutral findings receive little or no exposure. The public also has a real problem understanding the nature of risk. Putting into perspective the personal risks we all take everyday in our daily activities, the lesser risks we face from natural disasters and the much lower risks we face from possible chemical exposure. In other words, the actual risks from chemical exposure is much lower than the perceived risk, while the risk from such activities as driving a car is much greater than recognized by the public. The E.P.A. has established standards (more commonly known as tolerances) to help make sure that any pesticide residues do not exceed safe levels.

The E.P.A. procedure for determining chemical tolerance on a given crop/plant begins with an evaluation of the potential health risks arising from residues of the pesticide in question. To identify the most severe potential health hazards associated with such residues, laboratory animals are fed varying doses of the chemical over their lifetime. The highest dose at which the animal exhibits no adverse health effects is identified. A 150 pound adult would have to eat **3000** heads of lettuce **per day** for a **lifetime** to ingest the amount of commonly used pesticide found to cause health problems in laboratory animals. Many of the plant protectants used on our crops are the same or similar that are used on our golf courses to keep the turf in a healthy condition.

Before a pesticide can be registered for use, it must undergo at least 120 separate tests. It takes 8-10 years and \$35 to \$50 million to develop and register a pesticide product. On the average, only one in 20,000 chemicals makes it from the laboratory to the field. As you can see the plant protectants that we use have gone over a rigorous testing process and only the ones that pass the E.P.A. registration process make it to the marketplace.

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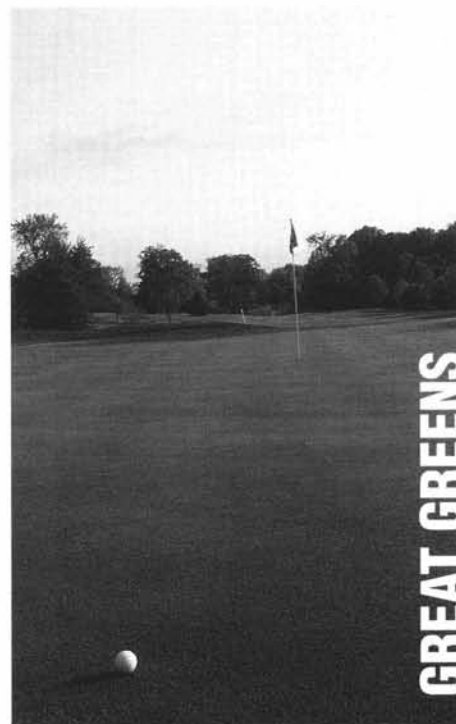
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Ice Cold Beer

by Rob Zimmerman, Hinsdale Golf Club

An old journalism professor of mine used to preach that most people who read newspapers or trade journals skim them first and then read only the articles whose titles appeal to them most. So I've got everyone's attention, right?

During the past couple of years, I've been involved in several conversations concerning the development of a "pseudo-association" for assistant golf course superintendents. These discussions have aroused various ideas from starting its own professional association to getting together at a local drinking establishment every once in a while. This past February at the annual Arrowhead meeting, I was fortunate enough to have lunch with John Tobin, assistant superintendent at River Forest C.C. and Steve Schendel, assistant superintendent at The Golf Club at Oak Brook Hills. Through the course of the meal, discussion once again turned toward the idea of an assistant "get-together". Since that date, we have spoken again on several occasions and have developed an idea we would like to present to our fellow assistant superintendents.

We feel that it would best serve our interests to start out with a few get-togethers throughout the year, probably scheduled between late fall and early spring so as not to create scheduling problems with our long work hours. These meetings would serve a few basic needs. As assistant superintendents, it is important to know one another, to be able to put a face to a name, and to have the ability to converse with one another and exchange ideas. It is this sharing of ideas and camaraderie that is the backbone of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents and something we as assistant superintendents need to develop. As future superintendents, we need to be able to relate to our peers and use the opportunity to grow professionally. We envision these meetings revolving around an educational topic, with plenty of time devoted to question and answer segments. A few possible topics could be interviewing for a superintendent's job along with mock interviews, recent experiences with course projects, and roundtable discussions about job responsibilities and expectations. This is only a partial list and by no means are these topics set in stone.

John, Steve, and myself would like to try and get together with all of you early this summer to solicit interest in pursuing this idea further. We have tentatively set a date for June 10. Once again, these meetings are meant to help enhance our professional development as assistant superintendents and become better acquainted with our peers. In order for us to properly plan for our first event, please RSVP by May 26 to River Forest C.C. at (708) 782-4259, The Golf Club at Oak Brook Hills at (708) 323-7633, or my home number at (708) 769-1854.

P.S. — If your assistant is not a member of the MAGCS, would you please pass this article along to him/her. Thank you.



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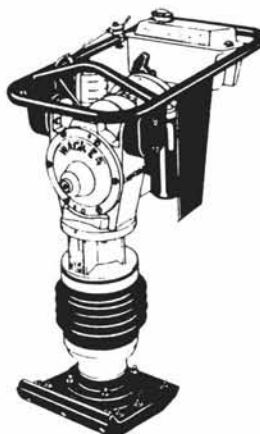
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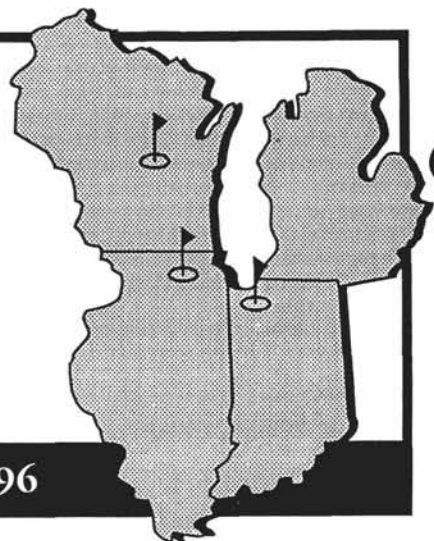
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Same Budget ... Better Flower Gardens

by Dean Bemis
Vaughan's Seed Company

Every spring, it's the same old thing ... committees and members want bigger and better gardens. But, for most of us, budgets are not growing fast enough to meet the demand for higher quality gardens. If you have this problem, read on — here are 10 tips for improving the 'look' of your flower beds without greatly increasing their cost.

- Most any bed will look best if it's 'mounded-up' in the middle (higher in the middle), but labor and materials can be expensive, even though the results are dramatic. If you need to use the same cultivar in the entire bed, decrease the plant spacing in the middle of the bed. This will increase the competition between the plants in the middle of the bed and cause them to grow taller — the bed is instantly mounded!

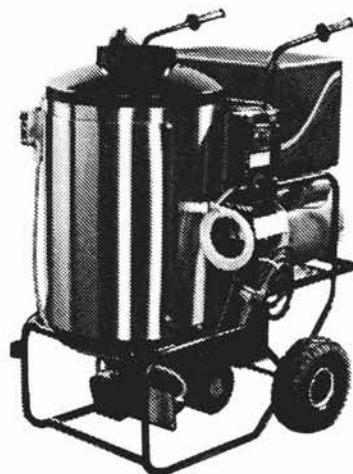


In contrast with the 1960's type of long leggy impatiens that had all their flowers on the tops of the plants, today's modern hybrids are shorter, with a more compact bushy habit and have their blooms covering the whole plant. This is the new Impulse impatiens — the best of the best!

- If you have the luxury of selecting several cultivars for the bed you want to look mounded, obviously you want to put the tallest in the middle. Some tall plants are ugly — some are great. Of the great ones, I would recommend Salvia Grenadier (splendens) or a farinacea type, Cleome Queen series or a new tall Celosia Flamingo Feather. They all love the sun, but you can ask your plant supplier for other ideas.
- What picture doesn't look better with a nice frame around it? The same is true with flower gardens ... especially if you are working with mixed flower colors. Always put a solid border around flower beds that have mixed colors in it; it gives the garden 'place' and anchors it to the landscape. Have some fun — select a good color out of the mix and use it as the separate color for the border.
- Start with uniform beds — that is, beds that have no big holes in the ground. Low spots hold water and dry out very slowly. The high ground sheds water and dries out quickly. The differential will give your annuals a very un-uniform 'look'.
- Use light colors on the outside of the bed and the darker colors in the middle of the bed. Why? I don't know, but it sure looks better than when the reverse is done! It also makes the beds look larger.

(continued page 10)

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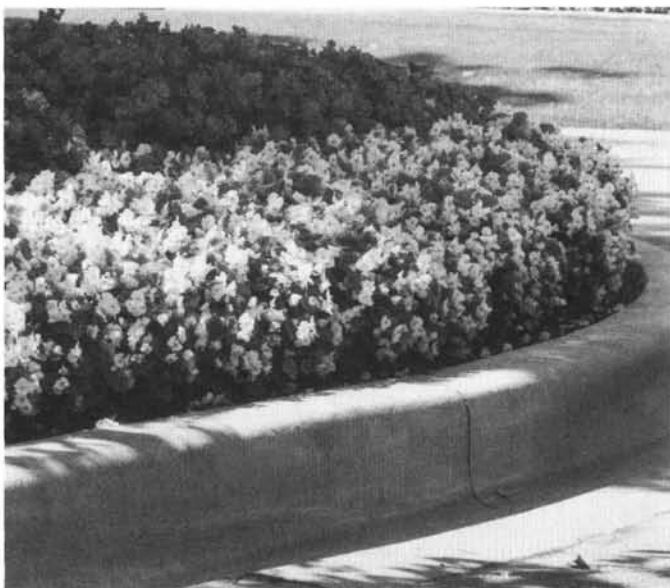
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- Try using some 'monochromatic' color schemes. Use several textures and shades of the same basic color in one bed — it makes quite a bright block of color in the greenscape of the golf course.
- Try some high contrast colors especially for beds to be seen from far away, above or from the street. Nothing like 55 mile per hour color!
- Pack in the annuals, dirt is for farms and flowers are for the landscape. Try not to have any soil showing between your annuals by the 4th week in the bed. A full block of color will do wonders for the clubhouse.
- Beware of the dry and wet spots in your gardens. Dry spots can be filled with plants such as portulaca, gerbera, gazanias and best of all vinca ... but you'll have to do some advanced planning with your greenhouse grower to get the good stuff. Ask him!
- Wet spots can be filled with impatiens (shade), Tuberous rooted begonias, mimulus, and other moisture lovers, ask your grower.

If you take care in planning your annual gardens, you can't lose — they're easy to plant and require very little care. Its color that will earn you compliments all through the season! Now, get out there and plant your gardens.

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