



A Day in the Life of a Superintendent

By: Rich Roth

Someday when I become a Superintendent I hope to use the techniques and experiences that I have encountered while working in the Golf Course business with the Superintendents I have worked under. Some of the experiences are something no school can teach you. I hope that I never have the kind of experience that I am about to describe to you.

First let's take a day in the life of a Superintendent: as you arrive to work in the morning there is an applicant waiting for an interview. You are impressed as you talk to him, but a glance down his application shows that he has been employed at one course for 6 months, another course for 2 years, and the last course for only 1 year. In addition to his poor work record, you also note that he has had no education to speak of. At this point you say to yourself, he has no education and he doesn't stay in one place too long, I'm not at all sure about hiring him. Let me take a few lines to comment about this: "Why do you care as long as he does the job and is willing to learn during the time he works for you"? As far as education, who are you looking for Albert Einstein? On the job experience of working on the golf course is education. And maybe from his experience on the other courses he will give you some new ideas. That is if you will take the time to listen. Okay you think when the interview is over, he will start Monday morning.

Now you go out to check your crew, yes your crew. But do you as the Superintendent take the necessary time to train your crew on all the equipment? If you don't, what will happen if Donna doesn't make it in and she's the only one who knows how to run the fairway unit? Well you guessed it, you or your assistant will be mowing, and lets face it, you have better things do to! But still you say to yourself, I don't trust anyone else to do that job. To that I would say, why do you hire people you don't trust? You've got to trust people even though he or she may not do it exactly like you would. Remember we are all individuals, not clones.

Now it's time to communicate today's activities. As a Superintendent how well do you communicate with your crew members? Do they understand what you want done? Charlie says, "sure boss I understand", and

he just might, in his own way, but his interpretation of what you stated at 6:30 a.m. may be completely different from what you actually had in mind. Anyway, today you are going to topdress greens, which is always fun (and I'm sure your ability to deal with problems will be tested). You've got two walking meter-matics, a front-end loader, a dump truck and pick-up, plus the necessary crew members for this operation. Correction, you thought you had the necessary crew members but one of the only two men who know how to run the topdressers didn't make it in this morning.

You think back to the new employee who is starting Monday and remember he stated that he knows how to run the topdressers. You say to yourself I knew that I should have had him start today and you prepare to run the other topdresser, (your assistant can't because he is spraying). Things are going good and four of the greens are done and then BANG a topdresser engine blows, the one that the mechanic just rebuilt. Now your temperature is rising! You take the topdresser back to the shop and keep the crew going with just the one topdresser. You and the mechanic check out engine, and you decide to run out and get the parts to fix it, while the mechanic dismantles the topdresser.

Meanwhile the drivers of the trucks hauling the top-dressing come back to the maintenance building for more material but wait, neither of them knows how to run the front-end loader! So the mechanic has to drop what he is doing to load the trucks. The two crew members who are waiting for the refills grab a cup of coffee and say to each other, "I know I could run the loader if given the chance, but I'm not trusted". When you arrive back to the shop with the new parts you see the mechanic loading the trucks and your two crew members standing around drinking coffee, and the topdresser is laying there half dismantled. THAT'S IT!, you explode and tear into the crew members and smash your radio to get the point across. Looking up to the sky you ask yourself why, why me? As you are thinking about it, starting skyward, the rain starts, seemingly out of nowhere. The two crew members say to each other, "I don't know why he got mad at us, we didn't do anything wrong. We couldn't have, we didn't know how to run the loader". In disgust they shake their heads feeling



DICK BESSIRE
ED HAITHCOCK
DARRYL REJKO
SONNY SMITH
1-800-432-2214

**Distributors for
Howard Fertilizers**

**QUALITY FERTILIZERS & CHEMICALS
FOR THE TURF INDUSTRY**

P.O. Box 8081
Jupiter, Florida 33468

get out of the water

Weeds grow all the time, even when you don't have time for them.

We specialize in aquatics. We have the people, the equipment, the know-how and the time to do it right.

When we manage your water and shoreline areas, you spend your time on more important things. You know that your lakes are in the best possible hands.

Serving golf courses and green spaces throughout Florida.

FLORIDA AQUATIC

Professional Lake Management
1637 N.W. 38th Avenue
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33311
FLORIDA TOLL FREE (800) 432-1349



(continued from page 24)

no respect and actually find the whole thing amusing because you are still standing in the rain with your radio in pieces at your feet.

Sure you're mad, but at yourself more than at the poor guys you just took it out on. Well it's not quite noon and the day is a wash out. The topdressed greens look like a mud wrestling ring and the spraying your assistant was doing for weed control is washed away. You are now sitting at your desk and you're trying to work on your budget, might as well add a radio to your want list! Not being able to concentrate and disgusted you get up and turn out the lights, as you go out the door you console yourself with the fact that tomorrow is another day.

I guess the point I am trying to get across is that no matter what techniques, experiences and education you have, there will be good days and there will be bad days. You've got to learn how to shrug off those bad ones, and you've also got to learn how to roll with the punches. ■

NEMACUR 3 (Liquid Formulation) Approved for Golf Course Use

Mobay Chemical Corporation has announced a new registration: Nematicur 3 Turf Nematicide is approved for use on golf course turfgrasses for control of the major genera of turf nematodes, at 9 to 12 fluid oz/1000 sq ft or 3 to 4 gal/acre; the product is a liquid that contains 3 lb a.i./gal, so these rates are equivalent to 9 to 12 lb. a.i./acre, as opposed to the somewhat higher rates of 10 to 20 lb a.i./acre for which the granular formulation, Nematicur 10G, is registered.

The new registration directs: "Apply specified dosage in sufficient volume of water to provide uniform distribution. Irrigate immediately after treatment using a minimum of 1/2 inch of water. Do not treat newly seeded areas until the plants have developed good root systems. Do not apply more than twice per year. Do not use on residential lawns or public recreational areas other than golf courses." Nematicur 3 is very toxic, and a RESTRICTED USE PESTICIDE.

In 1985 field experiments (still in progress at this writing), we have obtained reasonably good responses of fairway bermudagrasses to application of 3 gal/acre by chisel injection 1.5 inches deep, with chisels spaced 5 inches apart. Further evaluation of this and other application systems are needed, but the rates at which Nematicur 3 is registered should prove more economical per unit of area and result in application of less active ingredient per unit area than the granular product, a saving to both the superintendent's budget and the pesticide load on the environment.

-Nematology, Entomology, Pathology News
Volume 11, Number 5
September, October 1985