

AS IT LIES

Golf's Super Hero... It's ESSSS-MAN

By Jim Walker

Faster than a speeding golf cart. More powerful than a front-end loader. Able to leap over the maintenance building in a single bound. Look, up in the sky. It's a flying mole cricket! It's a crop-duster! No, it's Superintendent Man.

Yes, Superintendent man (S-man) - strange visitor from another planet who came to earth with powers and abilities far beyond those



of mortal men. Able to change the course of mighty irrigation systems. Bend PVC pipe in his bare hands, and who, disguised as

Alan Weitzel, mild mannered regional manager for a great Metropolitan Parks Department, fights a never-ending battle for smooth greens, lush fairways, and level tees. Investigative reporting indicates Superintendent Man is married, has 2.5 children, owns a used minivan, drives a company pickup and lives in a tract house in the 'burbs. He plays golf, watches sports on TV and on undercover assignments may drop in at the local adult entertainment club for a beer.

Known as S-man to his friends, the list of his super powers is endless:

The artist formerly known as S-man is expected to maintain Augusta National conditions on Dog Patch muni-dollars.

S-man should provide perfect greens without ever applying the necessary cultural practices.

S-man should never delay morning tee times to fertilize. The hack-n'-slash dew sweepers will have none of that.

S-man should never ask the greens committee for new equipment. After all, that stuff is made of iron and should never wear out.

S-man should work seven days a week from daylight till dark,

He should never take a vacation. After all, he is the man of steel and only kryptonite (or is it Milorganite?) can hurt him.

S-man should be everywhere at the same time.

S-man should know the name of everyone who plays on his course, as well as their children and family pets.

S-man should never expect a raise. There's not enough money to give his crew a raise and pay higher and higher prices for supplies,

S-man should not get upset because he hears only complaints and never a compliment about anything and everything on the course.

S-man and all his family members should never be sick. That could take him away from his duties.

S-man should know two weeks in advance that his pump station will be hit by lightning.

S-man should know another S-man is trying to steal his mechanic side-kick and be able to talk him into staying on for less money.

Good thing S-man is a man of steel. He may not always like his job but he will always love the game and do his best.

Superintendent man really does have powers and abilities far beyond those of mortal men.

Letters

Nutrition Principles Same for Man or Plant

Editor's Note: While this letter was in response to a Golfdom column, I thought the content worthy of sharing in light of the health issues our members have been facing.

Dear Mr. Jackson,

You wrote recently in *Golfdom* magazine of your concern for the health of the people in this profession. I wholeheartedly agree with your statements regarding our propensity to place our health as secondary to our jobs.

At the age of 28 I sought help for acid reflux disease. I had to

sleep in a chair for two or three hours each night so my food could digest before I could go to bed without problems.

This helped, but the problem worsened. I did not want to be placed on medication. I contacted a friend of the family, who had developed a line of nutritional products and asked for his help.

He asked questions about my diet. He explained that the high amounts of sugar and soft drinks in my diet were detrimental to the natural digestive process. This was causing my problem. How often do we emphasize that we should treat the problem rather than the symptom in turf? Medications from a doctor would have treated the symptom rather than the cause.

After changing my diet and adding some of his all-natural products to aid in my digestion, I totally eliminated my problem in less than a week and have not even had heartburn or reflux in more than a year. The products have also allowed me to lose 50 lbs. I now look and feel the way I should for a man my age.

In this past year I have done much study and realize that our bodies function very much like the plants we grow. Our bodies require a certain number and quantity of vitamins, minerals, and elements just as the plants do. Our problem is that we eat foods grown on nutrient-deficient soils so they don't contain all the nutrients we need.

We concentrate on N, P, and K for our turf, and the agriculture industry even more so. The problem is that our bodies need much more than the big three. What can we do?

To grow good grass on USGA-spec greens, we must regularly fertilize them in order to maintain proper nutrition. We can use granular, foliar, slow- or quick-release materials.

We can also use granular and liquid products for our bodies. The problem is that we do not have any true slow-release food. We literally need to spoon-feed ourselves daily to obtain our needed nutrients lacking in our food sources.

The lining of our intestines serves basically the same purpose as roots and root hairs (they even look similar). The proper nutrients must be provided and the proper pH maintained for this area of the body to take up the nutrients we

need. A lot of our physical problems are in fact nutritional deficiencies.

The turf disease triangle that we learned also applies to people. There must be a host (person or plant), causal agent (worm, virus, fungus, insect, nematode), and the proper environment. The host and causal agent almost always exist. It is when the host is deficient and not healthy that the proper environment for the causal agent is created. We can prevent most of our physical problems by proper nutrition.

Why do I share this information? I believe that our industry has people who can solve the problems that we have by using information that is available. I hope that you will help educate them so we can start using some preventive maintenance on ourselves.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Thank you,

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Brian,

Thanks for sharing your insights into diet, nutrition and health.

Editor

USGA Green Section Southeast Regional Update

When it Rains, It Pours, and Golf is Lousy!

Editor's note: Couldn't resist sharing this bit of irony from the USGA Southeast Region. The area gets 35 inches of rain in 90 days after four years of drought and the golfers want to know why playing conditions are lousy, and now some jobs are on the line. Unbelievable!

By Patrick O'Brien & Chris Hartwiger

After going through one of the most prolonged drought periods in the history of the Southeast Region, Mother Nature has switched modes and excessive rainfall now has caused economic and playability issues at numerous golf facilities.

From 1998 through the summer of 2002, most areas of the Southeast Region have been under water restrictions due to limited rainfall. The period between September