

I'm not going to talk about the weather. I'm not going to talk about the weather. I'm not going to... Oh, I can't stand it. Did everyone see the hurricane forecast for 2006 (17 named storms, nine hurricanes of which five are predicted to be major)? Ok, it's not great, but it is better than last year. Updated predictions should be out in early '06 and I hope not only that the numbers go down, but also that Florida gets a break from any hurricanes.

Stormy Weather

I am just like the majority of superintendents in Florida in that, prior to the 2004 hurricane season, my

experience in these massive storms was very limited. Now most of us are seasoned veterans. We watch the weather, see the direction of the storm and then put our plans into action. In this issue you will find comments from superintendents on what they have learned and what they are doing differently now. I have adjusted the

plan here at The Moorings Club and will continue to do so. I don't think it will ever be complete, but it will be adjusted to reflect what I have learned, and from listening to the experiences of other superintendents and what we went through on our property.

As long as I am on unpleasant subjects, let's talk about arsenic and phosphorus issues.

The EPA is conducting its required review of MSMA and is in the re-registration process now. The concerns are that MSMA is breaking down into free arsenic. Make sure that you follow the label, especially when mixing small quantities and make sure applicators are wearing the correct protective equipment

called for on the label.

As far as phosphorus is concerned, there is an initiative called the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Basin Plan endorsed by the governor to help clean up the Everglades. The plan calls for the

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reduced use of phosphorus in fertilizers in agricultural and urban applications. So before you buy that stock blend of 15-5-15, make sure you need the phosphorus. Base your decisions on good soil test data and scale back wherever possible.

On a positive note, at our fall board meeting, the directors voted and approved several research projects. We have submitted many of these projects to the GCSAA Chapter Cooperative Grant Program for co-funding. We are also partnering with the Florida Turfgrass Association to help fund these worthy research projects which have value across several turf industries besides golf.

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Happy New Year to one and all.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Craig Weyandt