

# FF-II

Continued from page 1

The contaminated FF-II — Lot #092889 (plus three letters) — has been recalled, he said.

Beginning with Eddie Hodgins of Idle Hour Country Club in Lexington, Ky., superintendents started calling Scott reporting dead spots in their greens. The spots were elongated and ran downhill — some two or three inches in size and others “as big as a spatula” at one course.

Hodgins, who lost 1,500 square feet of bentgrass on 18 of 20 greens at Idle Hour, said the cause of his dead spots was puzzling until two colleagues and University of Kentucky Professor A.J. Powell recognized it as an old nemesis. Three years ago a similar contamination had occurred in a Lesco, Inc. product containing atrazine, Hodgins said.

But until that discovery, the problem went from bad to worse.

Hodgins said that in February he started seeing spots. “Then it got all over the greens.”

UK’s Powell at first thought the plague was chronic ring spot, Hodgins said, and he responded by treating the greens on the front nine with FF-II.

It only got worse.

Finally, he spread sulfur on the greens and believes that neutralized the atrazine.

Scott labs verified the cause after three weeks of tests. Results showed FF-II spread on Idle Hour greens had four times the amount of atrazine needed to kill bentgrass.

Hodgins said 4,000 two-inch plugs were needed to mend the Idle Hour greens.

“They’re all fine now,” he said. “We finished plugging on Memorial Day weekend.”

While Hodgins’ greens survived with plugging, others had to resod entire greens.

Boyer Mountain Golf Club in Boyne Falls, Mich., was one of those.

Superintendent Blake Woodard used the contaminated FF-II on two of the 10,000-square-foot greens on his championship course and all nine smaller greens on his executive course.

The result? “It was blanket coverage,” he said, “like a herd of elk had run all over them.”

One of the the two larger greens had to be

stripped 18 inches below the surface “because we didn’t know how far down the contamination went.”

Five hundred to 600 yards of fill was needed. The cost to sod the two large greens, he said, was \$18,000 for the sod and another \$18,000 to lay it.

Woodard said he will probably use his maintenance crew to lay the sod on the executive course’s greens, but the cost could still reach \$50,000.

Scott is picking up the tab, and Woodard said he is happy with the company’s response to the outbreak.

“They sent representative after representative and took more and more samples” to test the soil and resolve the problem, he said.

Scott Vice President of Sales Jerry O’Donnell said different courses required different solutions.

“We did several things, depending on the number of spots,” O’Donnell said. “Where the spots were few and far apart, we removed the soil plugs and replaced them with good turf.”

“Where the damage was more extensive, we sprayed the greens with a liquid or dry form of charcoal treatment, top-dressed them with sand and overseeded with bentgrass.”

Meanwhile, Scott has taken steps to improve its quality control and prevent future contaminations.

First, according to Vice President and General Manager Richard B. Stahl, all products containing atrazine will be dyed a bright color so they can be easily recognized.

Second, quality assurance personnel will increase checks on production runs of golf course greens products.

Third, bioassay tests will be conducted using sensitive turfgrasses to provide an additional check on product quality.

(See letter on this page.)

## Correction

In the June issue’s story Coeur d’Alene golf course story we misspelled the name of John Barlow, administrative vice president of the Hagadone Corp., which is developing the course.

# LETTERS

## An open letter from O.M. Scott

To Our Customers:

At the O.M. Scott & Sons Co., product quality is of utmost importance. We believe you have enough to do without worrying about the performance of the products you buy. Unfortunately, last fall our quality control system did not identify a potential problem with FF-II. As a result, a limited amount of contaminated product was released to the market.

When such a situation occurs, word spreads rapidly and facts can become distorted. To help ease our customers’ fears, here are the facts of the present situation.

- Greens treated with FF-II came through the winter in excellent condition. But when the weather started to warm up this spring, a small number of golf courses noticed spots resembling dollarspot. Our technical representatives took soil and product samples, and identified atrazine on these courses. Scott took immediate action to insure that the golf courses were back in playing condition as soon as possible.

- Our technical representatives were notified as soon as we learned of this issue. They have contacted each customer, individually, who received FF-II from the suspect production.

Since this situation was identified, we have taken the following actions to insure that this type of contamination never occurs again in

Scotts ProTurf or ProGrow products.

1. All products containing atrazine will be dyed a bright color so that they can be easily recognized.

2. Quality assurance personnel will make increased checks on production runs of golf course greens products.

3. Bioassay tests will be conducted using sensitive turfgrasses to provide an additional check on product quality.

We regret this incident and apologize for the inconvenience and confusion it may have caused.

Again, product quality is the highest priority at O.M. Scott, and we stand behind all of our products. As outlined above, you can be certain this incident is not being taken lightly. Please be assured that the Scott products you have now, and will order in the future, will be safe for use.

If you have any questions about this situation, please feel free to contact Scott directly at 1-800-543-0006. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Richard B. Stahl  
vp and general manager

Letters to the editor are welcomed. Just write to *Golf Course News*, P.O. Box 997, Yarmouth, Maine 04096.

## Club Car Utility Vehicles



### Out Last, Out Perform, Out Maneuver The Competition

Club Car’s utility vehicles and personnel carriers, available in gas or electric, are rust proof, lightweight, and economical to own.

**Carryall I** is ideal for small space operations with its self-adjusting rack and pinion steering and the tightest clearance circle in its class.

For bigger jobs, **Carryall II’s** big four cycle/341 cc engine gives it the power to haul and tow one-half ton loads all day without refueling. The durable all aluminum pickup bed and frame are rust proof and virtually maintenance free.

Finally, **Tourall** is Club Car’s new economical personnel carrier which accommodates four passengers comfortably throughout a wide variety of applications.

Club Car utility vehicles and personnel carriers are available with a wide assortment of options. Add a cab or tailgate ramp, and instantly increase usage possibilities.

Our dealers provide unparalleled customer service for products sold or leased. Find out more about the economy and versatility of Club Car’s vehicles. Call the authorized Carryall Line Dealer nearest you to set up a demonstration.

## Clearly Affordable Two-Way Radios By Motorola Radius

Put the crisp, clean sound of MOTOROLA technology to work for you. RADIUS two-way radios are affordably priced. They will put more communicating power where you need it the most.

MOTOROLA radios deliver years of dependable trouble-free performance no matter where you use them. Indoors or out, the field proven quality of MOTOROLA can help make sure you are clearly understood.

- Low Cost: Radios Start at \$235.00
- Trade-Ins Accepted
- Up to Three-Year Warranty
- Free Two-Week Trial
- Immediate Delivery
- Variable Power Models Available

For more information in regard to the RADIUS line, or to take advantage of our trial offer, please call our nationwide toll-free number: 1-800-527-1670.

\*Actual trade-in allowance depends on make and model of unit being traded in.

**PAGECOM**

Page-Com, Inc. 10935 Alder Circle, Dallas, Texas 75238 1-800-527-1670

**ClubCar**

Club Car, Inc./P.O. Box 4658 Augusta, Georgia 30917-4658 U.S.A.  
404-863-3000 TELEEX-54-5444 Facsimile-404-860-7231