

Southeast

SOME SOILS TIPS

Water moves from coarse to fine soils, a fact that causes some interesting and useful effects, according to professional agronomist Larry Smith.

Smith, of P.A.C.S., made several comments and suggestions in a talk to the Central Florida GCSA, including:

- Adhesive and cohesive properties of soil physics create a pressure gradient that creates water movement from coarse to fine soils.

Finer textured loams, silts and clays will become saturated before nearly coarser materials.

- Topdressing with a coarse material on top of a finer one will aid drainage as well as increase overall water retention.

- Thatch and mat also affect water movement. Some thatch is beneficial, while real problems can develop when excessive thatch and mat are present.

- Organic matter naturally occurs in the soil as a result of root biodegradation and earthworm activity — not the decomposition of plant leaf tissue.

Clippings provide an excellent source of sugars necessary for microbial action.

- In the landscape, plants and trees should be planted "proud," or high to assure water contact with the newly planted tree ball before the native soil.

Smith recommended superintendents:

- Occasionally mow greens and tees without baskets to use an excellent source of glucose.

- Re-use soil from new greens by matting in the cores after aerating.

Why remove material already paid for? he asked.

- Aerate frequently to increase the soil water interface.

- Top dress frequently and lightly to aid in the breakdown of thatch and mat. Use



similar or lightly coarse materials to improve water retention and drainage.

FLORIDA GREEN ROUNDTABLES

Florida Green, the magazine of the Florida GCSA, will soon feature roundtable discussions on various topics.

Different chapters in the state will conduct the discussions

N.C. GOLF COUNCIL ORGANIZES

RALEIGH, N.C. — The North Carolina Golf Council officially organized Aug. 29, and is seeking "to unite all segments of North Carolina golf into an effective state-wide coalition."

NCGC's focus is to promote the interests of golf enterprises in North Carolina through a coalition of owners/managers, developers, designers, manufacturers/suppliers and affiliated corporations. The council involves a partnership between golf sporting associations and golf-related businesses.

NCGC hopes to increase awareness of golf's contributions to the state. The organization will act as an advocate for golf enterprises, fostering a political and regulatory climate that is responsive to industry needs.

NCGC elected four officers during its August meeting. Chairman is Kelly R. Miller of Pine Needles Country Club in Southern Pines, while Dean A. Walters of Sea Trail Corp. in Sunset Beach is vice chairman; E. Spencer Robbins of Elk River Development Corp. in Banner Elk is secretary-assistant treasurer; and M. Stuart Frantz of Carolinas Golf Group in Raleigh in treasurer-assistant secretary.

The association also appointed 20 members to its advisory board of Directors.

Rick McKeel will serve as executive director of the Raleigh-based trade association.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY ENDORSED

The board of directors of the Georgia Section of the Professional Golfers Association has actively endorsed the program of the International Golf Society. This endorsement will result in test marketing the

format of the society's proposed Pro-Am golf tournament to eventually raise \$50 million to \$100 million for children's charities throughout the world.

The Georgia PGA committed to run the society's golf tournaments. The proposed format was tested in November at clubs in the metro Atlanta area. If the model — designed for men, women and mixed teams — were accepted, the tournament would be expanded nationally and then internationally, according to Georgia PGA Executive Director John Bryan.

Northeast

CHLOROTHALONIL ALTERNATIVES STUDIED

Many alternative fungicides are available for all diseases for which a fungicides may be recommended, according to Extension specialists at the University of Massachusetts.

After studying viable alternatives to chlorothalonil (example trade name: Daconil 2787),

Dr. Gail Schumann reported said the final analysis is that a fungicide choice reflects the best judgment of the turfgrass manager.

According to the UMass Cooperative



Extension's Turf Notes newsletter, Schumann said that in a good integrated pest management program, no fungicide application should be considered for a specific disease without considering secondary problems. The broad spectrum activity of chlorothalonil is part of its value as a fungicide as reflected in its frequent use on turfgrass.

According to Turf Notes, she reported that before it is determined that alternatives exist for use of chlorothalonil, it is necessary to consider all disease problems in an area and in a particular season.

The evaluation did not determine that no alternatives to chlorothalonil exist, but that determining viable alternatives is a complex task involving more than a single disease evaluation.

This information may be used in the future to help turfgrass managers meet the requirements of the state's new ground water regulations, Vittum said.

In her study, she evaluated chlorothalonil's use on anthracnose, copper spot, dollar spot, pink snow mold, leaf spot disease, red thread, brown patch, rusts and gray snow mold.

The evaluation included rate used, efficacy, expense, ease of use, reliability and specific disadvantages of alternatives.

Cultural practices were listed as an alternative for all disease, with the caveat that fungicides may still be required on golf greens and tees and on any turfgrass during particularly conducive weather conditions

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