

"**CUTRINE** absolutely got rid of all my algae before the Greater Milwaukee Open started."



Says Bud Hooper, course superintendent, Tripoli Country Club, Milwaukee, Wis.:

"Less than a week before the GMO, my water was solid with algae. I didn't think there was a chance **CUTRINE** could get rid of it in time. BUT IT DID!

"The best thing about **CUTRINE** is it's safety. I irrigate my greens from my open water. With **CUTRINE**, I can draw water right after treatment and won't hurt the grass. We have ducks, too, and they aren't harmed either.

"If **CUTRINE** worked only half as well as it does, I would use it because of the safety factor.

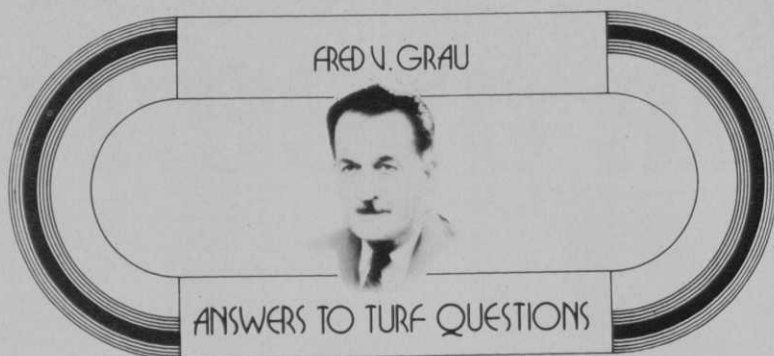
"I wouldn't get other superintendents in a bind by recommending **CUTRINE** if I wasn't convinced it works, and safely.

"**CUTRINE** is absolutely the best there is for algae control."

CUTRINE®

Take
Bud Hooper's
word for it!

APPLIED BIOCHEMISTS, INC.
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Mequon, Wisconsin 53092



CONTROVERSY IN THE CRABGRASS BELT

Time was when turfgrass managers really worried about crabgrass in the crabgrass belt. With efficient selective chemicals, both pre- and post-emergence, no one is that much concerned today. The big question now is, "Which grass shall I go with?" Just about the time we think we have a sure answer nature does a flip and changes seasons on us.

In the late 1940s and early 1950s U-3 bermudagrass looked like a sure winner. It moved steadily north and was used widely in the Philadelphia area, even in New York City. Then in the early 1960s nature dealt this interloper from the South a blow to the gut. Huge plantings were wiped out, mainly because an early warm spell started new growth, only to be killed off by heavy late freezes.

In the 1950s Merion Kentucky bluegrass soared to unprecedented heights, only to be crushed by unforeseen diseases, enhanced by heat and humidity, which are part and parcel of this transition zone.

The zoysiagrasses were very much in the limelight at this time because research at Beltsville and at other stations confirmed their reliability for winter hardiness and tolerance to heat, diseases, insects and close mowing. The big trouble was "slow spread," and the necessity for costly vegetative planting. Seed was unreliable, slow and difficult to establish. Also the billbug finally made "hash" out of unprotected turf.

The spring of 1972, cold and wet, was not designed for the best growth of bermuda or zoysia. *Poa* flourished, then died out when hot weather came, leaving great gaping

holes in the turf. The best procedure at this point seems to be to seed hulled bermuda quickly to provide a playing turf, followed in early fall with another overseeding of selected cool-season grasses that have a chance of surviving.

After working in this confusing area for 41 years and having innocently added to the confusion by well-intentioned releases and recommendations, I am now forced to draw certain conclusions:

1. A monoculture of any one grass cannot be depended on;
2. The highly variable climate dictates a flexible attitude toward combining or alternating warm and cool-season grasses;
3. Now that we have available to us excellent equipment for efficiently introducing seeds of grasses into established turf without stopping or interfering with play, we will see a great deal more of this action. This is all the more valid now that we have fast-growing elite ryegrasses and sturdier, more dependable bluegrasses. For quick action in hot weather, we can depend on hulled bermudagrass seed even though we expect it to suffer during winter.

It has been said facetiously that the way to grow turf in the Washington area is to encourage crabgrass during the summer and overseed with ryegrass in the fall for green turf through the winter until crabgrass takes over again. At Beltsville we tried to approach this concept by combining Meyer zoysia and Merion bluegrass. By managing the fertility to keep the two perennial grasses in balance, we developed some outstanding and exciting turf. The idea fizzled because 1) zoysia was too slow and too expensive to establish and 2) we had no good method of establishing Meri-

continued on page 15

GRAU from page 12

on bluegrass in the zoysia turf.

This brief discourse may do little to settle any controversy, but, hopefully, it will encourage thought-provoking seminars on the best approach to this perennial problem.

Q—Our Tuscote bermuda tees lack vigor. Some are one year old, some two, some three. We started using 38-0-0 this year (P, K and pH are at good levels) for the first time. Someone suggested resodding. I am holding out for overseeding. What is your opinion? (Maryland)

A—First, stimulate the bermuda with weekly applications of sulfate of ammonia at five pounds to 1,000 square feet (yields one pound of N). You won't reach peak performance with Ureaform until the second year when a reserve has been built up. With your scarifier seeder cut seed into the tees in two directions applying about four pounds to 1,000 square feet of this mixture: three pounds Palomora blend of ryegrasses (Pelo, Manhattan, Pennfine) and ½ pound each of Pennstar and Fylking. Stay with the UF program. Terminate the sulfate of ammonia applications when you have achieved good growth (two to three weeks). I advise against resodding.

Q—We have parts of our rough and unused area on the golf course literally overrun with common milkweed. It is a big plant that attracts the Monarch butterfly and produces wonderful flowers and later, big pods that when ripe, release winged seeds that travel for miles on the wind. Should we try to eliminate it or does it have a use? (Ohio)

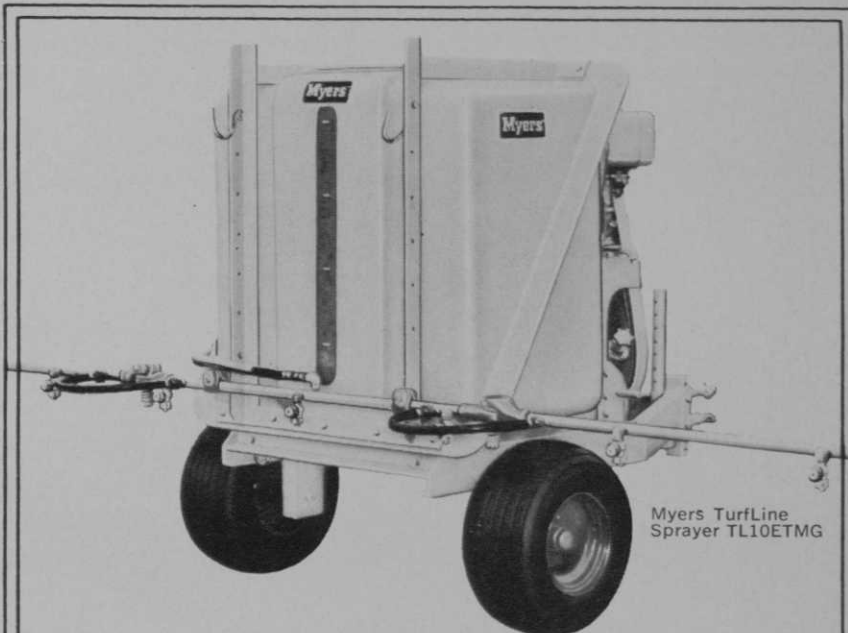
A—I may not be the right person to ask about milkweeds. I love them! I pick the unopened flower buds along with the tender leaves just above them and cook them as I would broccoli. The difference is that milkweed, properly prepared and seasoned, is far superior to any broccoli I've ever eaten. Later when the young tender pods are forming, I will gather, cook and freeze them, too, for my winter supply of greens. Warning! Avoid milkweeds that have been sprayed with poisons.

I know that some of my readers will ask in wonder, "Has Dr. Grau become dotty in his advanced age?"

The answer is no! I only wish I had known earlier what I know now about living off nature's bounty—for free.

Q—We have been given solid evidence by scientists that the new elite fine-leaved turf-type ryegrasses are comparable in leaf width to the better Kentucky bluegrasses. To our dismay we cannot buy (or sell) "Certified Sod" in some states because it contains these elite ryegrasses. Can you explain this discrimination? (New York)

A—Time was when the coarse-blade annual (common) ryegrass was relegated to a classification labeled "coarse." The rapid development and acceptance of the elite perennial ryegrasses has caught some of the certification agencies with their "plants down." They appear to be oblivious to facts and continue to think of ryegrass in the old, outmoded sense. If I were an official of a certifying agency, I would do all in my power to certify turfgrass mixtures that contain the new breed of perennial ryegrasses. □



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