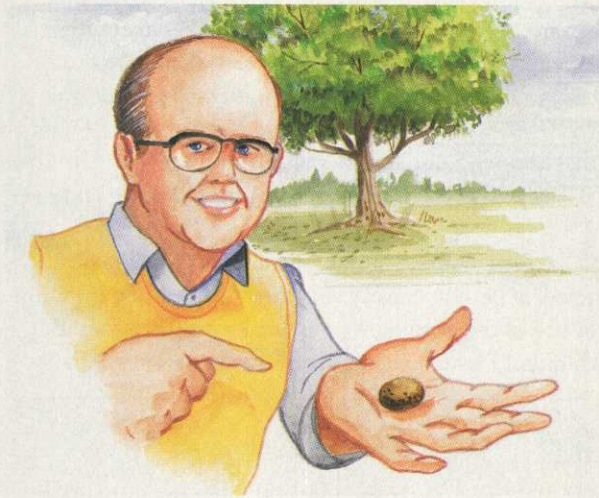


Nutty Professor

TURF SCIENTIST HAS A PLAN TO BATTLE HUNGER

Professor Reed Funk is going nuts — but the world may be a better place for it. Funk, the Cook College/Rutgers University turf scientist who developed Manhattan perennial ryegrass and Rebel tall fescue, is lobbying to increase the world's supply of nuts to battle hunger problems at home and abroad. Funk is researching the issue and developing contacts in Asia for further development.



DAN ZOLA

"It's possible and likely that future generations will need more food," Funk says. "Therefore, we will need to substantially increase world food production."

The world is dependent on only a few major crops, including wheat, rice, corn, soybeans and barley, and needs to expand its selection, Funk says. "We need to develop a greater diversity of species," he adds.

That includes nutritious and palatable nuts, such as pecans, hazelnuts and chestnuts. "There are opportunities for substantial genetic improvement for a number of these underutilized crops," he adds.

In time, Funk says that nut species can be genetically improved to grow anywhere, despite their lineage. He points out that corn originally adapted in southern Mexico, but was growing throughout the New World when Columbus discovered America.

Funk stresses that the world will need more food because population is expected to increase by 3 billion in the next 50 years. He says nut trees can grow in rocky and steep areas where other crops, such as wheat, can't be planted.

"Many tree crops have been neglected, but we have the building blocks to do this," he says. "The genetic improvement of underutilized food crops is a win-win situation."

— Larry Aylward

Quotable

"The threat of losing your job causes more stress than you can imagine. And the threat is real. There's always a small group of people in every club that's clamoring for a guy's head."

— Frank Dobie, superintendent and general manager of Sharon GC in Sharon Center, Ohio, on job security.

"You get a free air show with every round."

— Certified golf course superintendent Dennis Lyon commenting on the jets from a nearby base that frequently fly over Murphy Creek in Aurora, Colo.

"We've all come to a point in our lives where we've been tested and hit adversity. And in golf there is no better sport to describe the equation of life. It's just you and a ball and nature; you against yourself."

— Robert Redford, director of "The Legend of Bagger Vance," explains his metaphor for life (*The Cleveland Plain Dealer*).

"Grandpa lived the evolution of golf architecture. He went from mules and pull scrapers in his early days to big earth movers, from basic watering to multi-million-dollar irrigation systems, and from fescue greens to improved varieties of bentgrass."

— Golf course architect W. Bruce Matthews III, reflecting on the career of his grandfather, W. Bruce Matthews, a well-known Michigan architect who died in September at 96.