
1987 WTA FIELD DAY SET

WGCSA member Red Roskopf will, for the third consecutive year, host the annual Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Field Day. The 1987 event is scheduled for August 25th at Red's Camelot Golf Course. This has become an extremely popular day in the Wisconsin golf turf industry since it provides opportunities to operate equipment in the field. It has grown considerably in size since the first one that was held at the

Arlington Experiment Station.

WTA board members are working on a site for the 1988, 1989 and 1990 Field Days, and have received tentative approval from City of Madison Park Department officials to use Yahara Hills Golf Course on the east side of Madison. Ron Schara and Irv Graf, both long time WGCSA members, are working through the details with UW faculty, city officials and WTA committee

people. Yahara would be a good location because it offers ample room, proximity to the University, easy access to I-90 and I-94, a good shop facility with plenty of parking.

But that is the future. Currently, we are most interested in making the 1987 Field Day the best ever. Please set aside the 25th of August and travel to Lomira.

The Final Chapter To A Miserable Story

By Monroe S. Miller

"Scientific Evidence indicates little or no connection between amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and exposure to the metals found in Milorganite." So said Dr. Henry Anderson, state environmental epidemiologist on Tuesday, April 14. He recommended that further study of Milorganite as a possible cause of ALS, which is also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, NOT receive a high priority from the state of Wisconsin.

His report was the latest clean bill of health experts have given Milorganite after its use on the San Francisco 49ers practice field in the 1960s was described as a possible factor in the ALS deaths of a couple of former players for that team that died from ALS. Milorganite has been used safely on the nation's golf courses for sixty years.

Dr. Benjamin Brooks, director of the ALS clinical-research center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Hospitals created much of the unnecessary furor when he said that the possibility existed that Milorganite did indeed cause ALS and heavily promoted that idea in the media. His gross mistake created a lot of unfounded fear among the hundreds of thousands that have used Milorganite during its history.

"Exposure to heavy metals has been suggested as a cause of ALS based on a 1983 British study which found that leather workers suspected

to be exposed to heavy metals were at an increased risk for ALS," Anderson said. "Subsequent studies have failed to support this association, and other studies have failed to demonstrate elevated heavy metal levels in ALS patients."

Anderson went on to observe that current scientific literature suggests that genetic factors, immune deficiencies, metabolic disturbances, infectious agents, trauma, dietary factors and electric shock may be related to ALS. Anderson also said that the state would continue to provide technical assistance to the City Health Department in Milwaukee, the UW-Madison and others investigating causes of the disease.

Raymond Nashold, state vital statistics registrar, said there were no significant differences between Milwaukee County, southeastern Wisconsin or state levels of ALS cases from 1980 to 1984 and the rates for Minnesota or the nation generally.

Hopefully, this will end the hassles experienced by the MMSD staff so that they will be able to go distributing one of the finest turfgrass fertilizers ever marketed. One also has to believe that some powerful lessons in the scientific and environmental communities have been learned. They started the whole thing in the first place.

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