



# SOME QUESTIONS I'D LIKE ANSWERS TO . . . .

By Monroe S. Miller

Every so often I look at something on the golf course and wonder "why in the world . . .?" Even more frequently, as I am thinking about grass management and deliberating a course of action, I think to myself, "I wonder why . . .?"

So, over the course of an average day, I came up with the questions noted below. If you have the answers to any one (or two or three or all) of them, drop me a line with that answer. The responses will be in the next issue of *THE GRASS ROOTS*.

1. What's happening to the ash trees in our urban environment, especially the green ash?
2. Is there a thornless honeylocust anywhere in Wisconsin that has value as anything other than a weed?
3. Put #2 another way: is there a thornless honeylocust worth spraying to save it from its susceptibility to insect damage?
4. Does a severe winter line 1992-1993 with thick ice cover over turf areas for an extended time affect the viability of the bank of *Poa annua* seed in the soil?
5. Why were the ants out so early this spring and why in places they've never been before?
6. Why was it so difficult to find a Democrat to sponsor the pre-emption bill into the state legislature?
7. Who writes the labels for fertilizer products, anyway? Some are so extensive they are rendered meaningless to an agronomist unless an attorney is available for interpretation. On the other hand, we had material manufactured specifically for turfgrasses delivered this year with no information other than the analysis. What gives?
8. Why aren't reels and bedknives made out of a harder steel than they are now?
9. Will this be the worst year for mosquitos in Wisconsin's long and storied history?
10. When will we know what we are supposed to comply with concerning mixing/loading sites?
11. When will we know about specific rinse pad requirements?
12. Why can't some sharp packaging engineer design a fertilizer bag that is both a.) easy to open, and b.) sealed well enough to keep the contents from turning into a sack of rocks?
13. When will all manufacturers of agricultural chemicals used on a golf course recognize that the smell of their prod-

ucts has become an important consideration in selection? I mean, some smell so bad they even scare me.

14. Why was *Poa annua* seeding close to non-existent this spring? (At least it was in our town).
15. Why, all of a sudden, can't I find anyone who voted for Slick Willie (or who will admit to it)?
16. How long would it take a one-legged frog to kick the seeds out of a dill pickle?
17. We aren't going to have to go through the long process of hiring a manager for the Noer Research Facility again for a long time, are we?
18. Have the dire predictions by some that, once the pesticide posting signs were in place, golfers would stay away in hordes, come true?

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19. Every WGCSA member will be at the WTA Field Day, right?

20. Where did some golfers learn so much about winter kill and winter injury (which is amazing since so little is known) and where did those same players get their expertise about recovery? Or, did golf course superintendents and university faculty and USGA Green Section agronomists around the world miss a course in low temperature plant physiology?

21. Has anyone made the mistake of spending that middle class tax cut we were all promised by the current occupant of the White House?

22. Was there a need to apply a pre-emergence grassy weed herbicide this year?

23. What do you think about the new concept used in some golf course architect shops that incorporates creeping bentgrass into golf green surrounds?

24. Is anyone making a guess on what the GCSAA pesticide exposure study will show about our health?

25. If you had to wish for one thing for the golf course management business in Wisconsin—a new machine, a new product, a different attitude, a new law, weather or whatever—what would it be?

26. How many greens rollers are at work in Wisconsin and how are they working?

27. Is deep tine aerification a passing fad in our business or is it here to stay?

28. Who is making the best drop spreader (30" - 36") on the market these days?

29. Is the summer meeting format—no speaker and no dinner—receiving favorable response?

30. In terms of golf course plants, might 1993 go into the books as 'The Year of the Tree'?

31. Does anyone have a range tee/practice tee that is actually large enough? If so, how big is it?

32. I haven't heard a whole lot about the Pestcaster from golf course superintendent users in Wisconsin; how are they working?

33. Is the BTA grub a problem for anyone anymore, like it was a few years ago?

34. How is the bulk delivery system available for some products (like Banner) working for everybody?

35. Have you personally thanked Rod Johnson for his efforts to raise \$10,000 to put toward a study about your workplace and its impact on your health?

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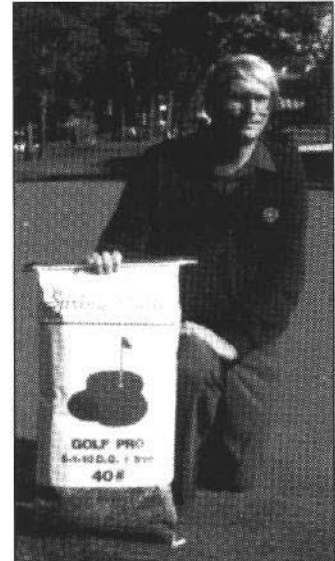


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