



# MAKING THE CUT

By Bruce Worzella



They say titles arouse the imagination, so read on and see if this one meant what you think.

It came to mind while driving home from the May meeting at the Country Club of Beloit where Don Ferger was our host. I've known Don for approximately 15 years and I have always admired him for his enjoyment of the profession and his easy going outlook. He has been a gracious sponsor of three WGCSA monthly meetings in the past 12 years. If I can recall correctly, they have always been during our "busy times." This did not matter to Donny; many times he's said: "Take me the way I am, I do the best I can."

This brings me to my title. Many golfers, whether they are professionals on tour or just amateurs, enter into

numerous tournaments. Costs vary from as little as twenty dollars to thousands. They try to do their best to compete and to make that final cut. They prepare in advance so they are mentally and physically ready. They make sure they have their swing groomed, rain gear packed, and wife or employer convinced that this is the most important thing to them at this time. They're ready.

What do these people do or have that we do not? Time, staff, expertise in delegation—you name it—because I am guilty of these excuses also. Golf course superintendents owe it not only to themselves, but to our peers as well. These friends have not worried what time of the year it is or if the course is going to be in perfect condition. Rather they graciously offer their golf courses

and facilities to us. We owe them our respect by our presence.

Also, your WGCSA committee Chairmen prepare golf arrangements, meal accommodations and educational sessions so that all of us can enjoy the day. We owe them for their time and commitment.

I am not being critical of what you should do or not, but as professionals and best of friends, we owe our hosts consideration for their efforts as meeting hosts.

We have no pressure of "making the cut", so let us be better prepared, so we can try to attend more meetings and show respect for all the extra efforts put forth.

I thank you all.

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(L to R) Mike Semler, Bruce Worzella, Rod Johnson, Bill Knight, Pat Norton, Tom Schwab, Mark Kienert, Scott Schaller and Mike Handrich.

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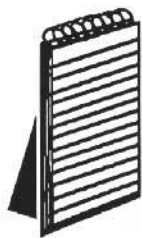
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## Wet Spring Season Now A Dusty Memory

By Monroe S. Miller

When the last issue of *THE GRASS ROOTS* was nearing press time, many of us were wondering if the wet weather was ever going to end.

Although the winter may have been the warmest in over a hundred years, spring was extracting revenge for that by giving us the grayest, dampest, coldest weather that season had seen in awhile. The grass growing season was delayed for weeks, causing concern that the sun might not show itself again.

Such foolish emotions! By mid-May we were crying for rain. Memorial Day weekend offered some relief for us and for the state's golf courses with a little rain and some unseasonably cool temperatures.

Relief to us, maybe. But not to golf players. They had a miserable Memorial Day weekend. Good grass weather isn't always good golf weather.

The accompanying graphics from the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service chart how moisture status around the state has changed. For a more complete comparison, look back at the stats in the last issue.

Today's surplus is tomorrow's deficit.

The New Hampshire Heart Association conducted a study of men who walk three 18-hole rounds of golf each week. The results of the study show such golf activity improved the participant cholesterol readings.

The amount of exercise involved in walking a golf course three times a week raised the level of 'good' cholesterol and therefore decreased their risk of coronary heart disease.

This is especially good news for golf because the game hasn't been regarded as a significant benefit to cardiovascular health. The great thing is that participation in golf covers all age groups and both sexes, and it is a sport that is likely to be continued once the player has started. The same cannot be said of a lot of exercise programs which have a high dropout rate.

Now the 10 plus million golfers over the age of 39 in the U.S. have the

perfect excuse to head off the golf course—it's good for their health!

Phil Pellitteri thinks the mild winter so many enjoyed six months ago will come back to bug us in the form of some serious insect problems.

The warm winter months resulted in very little seasonal mortality of the insect population. Cold weather helps enormously in keeping our insect problems in check.

Normally it takes from -10°F to -20°F to kill off many of our problem insects. We just didn't get those temperatures last winter.

In our town, winter was similar to that you would normally expect in southern Illinois. I am praying we don't get the kind of summer that they can have down there. Bugs are of less consequence than the turf diseases that prosper in the mid-south summer. I've no interest in fighting either problem this summer in Wisconsin.

Speaking of insects, how many of you saw the AP piece about the New York Entomological Society's Centennial Bug Banquet on May 20th?

The NYES decided to invite a former colleague of Phil Pellitteri and Chuck Koval to be the guest speaker for their anniversary meeting. Dr. Gene Defoliart is a retired University of Wisconsin-Madison entomology professor with expertise on edible bugs.

Because of Defoliart's expertise, the Society decided to hold a feast featuring bugs, ants, worms and crickets!

Defoliart publishes an edible insect newsletter. He became interested in insects as a food source in the 1970s while studying them as a potential high-protein food source for poultry.

Unbelievable as it may seem to some, insects are considered delicacies in many countries. Once, while stationed in Asia not all that far from the equator, I personally watched a young native snatch a fairly large insect from the roadside edge and pop it into his mouth! I nearly lost my lunch—some really ugly

and really big bugs live in that part of the world.

At the banquet 118 people coughed up between \$45 and \$65 for the chance to find bugs in their food.

Hors d'oeuvres included cricket and vegetable tempura, mealworm balls in tomato sauce, wax worm fritters with plum sauce and sauteed Thai water bugs. Ants and kurrajong bugs were also on the menu.

I can see it now. The Symposium committee may take a clue from here and offer up an unforgettable meal at next October's noon luncheon at the Pfister Hotel.

The salad will feature BTA beetle croutons on a bed of dandelion and plantain leaves. The main meal might offer breaded white grubs (harvested from golf course fairways) served with a delicious earthworm (picked up from golf greens after irrigation) loaf and a side of deep fried cutworms. Desert will be chocolate cake decorated with individually selected Armyworms.

Yuk.

Few legislators impress me anymore. In fact, as I think about it, I would be hard pressed to name even one right at this moment (okay, I still really like Gov. Tommy Thompson).

One of the least impressive I've ever met is state representative Louis Fortas. He is the one who proposed, with no evidence of need, some very restrictive legislation affecting those in our industry.

The man has little respect for the institution he was elected to serve in—he showed up at one public hearing in a jogging suit, still sweating. No class. No dignity.

No respect for the public at the hearing, either. Starting times apparently mean little to Mr. Fortas, either. He showed up late at one.

So pressed to make a case was he that he brought a couple of 'victims' from Illinois to testify at a hearing. It was a dirty little ploy usually resorted to by petty politicians.

He ignored testimony from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, too. Since the DATCP was refining AG 29, there was no need for the Fortas proposal.

He appeared on WHA radio with host Tom Clark a little while back, along with Terry Kurth, to discuss his legislative proposal. Terry had his butt for breakfast.

Mr. Fortas tried to push his proposal through the legislature without a hearing before the joint finance committee. The chairman saw through his ploy and canned the bill. We were pleased that he wasn't able to pass this bill; AG 29 will take care of the pertinent issues.

Well, now Mr. Fortas is in the news for another reason, one less to his liking, I'd guess. He is accused of conflict of interest in his support for a proposed Madison convention center and his subsequent purchase of a nearby shopping center.

Fortas bought the shopping center only days after voting for state subsidies for the Monona Terrace Convention Center.

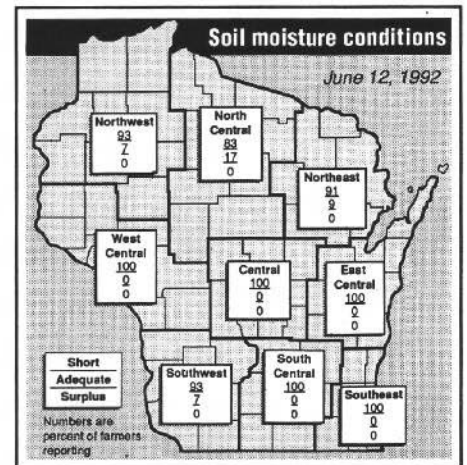
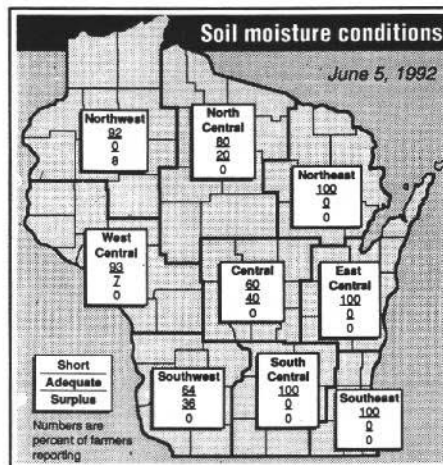
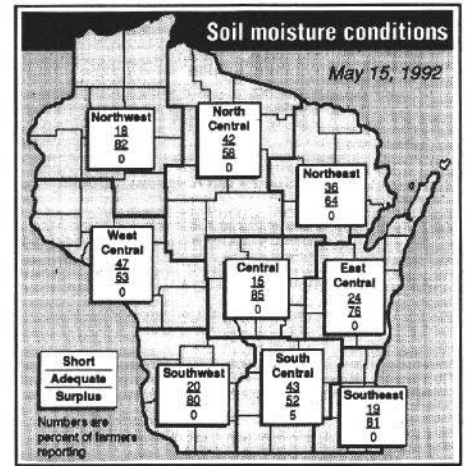
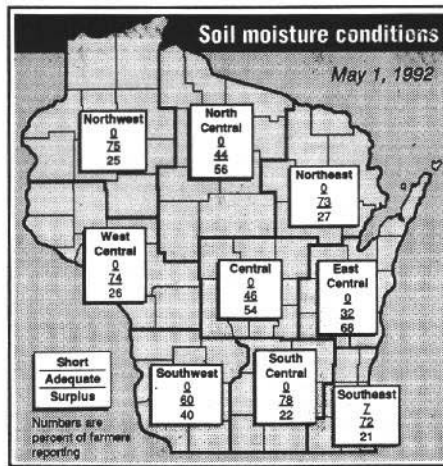
"It doesn't pass the smell test," said another member of the state assembly. Many others agree.

Fortas denies conflict of interest and criticized the objections to his purchase. Of course. Stay tuned for more.

Although last winter was a mild one, I hear there was some grass loss, especially up north. I hate to hear that, but those golf course superintendents are a very capable group and will deal with it in the best possible way.

Down here, the plants that suffered the most on my golf course were the scotch pines. They were really hammered in early November when the cold weather and strong north winds came on so quickly. I was sure in late March and early April that most of these trees were dead.

Fortunately, patience prevailed and we didn't remove any. Good thing, too. Most of them flushed out new buds and are now on the road to recovery. My



best guess is that they'll prosper again real soon.

I have to echo the comments of Bruce Worzella and others regarding the WGCSA members who have hosted meetings so far. I enjoyed going to Evergreen and Beloit—nice job by Bill and Don.

Although I did not attend, I have heard all good about the job Mike Handrich did in preparing Racine C.C. for the CMAA outing and meeting. Nice job, Mike!

What's the name of that guy who used to be at R.C.C.? Does anybody see him anymore (than once a month!)?

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**Wyse to Lead CALS** (Continued from front page)

Wyse earned a B.S. in agronomy from Ohio State University in 1965, and both an M.S. in crop science and a Ph.D. in plant physiology from Michigan State University in 1967 and 1969. He grew up on a 120-acre family dairy and crops farm in Fulton County, Ohio. While his father worked as a drainage contractor, Wyse milked the cows and operated the farm with the rest of his family.

"Being responsible for a farm as a teenager helps you develop a real sense of responsibility and a strong work ethic," Wyse said. "It also means I have a special concern for the survival of the American family farm."

Throughout his research career, Wyse has examined the physiological factors that control yield and quality in crop plants like sugar beets and corn. Wyse's earliest research, beginning in graduate school, involved the physiology of the sugar beet. He continued that line of research with the USDA at Logan, Utah, where he worked with engineers to develop sugar beet storage facilities.

In 1986 Wyse accepted his first academic post as a distinguished professor of Soils and Crops and senior associate director of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Rutgers University,

New Jersey's flagship state university. "I felt it was an opportunity to have a broader impact on agriculture," he said. "New Jersey was going through a period of re-evaluating the role of the Agricultural Experiment Station, and I thought I could play a role in revitalizing and positioning it to address the complexity of issues facing agriculture in a rapidly urbanizing environment.

Wyse said the lure of the UW-Madison post was too strong to overcome. "The CALS deanship was an opportunity to move into a university that has a world-class faculty and a long tradition of excellence in research and public service," he said. "It will be exciting and challenging to take the very strong research program here and, with the Wisconsin Experiment Station, ensure that agriculture in Wisconsin remains viable and profitable."

Wyse's wife, Jaleh Daie, a professor and chair of plant physiology in the Rutgers Department of Crop Science, has accepted an offer to become a professor of botany at UW-Madison. Her initial appointment will be in the Biotechnology Center, and she will also serve as the senior science advisor to the UW System's vice president for academic affairs. Daie is expected to join the UW faculty in January 1993.

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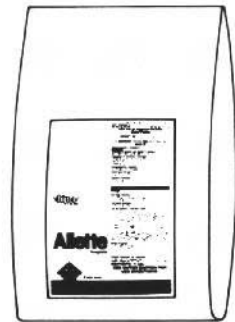
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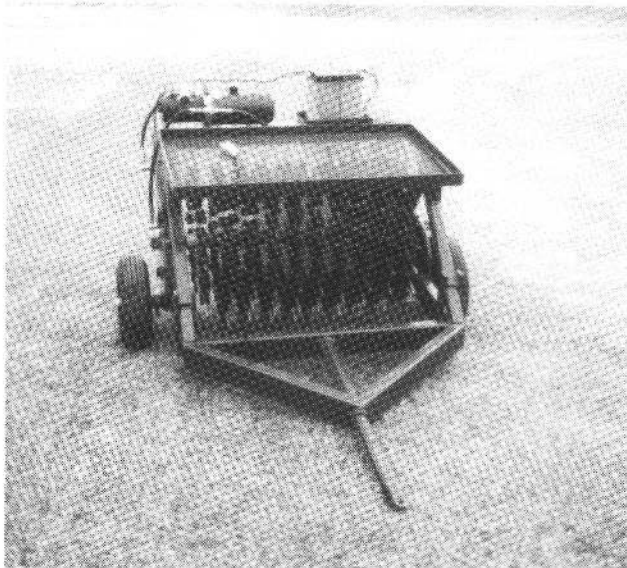
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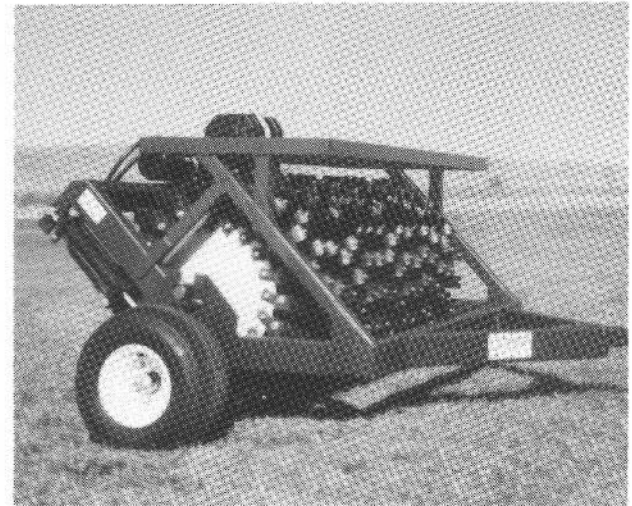
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## Candidates and Challenges — Turf in Two-Thousand

By Gayle L. Worf, Professor  
Department of Plant Pathology

It has been interesting to visit with the prospective candidates for the open positions in horticulture and plant pathology these past few weeks. We have some really excellent young men and women who are aspiring for these positions! Not only are they bright and energetic, they are well trained and they appear eager to begin working with the turf industry on the challenges that lie ahead.

We should know who the choices are soon — maybe by the time you read this!

One question candidates get asked routinely is: "What attracts you to the position?" Their answers include a variety of different comments but they are unanimous in their enthusiasm for the O.J. Noer Research and Education Facility! You should know how important that station has become in attracting these top quality candidates to Wisconsin. They speak as one voice when they talk about this first class operation, located right adjacent to a cooperating golf course, and with a quality station manager (Tom Salaiz) already in place! They are really impressed when they learn all this is in place because of the turf industry.

They also catch on rather quickly to the close and friendly interdepartmental cooperation in research and education that exists among departments at the UW-Madison and College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. Although some realize better than others that carrying a combined extension, research, and teaching load will not give them a lot of free time, most seem to be "chomping-at-the-bit" to give it a try. When asked about their niche, they generally look optimistically toward increasing the visibility of and increasing student opportunities for a strong turf management program on the campus.

And they all have expressed a strong desire to help create meaningful educational and useful research programs in close concert with you. It's encouraging to know that there are still young, highly qualified scientists who also come equipped with the right "Land Grant University" attitude!

We also query them about their vision of the turf industry ten years from now. While they are optimistic for the industry — otherwise they wouldn't want to become aligned with it — they also sense that big changes are on the horizon. Most of them are well read about nutritional and pesticide issues, and they perceive a public that will not allow a "business as usual" future. All speak of IPM and crop management tools — but some go so far as to predict no "hard" pesticides will be permitted on lawns and recreational surfaces in the future. Fertilizer applications may become regulated and restricted; one even predicted that we'll be using ("manicured") clover in many lawn settings in place of fertilizer in some instances. Another expected "prescription approaches" to be commonplace. So they have different visions of the details. But each of them has faith that quality integration of research, development, education and application can carve out for the turf industry a very prominent and promising role in the important three "E"s of the future: Economics, Environment, and Esthetics.

One needs only to look at the headlines occurring in regulatory literature to find support for the changes in attitude and action about our chemicals that are occurring.

The Chemical Regulation Reporter is a good example. In three weeks of issues (April 17 through May 8, 1992), I noted the following topics that could impact the turf industry, directly or indirectly: (1) notice of intent to suspend issues by EPA on thiram, mevinphos ("because registrants failed to provide required scientific data" — this is subject to appeal); (2) groups call for methyl bromide ban; EPA plans phase-out by 2000 under air act (ozone loss concerns); (3) California state appeals court sanctions recovery of (future) medical monitoring costs in DBCP case (DBCP, or Nemagon, was a popular nematicide banned in 1978, and has been linked to adverse reproductive system effects in workers who formulated it); (4) \$3.6 billion class action by prisoners alleges

harm from metam sodium spill cleanup. (Often sold as a soil fumigant such as Vapam or other brand names, 24 inmates who were required to help clean up a spill are suing several governmental agencies and companies); (5) Governor Cuomo signs bill strengthening registration program in New York state. (The \$1 million increase will support new staff in the New York Department of Environmental Conservation).

By contrast, new biotechnological approaches are receiving increased regulatory blessing. A wide-scale experiment proposed by Monsanto Chemical Co. to test a cotton plant bio-engineered to produce its own pesticide gained EPA approval on April 13. USDA approval was pending, and may be approved by now. Five years ago such a trial would have made nationwide headline news! And it certainly would not have received clearance! You probably noted the fact that Monsanto, traditionally a strong international leader in pesticide development, is the principal of this venture.

Yes. The winds of change are upon us. We need bright minds and eager people in both academia and the industry to make sure we identify and direct the right strategies for the next decade. They will be there — in both places!

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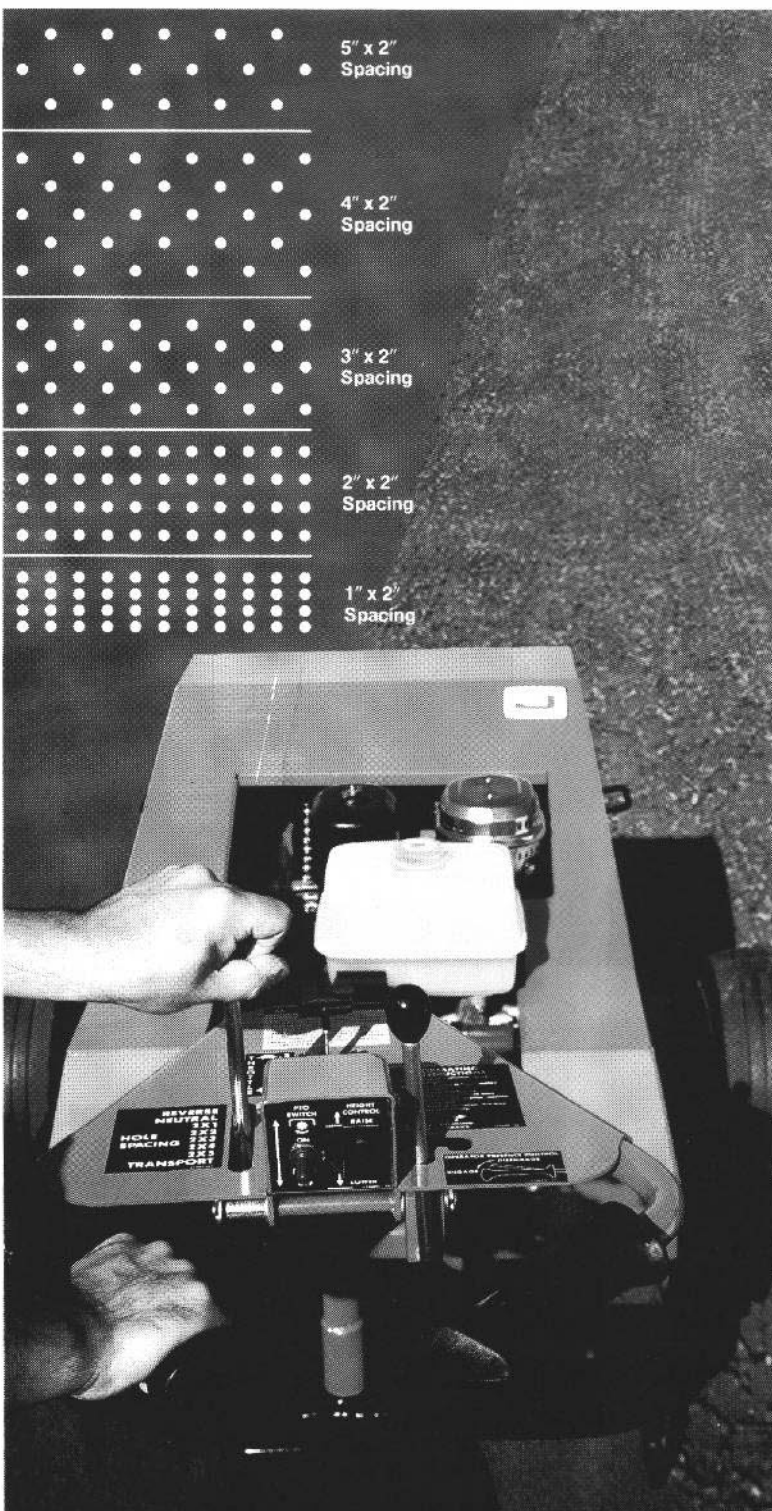


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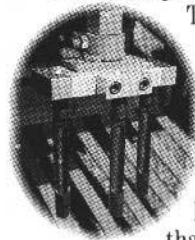
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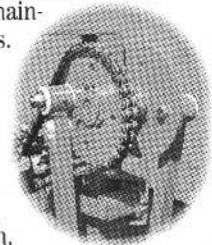
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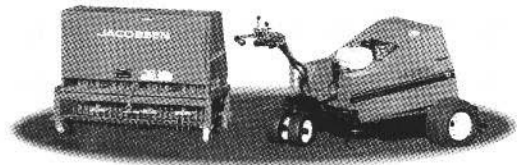
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## HURTING OURSELVES

By Monroe S. Miller

Last week wasn't a good one in the news arena for the green industry. At least in our town.

There was a story about some rural wells contaminated with atrazine. These stories have been seen too frequently in the past two years or so.

A headline screamed across the Metro page drawing every readers' attention to a dog supposedly sprayed with an herbicide by a lawn care company. The company likely was innocent, but after the incident they didn't answer the phone. Many assumed, therefore, guilt.

In the May 21st editions of our city papers were articles about a "pesticide goof" by (are you ready for this?) the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture. DATCP has done a lot of good public relations in selling the public on the value and correctness of the program to get the gypsy moth under control.

Much of the PR was lost when DATCP had to apologize for spraying

the pesticide for moth control over parts of Manitowoc while kids were walking to school in the morning.

"There's no excuse for making this kind of error," a spokesman said.

Amen. But the damage was done.

Finally, a personal incident brought home how far the manufacturing industry and distributors have to go before they can expect any public acceptance and trust.

Our club was owed a small amount of fungicide by a manufacturer. It doesn't matter that, as a matter of principle, I'd been harassing them for nine months to square our account.

Last week, the material—remember, it was a pesticide—was shipped.

To my house! By UPS! When nobody was home! Nobody signed for it! The delivery was left on the sidewalk all day!

Good God—what if neighborhood kids had gotten into it? What if it had leaked?

What if it was stolen or vandalized? You wouldn't have believed how poorly the containers were packed, either. UPS is not known, in my experience, for its TLC for packages, either.

I resented greatly that it took so long to resolve our account. I also resented being forced to call the company representative and offering up a king-sized major league tail chewing. Professional people shouldn't have to do such things.

I only hope it did some good. That is also the purpose in sharing the incident with *GRASS ROOTS* readers. We simply cannot afford such a slack attitude from the industries we buy from.

Unfortunately, these sorts of incidents happen all too often. It is no wonder we are having difficulty capturing public confidence.

When I was a kid, the Pogo comic strip was my favorite from the funny pages. It was there I saw my first cartoon with an environmental message.

Pogo and his swamp friends were surveying the mess in the swamp. They saw garbage and appliances and beer cans littering their home grounds.

The last frame of that strip showed a distraught Pogo offering this: "We have met the enemy, and it is us."

Twenty-five years later, that line still rings true. Even in our industry.

Things have got to change.

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# Even his name shows his Love for life

By Lori Ward Bocher

Of all the Personality Profiles I've penned for *The Grass Roots*, why is this one on Prof. Jim Love so difficult to write?

Maybe it's because I realize you superintendents know Jim Love much better than I could get to know him during a two-hour telephone interview.

Maybe it's because, as one of his former students, I'm afraid he's going to grade my paper.

Maybe it's because Jim Love has such a vibrant personality and love for life that I fear I won't be able to capture his essence in a short article.

Maybe it's because, if Dr. Love likes this article, I'm afraid he'll send me a bucket of earth worms in appreciation.

Earth worms? Yes, earth worms. Those of you who know Jim know that he has a great deal of reverence for those marvelous creatures that aerate soil and decompose organic matter.

"Tell me, did you learn anything in my class?" Jim asked after I revealed that I had taken his Soils 301 course in 1981.

"Yes," I said. "Every time I see our friend, the earth worm, I think of you." Some people might take that as an insult. But I could see Dr. Love's smile over the telephone.

"Speaking of earth worms," he said, as he went on to explain how he makes compost. Sometimes he runs the compost through a quarter-inch screen. "You just can't take your hand and run it over the screen because that would smash those beautiful little earth worms. I pick them out. God, it takes me two hours to do a one-hour job."

In case some of you don't know, James R. Love was a Professor of Soil Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison from 1954 until he retired in 1986. Beginning in 1960, he also started and headed the department's turf and grounds program.

But those facts do little to show the essence of Jim Love. To me, he's a man with many stories, many lessons and many missions. And through it all shines his unending zest for life. That zest shines just as bright in retirement.



A happily retired couple, Jim and Nancy Love.

"Monroe tells me that everywhere he goes, people ask him, 'Have you heard from Jim Love? What's he doing?' What are you doing now that you're retired?" I asked him.

"My retirement is so good, Lori. I tell you, I have to pinch myself. I think I've died and gone to heaven. It is marvelous. I enjoy every day," he answered.

"You made a pretty clean break when you retired, didn't you?" I asked.

"Oh, yes," Jim answered. "I always said, 'When I quit, I'm going to walk out of this office and leave it all behind. Brother Kussow is going to be in charge. I'm not going to be second guessing him, watching over his shoulder. I'm going to walk away because there are a lot of things in life that I haven't done.'"

Reading for enjoyment is one of those things. "When I was working, I could hardly keep up with the literature in my own field," he explained. "But now I can read things that I want to read. I have discovered authors I never knew existed. I love mysteries and travel adventures."

Playing cards is another. "I could get up in the morning, eat breakfast, and play cards all day long except for a break for lunch and supper," he said. Cribbage and bridge are his favorites, and he and his wife, Nancy, have made some major family decisions over the cribbage board.

"We named our first son by playing cribbage," he pointed out, explaining that Nancy wanted to name the first son

James, Jr., and he wanted no part of a "junior" name. "We named our son John. I won that cribbage game."

During his first year of retirement, Jim and the president of the American Cribbage Congress went into Madison grade schools to teach interested third graders how to play cribbage. "I think it should be mandatory that students learn how to drive, learn how to type, learn how to swim, and learn how to play cards before they get out of school," he insisted. "I've often said to my wife, 'I wish I had a billion dollars. I'd start my own school.' I've got definite ideas of what they should be teaching."

The Loves also have been doing lots of traveling since Jim's retirement in 1986. "I hear a train whistle, and I want to be on it. I see that plane in the air, and I want to be on it. I could go tomorrow," Jim pointed out.

They bought an RV for traveling in the U.S. "Our Springer Spaniel, ShyAnne, has been in 42 of the lower 48 states with us since I've retired," Jim explained. "We're gone three and a half to four



Nancy, Jim and Shy outside their RV in Door County.