



OFF THE TOP OF MY HEAD

GREG HUBBARD, CGCS
Editorial Chairman

Many local superintendents had smiling faces earlier this spring, desperately camouflaging hurting spirits caused by the massive attack Old Man Winter paid to Minnesota golf courses. Dessication and ice damage were prevalent around the region as poa annua played its usual game of hide-and-go-seek. Pride overcame depression as many traditional practices and some new and innovative techniques were tried to coax just a little bit more grass on those greens, tees, and fairways. Most of our golf courses are finally recovering as the warm summer sun, coupled with many hours of hard work, allow those unsightly winter kill areas to become faded memories. That same welcome sun, however, will soon be baking our turf and a whole new set of problems will emerge.

The golf course superintendent, it seems, is never completely happy. The weather never cooperates as you try your hardest to bring your course into the fine condition that both you and your members have come to expect. It's either too hot or too cold, too wet or too dry. Each day brings a new set of circumstances that require immediate attention. Adapting to these ever changing demands is one reason for your success and may be your greatest asset. Unfortunately, these same demands also lead to increased pressures and subsequently added stress. Your inability to cope with these demands often leads to bad judgement, poor health, and mental fatigue. The end result is unhappiness in your job and home life. Something has to give and its often yourself.

Like your grass plants, you too must prepare for the stresses that are upcoming. As the hectic days of spring meld into the dogday afternoons of summer, be aware that stress and its pressures will come into your life. When that insurmountable load climbs on your shoulders, identify the problem, seek solutions, and act. Hire new help, buy new equipment, or use new management techniques to ward off those feelings of frustration and confusion. Plan on some time off to recharge your batteries. Reacquaint yourself with your family and friends. Your life, your wife, and your golf course will thank you.



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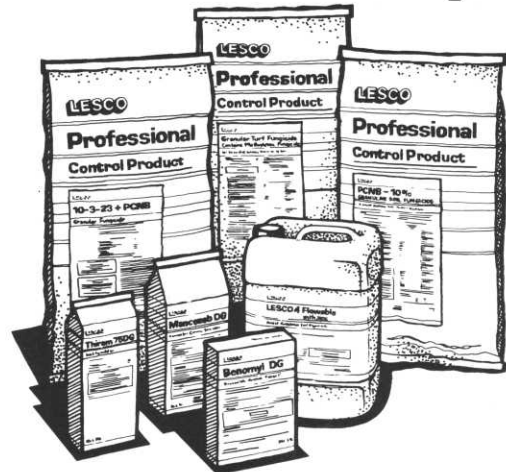
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