

## OFF THE TOP OF MY HEAD

**GREG HUBBARD, CGCS  
Editorial Chairman**

Monthly meetings held outside of the Twin Cities always give me time to reflect as I blow the carbon out of my car (legally, of course) on my way to a meeting which has already started. As was the case this last October, I was late getting to the 9:30 AM Board meeting and the little 30 mile detour of US highway 12 to the edge of Cosmos (Was that really Carl Sagan at the corner?) didn't help matters any. Yet, as I watched the hay wagons and combines surrey down the road, I couldn't help but be struck by the similarities of farming and golf. I've often told people who ask my occupation that I'm a farmer; I grow grass for a living. Like the farmers who were harvesting their crops and preparing for winter, I too must do the same. Most golfers have already taken their last swings this year, so my crop is almost fully picked. Now is the time to redo the fields, redesign a tee or two, and prepare for the next year. With winter around the corner, a well earned rest, next to a cozy fire, is on the horizon. The cows are heading for the barn and so are we!

As I drove along, avoiding road kill and farm equipment, I got to take a good look at the changing fall colors. Not too long ago these same trees were just breaking out in bud as warmth and new life returned to the cold north. How long ago we were worrying about winter kill, dead greens, and how we were going to explain the wraths of winter to our members, personally taking responsibility for the extremes and bitter cold that a Minnesota winter sent our way. As summer warmed and greened our turf, timely rains made us forget the drought of the previous year. Soon, the leaves aged, as did our turf, and another year, special in itself, became part of the history books. Maybe, we shouldn't make such big mountains out of those little spring molehills. Seems that they're kind of hard to remember now!

Nearing Willmar, my thoughts turned to the difficulties that outstate superintendents must face in running their operations. How easy it is for us in the Cities to pick up the phone and call for that special part or chemical that will again allow us to finish up our project. Labor, although expensive, is more readily available here and helpful advice is just down the road. Ingenuity and long hours by our outstate compatriots help counter their lack of readily available resources. We sometimes forget how easy we have it in the metro area.

Finally Willmar Country Club appeared, it's beautifully manicured grounds begging for me to get my final swings in for the year. Just a little late for the Board meeting. A nice drive full of contemplative thinking and no speeding tickets.

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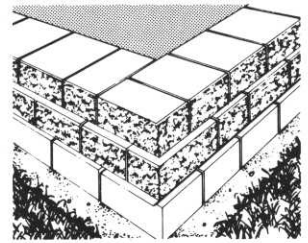
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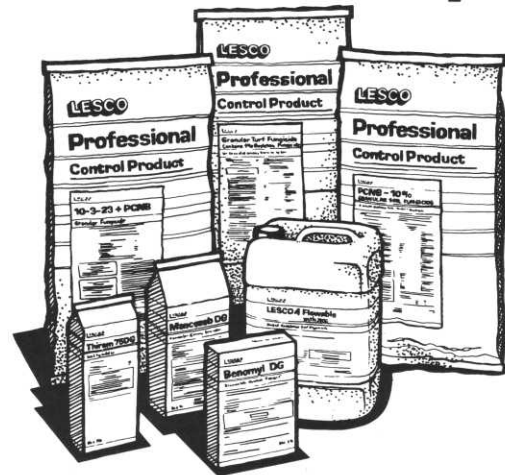


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