

# GREEN CLIPPINGS

The Minnesota PGA Hall of Fame Banquet will be held July 2 at Bunker Hills. Our President, Kerry Glader, CGCS has received an invitation and will attend. A section in the Hall of Fame will be set aside for Outstanding Superintendents.

Nominations for officers/directors are now being accepted by the GCSAA. If

you or any one you know would like to run for office on the national level, contact the GCSAA office for details.

Luck Golf Course, in Luck, Wis. has opened a new nine. The grapevine rates it as an A-1 layout. Congratulations go to Roger Nelson, golf course superintendent, and Gordon Emerson, course ar-

chitect, on a job well done.

Kevin Clunis has completed the slate of speakers for the November conference. It promises to be an excellent show. Make plans to attend.

Kevin has also offered his assistance in developing the Environmental Committee for the MGCSA.

## 12 Important Soil and Garden Benefits From the Use of Compost and Mulches Derived from Organic Yard Residues

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### Compost as a Soil Amendment:

1. Over time, yearly additions of 1 to 3 inches of well-decomposed compost incorporated into the top 6 to 8 inches of the garden soil will create desirable soil structure, making the soil much easier to work.
2. Adding compost will increase the moisture holding capacity of sandy soils, thereby reducing possible drought damage to plants grown in these soils.
3. Compost added to heavy clay soils will improve drainage and aeration, thereby reducing potential waterlogging damage to plants.
4. Compost will increase the ability of the soil to hold and release essential nutrients.
5. The activity of earthworms and soil microorganisms beneficial to plant growth will be promoted with compost additions to the soil.
6. Adding compost will often improve seedling emergence and water infiltration due to a reduction in soil surface crusting.

### Compost as a Mulch Applied and Maintained at a Depth of 3 to 6 Inches:

7. Mulches can be used in the garden to suppress weeds by blocking out light to the soil surface where weed seeds normally germinate.
8. Mulches help reduce soil erosion by protecting the surface from wind and the impact of rain falling on the soil.
9. Soil temperatures are modified through the use of mulches by keeping the soil cooler in the summer and potentially warmer during the winter.
10. One of the biggest benefits of mulches is to significantly slow down the evaporation of moisture from the soil surface. This can be a most important function during dry periods of the year.
11. The soil environment beneath the mulch is favorable for promoting earthworm and other microbial activity which in turn helps improve soil, air and water penetration characteristics.
12. In the long run, mulches eventually rot away and, as a result, add valuable organic matter to the soil. During the summer, compost may have to be added over the original compost mulch layer to maintain the benefits of the mulch.

*For further information or questions about composting, contact your local county extension service.*