

EDITOR'S CORNER

By Dale Wysocki
Faribault Golf & Country Club



What an early spring season this has been. Severe storms, tornadoes and then snow! Let's see, could it have been El Nino? I don't think so. Could it have been that the space shuttle was launched recently? I don't think so. Well, what causes the weather and why does it do what it does? This year could be the year of normalcy. That would be a pleasant change. The past two years had their challenges. Well, disease pressure wasn't that great, and the Poa even survived and really did multiply all over the place. But this year could be different, as every day is different. Wouldn't it be nice if every day was the same, temp around 79 degrees, light winds out of the northwest about 6 to 10 mph with just the right amount of humidity, not to mention just the right amount of rain every 3 days. Oh well, some people (like me) dream of those perfect spring days while watering the greens at sunrise. Anyhow, with this spring season comes the usual amount of projects: aerifying greens, tees and fairways, making golf conditions for our golfers the best possible, although the initial idea of seeing cores lying on a putting surface isn't a golfer's idea of "better," But wait, give the greens some warm sunlight, warm rain after all the topdressing is matted in and a couple of nice warm days and those putting surfaces will be putting better than anyone will possibly remember.

Have you ever had the chance to talk to a Golf Course Superintendent from California or New England? Stop and think about the controls that we have to use. You do realize that California has its own EPA, and many of the fungicides, insecticides and other chemical controls are not available there. How would you change your maintenance programs if you were unable to use any systemic fungicides. Could Minnesota ever think of forming its own EPA, an EPA that would require all manufacturers of chemicals to submit all testing to a board. Government Relations is one committee that the GCSAA is going to be taking extremely serious. The MGCSA's Environmental Committee will be taking a very active role in letting the GCSAA know of any pending legislation concerning environmental areas.

A number of MGCSA members are volunteering their time to serve on GCSAA committees. They are Steve Garske of Par Aide, Industrial Relations Committee. Patty Knaggs of Hazeltine National Golf Club, Conference Committee, Jim Nicol, CGCS, of Bunker Hills and Keith Scott, CGCS, of Oak Ridge Country Club.

Early in May I went to pick up my boy Steven. Across the street from the latch key center where he resides before and after kindergarten, I saw a young man with a cigarette hanging in his mouth, wearing shorts and a tee shirt applying something to the boulevard lawn. I sat and watched for a tad, noticing that the wind out of the northwest was quite substantial. How often during MGCSA Seminars have we been taught about spraying proper application, correct attire when applying and **WHEN NOT TO SPRAY!** Putting yourself into John Q. Public's shoes, could you perceive that this is how all fine turf products are applied. **PRETTY SCARY SITUATION.** Many Golf Course Superintendents utilize different strategies to control pests, disease and other troublesome conditions, and when they apply a plant protectant, every possible precaution is taken not only to reduce exposure to the person applying the item, but to make sure that there is no exposure to the people who frequent our fine facilities. It makes sense to be cautious and be smart.

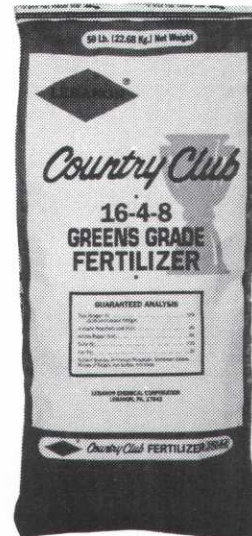


Introducing The Number One Fertilizer For Fighting Patch Disease And Fungicide Costs.

By using a fertilizer containing ammonium sulfate, you can reduce your instances of summer patch by as much as 80%*

But if you've ever used ammonium sulfate in its pure form or in a blend, you know it can be a messy situation.

Fortunately, now there's Country Club® 16-4-8. A homogeneous fertilizer that offers the benefits of ammonium sulfate in a spreadable, easy-to-use form.



Frank Baden
Territory Manager
Bettendorf, IA
(319) 332-9288

*Contact Lebanon Turf Products at 1-800-233-0628 for a free copy of the Rutgers Study on Reducing Patch Disease.