

WD-40, Well, Who Knew..?

Water Displacement #40. The product began from a search for a rust preventative solvent and degreaser to protect missile parts. WD-40 was created in 1953 by three technicians at the San Diego Rocket Chemical Company. Its name comes from the project that was to find a "water displacement" compound. They were successful with the fortieth formulation, thus WD-40. The Corvair Company bought it in bulk to protect their atlas missile parts.

Ken East (one of the original founders) says there is nothing in WD-40 that would hurt you.

When you read the "shower door" part, try it. It's the first thing that has ever cleaned that spotty shower door. If yours is plastic, it works just as well as glass. It works great. Then try it on your stove-top...voila! It's now shinier than it's ever been.

Here are some more uses:

- Protects silver from tarnishing.
- Removes road tar and grime from cars.
- Restores and cleans chalkboards.
- Removes lipstick stains.
- Loosens stubborn zippers.
- Removes stains from stainless steel sinks.
- Removes dirt and grime from the barbecue grill.
- Keeps ceramic/terra cotta garden pots from oxidizing.
- Keeps glass shower doors free of water spots.
- Keeps scissors working smoothly.
- Lubricates noisy door hinges on vehicles and doors in homes
- It removes black scuff marks from the kitchen floor!
- Use WD-40 for those nasty tar and scuff marks on flooring. It doesn't seem to harm the finish and you won't have to scrub nearly as hard to get them off. Just remember to open some windows if you have a lot of marks.
- Bug guts will eat away the finish on your car if not removed

quickly! Use WD-40!

- Gives a children's play gym slide a shine for a super fast slide.
- Lubricates gear shift and mower deck lever for ease of handling on riding mowers.
- Lubricates tracks in sticking home windows and makes them easier to open.
- Restores and cleans padded leather dashboards in vehicles, as well as vinyl bumpers.
- Restores and cleans roof racks on vehicles.
- Lubricates wheel sprockets on tricycles, wagons and bicycles for easy handling.
- Lubricates fan belts on washers and dryers and keeps them running smoothly.
- Keeps rust from forming on saws and saw blades and other tools.
- Removes splattered grease on stove.
- Keeps bathroom mirror from fogging.
- Removes all traces of duct tape.
- Folks even spray it on their arms, hands and knees to relieve arthritis pain.
- WD-40 attracts fish. Spray a LITTLE on live bait or lures and you will be catching the big one in no time. Also, it's a lot cheaper than the chemical attractants that are made for just that purpose. Keep in mind though, using some chemical laced baits or lures for fishing are not allowed in some states.
- Use it for fire ant bites. It takes the sting away immediately and stops the itch.
- If you sprayed WD-40 on the distributor cap, it would displace the moisture and allow the car to start.

P. S. The basic ingredient is FISH OIL

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Turf disease, on the other hand is leaving.

Chipco® Triton™ is a new broad-spectrum fungicide that is descending on turf diseases everywhere. Now you'll be able to get rid of anthracnose, brown patch and dollar spot while keeping your turf healthy and green. Even better, when you combine Triton with other Bayer products containing StressGard™ like Chipco® Signature, you get unbeatable protection against the stress your golf course faces, even in the summer heat.

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To Sum Things Up...

By ROB ADAMS
The Ponds at Battle Creek



Nine-year-old Bridget is very happy dad is home

I guess things just kind of ended when I got home and I started back into my normal, regular life. I took the month of July off to spend with my daughter and get back into the swing of things before going back to work at the golf course. A month off during the summer – I haven't had one of those since before high school. Believe me when I say you can find things to occupy your time.

Jack asked me to do an article about getting back from Iraq. I guess it must be hard to come up with articles for *Hole Notes* but I thought I could give it a shot. I guess the easiest way to write this would be to answer the questions I get from people who know me and those who find out I was in Iraq. I don't mind talking about it because I think it really opens people's eyes to how things really are without the spin of the news agencies and politicians. After I read the *Hole Notes* updates I sent back it just kind of ended and I didn't write anything else about my experience. People are curious and have a lot of questions about the war and what things are like.

Where were you and how long were you there?

I was in Ar Ramadi, Iraq that is about 90 miles west of Baghdad. It is part of the Al Anbar Province, which includes that lovely city of Fallujah and a few other towns that are in the news a lot. I was there for 11 months, 19 days, 13 hours and 45 minutes but I wasn't really keeping track.

Were you ever scared?

Yep. To start things off when we flew into the air base near Ramadi we were going to be picked up by the commander of the unit we were replacing the next morning at 9:30. It is about a twenty-minute drive from Ramadi to the air base but you have to take the 2 1/2 hour long cut because it is much safer. Well, the commander and his convoy didn't show up until 3:30 that afternoon, a little late especially by Army standards. He told us that when they left at 7:00 in the morning they

got hit with an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) about a half hour into the trip and had to recover vehicles and get people to the base for medical treatment before setting out on round two to come and get us. You could see the shrapnel and burn marks on the Humvees they picked us up in. The commander had a big slice under his lower lip where he was hit with shrapnel. So besides the 110 degree heat I was sweating a lot on the way back to base. Welcome to Iraq!

I spent the first three weeks sick to my stomach. We were replacing a high-speed active duty unit that had 125 more soldiers than we did. They lost nine soldiers and had about another dozen shipped out for battle and/or other injuries. I really thought we were in big trouble. I feared for the soldiers that were going to be doing these missions and that I didn't screw something up and get someone hurt or killed. In addition to fearing stuff "outside the wire," inside the base the bad guys were hitting us with mortars and rockets on a daily basis. So yes there were times when I was a little scared.

So how did soldiers deal with the stress and fear?

If you ever watch some of the better documentaries or war movies about WWII, Korea or Vietnam, one of the things you will hear the soldiers say about how they survived and functioned in that environment is that they "accepted the fact that they could be killed at any second" or "they were dead already," morbid but true. Once you can accept that and stop thinking about it you can function and do what you were trained to do. I realized the truth of what these soldiers said and went from there. Whether I was inside or outside "the wire" you just accept the fact that your next step could be your last.

This thought process worked for me and most of the soldiers I was with. It is

interesting to see how different people handle the stress. Some of the big macho guys fold when the *#@% hits the fan and the timid meek guys and gals perform like studs.

So do you think it was worth it?

For me I think it was worth it. When I was there the focus of our mission (The 5,000 plus Soldiers, Marines and Sailors in our Brigade) was to provide enough security for the people of Ramadi to hold elections. As part of that mission we trained the Iraqi Army and Police and disrupted insurgent activity. The turnout at the elections improved substantially. We trained about 400 Iraqi soldiers that would later take over some of the areas we were in. We hired and trained 200 plus Police that would eventually return to the area when it was safe enough for them to operate in a police-type function and not as a combat unit. As far as insurgent activity, we eliminated a lot of insurgent cells, caught or killed many bad guys and recovered literally tons and tons of ammunition that was out in the open for anyone to use.

Do you think we should still be there?

This is the one that's tough to answer. We did a lot of good when we were there and I am sure that the units that replaced us were and are doing a good job. If you read about Ramadi and the Al Anbar Region now in the news, it is considered a success because the local Sheiks have banned together, stood up and taken control of the area. When we were there the insurgency was much too strong and coordinated to allow that to happen. The

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To Sum Things Up...

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people needed our help to fight off these "bad guys."

Are the Iraqi Army and Police ready to take over for themselves?

I give most of them high marks for bravery but as far as being well-organized and disciplined units, they are nothing like the Soldiers and Marines we have. It is a cultural thing and I don't see them coming around very fast. There is also so much corruption in every level of leadership that it is hard to say how they will function. I think we gave the soldiers and policemen some of the basic skills and tactics they need to do well, but they need to further develop that into what works for them in Iraq. As some of our senior military leaders said to us, "At some point we will have to say close enough." That doesn't mean we are going to leave them in disarray, but that at some point we will have given them enough equipment, knowledge and training and they need to use what we gave them or find something else that does work for them.

The government is a whole different story. I don't know if they will ever be able to sort out that mess. When all is said and done, I don't think Iraq will look like what the American government would like. The Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds have been fighting for thousands of years and for them to come together as a functioning government may be a bit of a stretch. We may need to say "Close Enough." We have given them money, equipment, training, supplies, and, most important, time. They need to put the pieces together for themselves and figure out what works for them.

Is there any chance you will have to go back?

No, the Canadian border is only about five hours away. Actually, right after I was deployed, they changed the law so that it was optional for military officers that had fulfilled their initial obligation of eight years (which I had) to be called up to

Active Duty. It of course also said that anyone currently deployed needs to finish their tour. When I got back to the States, I submitted the paper work "again" to get out. I figured they could change their minds. After 13 plus years of service in the Minnesota Army National Guard and over a year on active duty in Iraq I got an email that said simply "You are discharged." A month later I received the official paperwork. I am officially out of the Army.

"I guess to sum this whole thing up... being in Iraq for a year was an experience I will never forget. I learned a lot about myself and other people in general. There are always bigger problems and issues out there. I don't take the little things for granted. I am also grateful for modern plumbing, something that is not a high priority in some foreign countries!!!"

Are you adjusted to being back?

Yes, for me it was pretty easy to get back into the swing of things. As I drive down the road I don't look for IEDs or scan the area for bad guys. I have only jumped a few times at loud noises. Once when a low flying jet came over it sounded like an incoming rocket and once when they opened up at the police firing range, which is adjacent to my golf course. Other than that I am OK with what I did and everything I saw. I think about being over there everyday but it is not about bad stuff, more about the people I was with and some of the cool things that we did or happened. It was a pretty memorable year and I don't think those memories will fade too quickly.

Do you think you are different now?

I don't think I have changed who I am or the things I believe in. I do think that I have changed in a couple areas though. First, I am more appreciative of family and friends. I missed an entire year of my daughter's life. I left when she was in Kindergarten and got back right before she started 2nd grade. I missed a lot of her growing up and don't want to miss anytime I can be with her. I just appreciate

the time I spend with my family and friends more.

I am also more grateful for the things I have and the things we have in this country. As screwed up as things can be with our government and in this country you can't imagine how the majority of the Iraqis lived under Saddam and his sons. At any moment you, your family or your friends could be taken and never seen again. It was a story I heard several times. I think we as Americans have a sense of basic security that gets taken for granted.

I also realize what a great job I have. I truly love what I do. There were many times in Iraq when I would think back to where I work and what I do and just smile. It's hard to beat being out on the course early in the morning watching the sun come up. It's pretty peaceful and beautiful. There are people and places in the world where the biggest problems aren't greens speed, budgets and high golfer expectations. I think I can

deal with those issues.

I guess to sum this whole thing up... being in Iraq for a year was an experience I will never forget. I learned a lot about myself and other people in general. There are always bigger problems and issues out there. I don't take the little things for granted. I am also grateful for modern plumbing, something that is not a high priority in some foreign countries!!!

I also want to thank all the people and businesses that support the troops. It was awesome to be able to email companies and ask them for things that could help us out over there. I don't think we were ever turned down. Talk about brand loyalty. The other thing was whenever I was in uniform walking through an airport or where ever, people would come up and thank us for our service and what we were doing. I appreciated that more than anything. Now whenever I see a person in uniform, I thank them for their service. The Soldiers, Sailors and Marines are doing their jobs and they aren't easy.

Thanks again for all the support.

- Rob Adams
Golf Course Superintendent
The Ponds at Battle Creek

The Rising Cost of Fertilizer

*Courtesy of Chris Hoff, Precision Turf & Chemical, Inc.
and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America*

The Fertilizer Institute serves to promote and protect the Fertilizer Industry, representing the public policy, communication and statistical needs of producers, importers, wholesalers and retailers of fertilizer, as well as those companies that provide vital services to the Fertilizer Industry.

Golf course superintendents can't help but notice the steady rise in the price of fertilizer. Why is that? According to The Fertilizer Institute, there are five principal factors at play.

1) Increasing World Demand

World fertilizer demand has grown by 14%, nearly equivalent to a new U.S. market -- 20.6 million nutrient tons.

Fertilizer is a world market commodity, which means that supply and demand factors in major markets around the world impact the price U.S. farmers pay for fertilizer. Average prices paid by U.S. farmers for the major fertilizer nutrients reached the highest level on record in January 2008, 130% higher than the January 2000 level, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Increased global demand for fertilizer has played a large part in placing upward pressure on fertilizer prices. Overall, world nitrogen demand grew by 14%; phosphate demand grew by 13%, and potash demand grew by 19% from FY 2001 to 2006. China, India, and Brazil are the three largest contributors to the growth in world nutrient demand.

The quest for healthier lives and better diets in developing countries is the primary driving factor behind the increased global demand for fertilizer. People in China, India and Brazil are seeking more food-requiring more nutrients to replenish the soil.

2) Increased Ethanol Production

U.S. ethanol production is increasing domestic fertilizer demand.

While world nutrient demand has risen significantly since FY 2001, U.S. nutrient demand remained relatively flat, ranging from 20.7 to 23.4 million nutrient tons. Then came the ethanol boom. The annual capacity of the U.S. ethanol sector stood at 5.6 billion gallons in February 2007. Ethanol plants under construction or expansion are expected to add another 6.2 billion gallons of capacity. According to

the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. ethanol production could easily reach 11 billion gallons in 2011. Farmers are responding to higher corn prices resulting from the increase in demand by planting more corn acres.

Farmers planted 93.6 million corn acres in 2007, a 19% increase from the 78.3 million acres planted in 2006, and the highest corn acres since 1944. The average annual corn price received by farmers stood at \$1.97 per bushel in 2005, \$2.28 in 2006, and \$3.39 in 2007 -- the highest annual average since 1996.

Changes in U.S. nutrient use are driven by two factors: changes in crop acres planted and changes in application rates. Strong international demand coupled with increased domestic demand will continue to place upward pressure on fertilizer prices.

3) Higher Transportation Costs

Higher energy prices, a significant demand for transportation, and even weather-related events, have caused shipping and distribution costs to rise. Shipping rate increases include all methods of fertilizer transportation -- ocean freight, rail, barge and truck.

Ocean freight rates are up significantly. Continued strong demand for vessels, strong import demand for iron ore and coal, and exports of steel by China and higher fuel costs have been the primary drivers of higher ocean freight rates. Weather disturbances and port congestion have also contributed to higher ocean freight rates by tying up vessels and lengthening the shipping times.

The cost of shipping fertilizer by rail has increased significantly due to fuel costs, security requirements and liability concerns.

Barge rates have risen primarily due to steep demand spurred by competition from other industries. Also factoring in are higher fuel costs and new, time-consuming and expensive security requirements.

Truck rates have been significantly impacted by the continued high cost of fuel.

Transportation providers have significantly higher capital costs such as fleet replacement and expansion. With much of the fertilizer applied in the United States having its origin beyond U.S. borders, it is

not only possible but likely that the fertilizer applied on a field in Missouri has taken each of these transportation modes to arrive at the field. Thus, the combined transportation costs are significant.

4) The Devaluation of the U.S. Dollar

The value of the U.S. dollar has decreased significantly, increasing the cost of imported goods-including fertilizer.

The exchange rate allows for the conversion of one country's currency into that of another, thereby facilitating international trade, and it allows price comparison of similar goods in different countries. The exchange rate is a significant factor influencing the competitiveness of commodities, including fertilizer. Simply put, a weak U.S. dollar increases the price of imported commodities.

The value of the U.S. dollar has fallen significantly in the past few years, increasing the costs of the goods we import. The United States now imports over half its nitrogen and over 90% of its potash. With most fertilizer materials priced in U.S. dollars, foreign producers have to raise the price of fertilizer in U.S. dollars to offset the fall in the value of the dollar to maintain the revenue they receive in local currency. For example, if a fertilizer material is priced at \$300 per ton and the value of the U.S. dollar falls by 30% relative to the currency in the country where the material is produced, producers in that country will experience a 30% decline in local revenue if all else remains equal. In order to maintain revenue in local currency, the price of the material in U.S. dollars has to be increased by 43% as follows. The new price in U.S. dollars, \$429, is equivalent to the revenue the foreign producer received in local currency (\$300) before the dollar declined, since $\$429 \times 0.7 =$ the equivalent of \$300 in local currency.

5) Rising Ammonia Production Costs

The United States is the largest importer of nitrogen (over 50% of supply) and potash (over 90% of supply) and the largest exporter of phosphate.

Natural gas is the feedstock for producing ammonia, which is the building block for all nitrogen fertilizers. The cost of

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Rising Cost of Fertilizer-

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natural gas accounts for 70-90% of the production cost of ammonia. Thus, with U.S. natural gas prices increasing significantly since 2000, average U.S. ammonia production costs rose by 172% from fiscal year 1999 to fiscal year 2005.

While fertilizer prices have risen, many U.S. producers were faced with negative margins due to the severe escalation in production costs. High natural gas prices have caused 26 U.S. ammonia plants to close permanently since FY 1999. Several plants also remain idle.

As a result of ammonia plant closures, U.S. ammonia production fell by more than 42% since FY 1999. Consequently, the U.S. fertilizer industry, which typically supplied 85% of farmers' domestic nitrogen needs from U.S.-based production during the 1990s, now relies on net nitrogen imports for more than half of new nitrogen supplies.

This situation also impacts phosphate fertilizer production, as average U.S. production costs for ammonium phosphates increased by 20% from 1999 to 2000. These costs are expected to show continued increases as ammonia prices have risen further.

Somerset CC-

(Continued from Page 5)

green and third tees is well worth it. Somerset has been thinning out green ash trees to create many vistas it once had.

After World War II the golf course was in need of a face-lift so Stanley Thompson, who was flamboyant in his own right, was hired to do the job. Some of you may know Mr. Thompson's work from the North Oaks Golf Club. Most of his work was re-contouring the putting surfaces and bunker work. It was the era of the bulldozer so one change was the lowering of Somerset's 3rd green by 7 feet! Unfortunately some of that work was done with little regard for topsoil. If you are a long ball hitter, you'll find Somerset's par fives reachable in two strokes, but it can come back to haunt you in the four pars, with more than a couple over 450 yards from the back tees. One last thing to keep in mind if you play are the false fronts if the greens are fast.

I am sure you have heard enough about me over the past few years but I am very fortunate to work for good members and to be surrounded by a great staff that makes me look good. What makes my mechanic, Kim Huebscher, special is his attitude. He realizes what we are trying to accomplish and he is very approachable by young kids (or old ones like me) who break things accidentally. Jason my long time assistant is a very hard worker and when it comes to reshaping tees with a skid-loader, he's at the top of the list. Josh is a new young gun from the University of Minnesota turfgrass program, he knows his stuff and gets along with the staff well. And then there is Jose who arrived from California right before the Halloween Blizzard of 1991. Thankfully, for me, that didn't chase him out of town. He is indispensable to my assistants and me, because he knows exactly what we want done, and can accomplish everything well the first time. Finally, Sheree the gardener greets all of our members with a smile, and her gardens set the tone for a great day at the club. Enjoy!

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► Regular use of Turf Foundation™ 10-3-5 will improve turf root systems and thus improve the ability of turf to more efficiently absorb nutrients. Improving general plant health and vigor will decrease the need for chemical and other nutrient additives.

► Turf Foundation™ 10-3-5 works great in temperatures as low as 45° F.

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► Turf Foundation™ 10-3-5 increases lateral growth without excessive top growth. Great for ball mark recovery on greens, Par 3 tees and driving range tee areas. It also accelerates aerification healing.

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Sealed off greens create a number of problems including: fungus growth, algae growth, isolated dry spots, over heated surfaces (due to ponded water), and oxygen depleted root zones that cause summer root decline.

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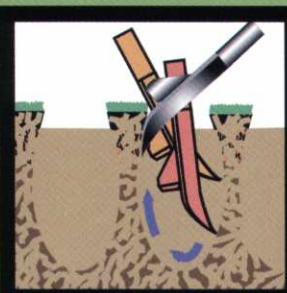
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- No down time, course remains open during aeration
- Quicker recovery from heavy rainfall
- Up to 66% reduction in use of fungicides and infiltrants
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PlanetAir moves every particle in your root zone



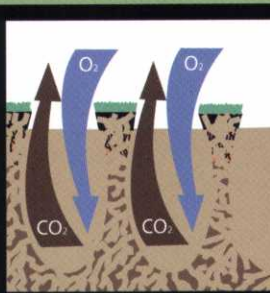
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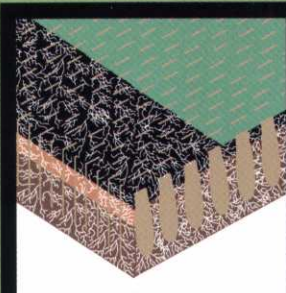
Our patented coring tine technology - combined with our planetary motion - cuts clean cores at the surface and shatters the soil below. This promotes better soil structure with less cleanup.



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MGCSA Superintendents were asked about Japanese Beetles

In the interest of determining establishment range within the state, have you seen Japanese beetles on your golf course? In addition: How long have you seen them on your golf course? Have you treated for them and, if so, for how many years? If you do treat, how many acres?

Being on the east side I figured it was just a matter of time before the beetle arrived. In 2006 we found a dead one in my office, but none on the golf course. Last year (2007) we had thousands of them on our eleventh hole. It made me wonder if they were imported with some sod. So we treated for the second hatching of the eggs and we will treat this spring again. I am treating fairways only at this point, about 23 acres. I will use Merit or Meridian for season long control and hopefully control some other pests, like atenius at the same time.

- James Bade
Somerset Country Club, Mendota Heights

* * * *

We have seen them on this property for about eight years. They showed up in MN Dept. of Ag traps placed on the golf course. At that time, 16 beetles was the max found in a trap. In 2003 and 2004 we placed traps in several locations on the property to get a handle on population numbers. Traps were overflowing but damage to turfgrass was negligible. In 2006, we sprayed hot spots totaling approximately 5 acres with Dylox. Adult popu-



Japanese Beetles at Hillcrest Golf Course of St. Paul

lations were highly visible and very abundant across the golf course during the summer of 2007. We sprayed approximately 50 acres of greens, green surrounds, tees, tee surrounds, bunker surrounds, fairways and irrigated rough with Arena insecticide. We feel yearly insecticide applications will be necessary in the immediate future.

- Paul Diegnau, CGCS
Keller Golf Course, St. Paul

* * * *

I have seen the Japanese beetle at Hillcrest for seven years. The past three seasons we have treated the beetles and sprayed about 60 acres; this past summer we started injecting our lindens and birches with great success, killing thousands of beetles.


- Thomas Schmidt
Hillcrest Golf Course of St. Paul



* * * *



We have observed Japanese beetles on the golf course since the late 1990's. In the summer of 2001 we reached our threshold and treated the first year with Mach II. After an unsuccessful kill, the following year, in early July of 2002, we treated 40 acres of rough with Merit. Merit gave us excellent control and we have not had the need to treat since that application. Last summer we did observe some higher than desired grub counts in the fall. We will be closely monitoring the situation this year. I am expecting that we will need to make an application on 10-20 acres. If and when we make that application, we will shoot for the first week of July so we can extend our control into the fall.

- Jeff Johnson
The Minikahda Club, Minneapolis

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Japanese Beetles-

(Continued from Page 27)

At Dellwood Hills Golf Club we have not seen any Japanese beetles. - Eric H. Peterson, Dellwood Hills Golf Club, White Bear Lake

* * * *

Currently, there are no Japanese beetles wandering the course. - Kevin Clunis, CGCS, Tanners Brook Golf Course, Forest Lake

* * * *

I have not seen any Japanese beetles since I have been here at Medina. - Drew Larsen, Medina Golf & Country Club, Medina

* * * *

Have not seen them at Emily Greens in Emily, 35 miles NE of Brainerd. - Gregg Gamble, Emily Greens Golf Course, Emily

* * * *

We have never seen a Japanese beetle up here in Amery Wisconsin, thus we never treat for them. When I worked at Stillwater Country Club we had tons of jap beetles, and this was five years ago. We treated for them and I believe they still do. Approx. 25-30 A. - Jeff Gajdostik, The Amery Golf Club, Amery, Wis.

* * * *

We have not seen the Japanese beetle here at Island View Golf Club in Waconia. - Kurt Knox, Island View Country Club, Waconia



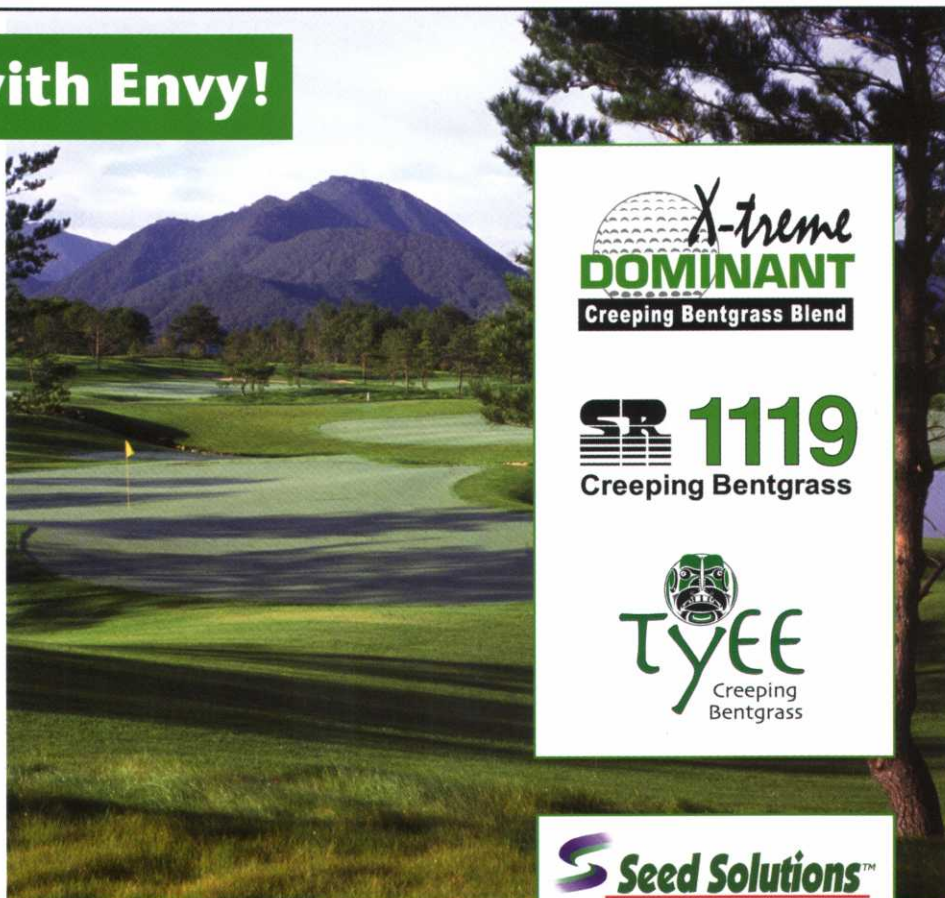
Dealing with Japanese beetles at Hillcrest Golf Course of St. Paul

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Creeping Bentgrass

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Seed Solutions™
Seeds for Growing Success

Contact: Joe Churchill, Seed Solutions • Phone: 612-790-7333

Brock White - Your First Choice Supplier

Firestone

SPECIALTY PRODUCTS

Firestone geomembrane liners are the durable, dependable solution for nearly any application. Whether it's a decorative pond, golf courses or aquaculture applications - Firestone's geomembrane systems are easy to install and built to last.

- Extremely Durable
- Easy to Install
- Highly Flexible
- Contours to Irregular Substrates
- Fish Friendly
- Excellent Low Temp. Properties

Contact Brock White for a list of Certified Installers!



PAM-12

PAM-12 is a cost effective soil-stabilizing amendment. The granules serve as a carrier, delivery system, and tracer for a proven erosion control polymer.

Product Features

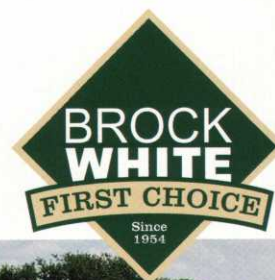
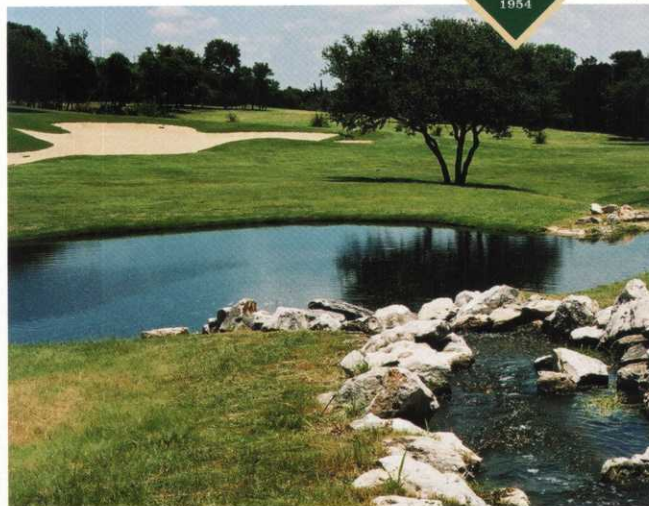
- Reduces runoff & erosion
- Increases water penetration
- Improves water-use efficiency

Soil Binding Properties

- Increases water filtration
- Opens soil porosity
- Reduce rill erosion

Moisture Management

- Reduces irrigation frequency
- Increases soil moisture retention



Mud Mats

(Patent Pending)

Unroll this amazing new product and drive on any muddy, swampy ground without getting stuck, rutting or tracking mud off site.



Uses include

- Site Access & Easy to Deploy
- Crossing Sensitive Areas
- Alternative to Rock Entrances
- Poor Site Conditions
- Protects Turf
- Much more!

BROCKWHITE

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

Brock White Company - St. Paul
2575 Kasota Avenue, 55108
651-647-0950, Fax 651-647-0403
1-800-880-3210

Rochester	Eagan	Elk River	Duluth	Brainerd	St Cloud	Fargo
507-282-2421	651-686-5036	763-441-2004	218-628-2231	218-829-1929	320-251-5060	701-282-9255

www.brockwhite.com



In Bounds: Memorial Day

By JOHN "JACK" MACKENZIE, CGCS
North Oaks Golf Club

God bless America. Indeed, God bless America, land of the free and home to the brave. And God bless those who put themselves into harms way to allow me the opportunity to prosper in a safe environment that I often take for granted. Thank you to all the soldiers in our country and abroad. My future is bright due in part to your courageousness and self sacrifice. And my past is built upon those whose heroism paved a road of liberty and freedom upon which I travel.

Memorial Day will soon be here.

As a youth I marched down Mahtomedi Avenue surrounded by my Boy Scout peers and carried the flag of the United States of America. That Memorial Day in 1971 was long ago but I remember the enthusiasm of the moment well. Smiling gaily for our "moment in time" many of my gang were attired in oversized military garb handed down from their fathers, toting BB guns and acting proud for the onlookers. It was thrilling to be a participant, have my picture taken and carry a blister from the wooden staff, but sadly I was utterly clueless about the cause I was parading to.

Memorial Day, the day we honor those who have died for our liberty, our freedom, our American way of life.

On a ride back to college my father and I listened to the reports of a failed hostage rescue attempt in Iraq. With contempt for our country I remarked how terrible it was that we were always forcing ourselves upon the will of other nations and that the crisis in the Middle East was retribution for our stupidity and cavalier attitude. Then I made a grave mistake and announced I would, "never serve in the military and would rather spend time in Canada than fight for our way of life."

On that day in 1980 I was fortunate to have been wearing a seatbelt or I surely would have been propelled through the wind shield as my father, a decorated Korean War veteran, brought the car to an immediate stop. The look on his face, one of shock then bitterness and finally just plain sorrow eroded my postulation and silenced me for the rest of our drive to school.

Since that time I have grown up. My eyes have been opened by real life, oh so much better than reality shows; graduation, marriage, children, travel, employment, vacations, tragedies and happiness. The experiences I have enjoyed allowed me to appreciate the freedoms I so often take for granted. Speech, ideology, religion, politics and the ability to pursue my desires uninhibited by a repressive government are not universal freedoms.

However in our country they have been purchased and continue to be paid for by gallant volunteers who continue to be

placed into harms way in order for us to enjoy our comfortable lifestyle.

Memorial Day, a day that I now celebrate as I understand it; for those who died for my freedom, Jack MacKenzie's. However, on this day I also think about those who are still alive and who have lost friends and relatives through conflicts in a self-sacrificing effort to make our United States the wonderful country it is today.

Listen up Conley! My father-in-law adjusted his identification papers so he could sign up for the Navy at the tender age of 17. His transportation into the theater of war in 1945 was the USS Bunker Hill, cutting her way across the Pacific Ocean to deliver the death blow to Japan in an effort to end World War II.

Thanks to you Con and your fellow crewmen for being my heroes and fighting for my freedom. I know through our visits you often think of friends and relatives who did not return back to the country whose freedom they fought so hard for.

Hey 'Big Guy,' a name that has stuck upon my father for many years, thanks for your participation in providing me with the finest life possible. I am sorry about your friends who lost their lives upon that mountain in Korea during your deployment. And it

breaks my heart when I think about the memories you have and will always carry for the rest of your life created by many months in close combat. Your valor and that of your fellow Marines entitle you to be my heroes. I appreciate all you have done for me and the lifestyle you helped to maintain.

The Air Force sponsored my brother-in-law Jim during the Vietnam War. As a jet jockey he spent many hours protecting those on the ground and flying special missions. Regardless of the politics involved in this fight, Jim, you and your flyboys deserve kudos for putting it on the line for me. It saddens me your welcome home was limited by a confused country, one that didn't understand that although they may not support the cause, the freedom fighters who were willing to give their lives must be carried high upon their shoulders. Thank you Jim, your heroism is noted and very much respected.

In more recent years we have all been impacted directly or indirectly by the war in Iraq. And regardless of the argument Americans have whether for or against the war, the real heroes, my heroes, are the ones who have voluntarily put themselves on the line for me. Over four thousand Americans have died for my freedom and hundreds of thousands have sacrificed a part of their lives in exchange for the American way of life.

On this Memorial Day I will do more than commemorate those who have died. I will pray for those who survived and will live with the memories of war, the death of their comrades and loss of time at home. Unfortunately, my words are inadequate for the sacrifice you and many others have made. I am thankful that through your valiant deeds we can all share together the bounty our country has to offer.

I wish for each of you prosperity as you see it. God bless you and the country you have helped to create, our United States of America, the home of the free and the brave.

