



CHARTER

MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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NO. 11

Fall Fertilization of Trees

Proper fertilization of trees and shrubs is an investment in a better landscape planting. How much and how often you fertilize trees will depend on the size and growth of the tree; it's best to fertilize small trees yearly. Large, well established trees will need fertilizing only every two or three years.

The best time to fertilize trees is late fall, after leaves have dropped. If you apply fertilizer in the fall, it has a longer period of time to penetrate down into the soil so the roots will absorb it. When spring comes your tree will have a supply in its roots and will be ready to grow.

For small trees, spread the fertilizer over the surface of the soil and cultivate it or water it in. For small trees normal fall grass fertilization may be sufficient.

How can you tell if your trees or shrubs need fertilizer? It is hard to tell from a soil test because most shrubs and trees have feeding roots that go far below the surface.

Learn to watch for "hunger" signs that show the need for fertilizer. Here is what to look for:

1. undersized leaves
2. yellow or chlorotic leaves
3. thin or sparse foliage
4. tips of branches dying back
5. crown full of dead branches
6. short annual twig growth

Some of these symptoms may be caused by insects or plant diseases, but if you are doing a good job of pest control your trees and shrubs will benefit from regular

fertilization. It will help keep them healthy and vigorous.

Select a complete fertilizer high in nitrogen. A commonly used analysis is 10-6-4. The rate of application is generally based on the diameter of the tree trunk, measured at a point 4 feet above the ground.

The standard rate for trees 6 inches or more in diameter is 2 to 4 pounds of fertilizer for each inch of diameter. For example, a tree 9 inches in diameter should get 18 to 36 pounds of fertilizer. Trees under 6 inches are fertilized at the rate of 1 to 2 pounds for each inch in diameter.

The most practical way to fertilize large trees or those in a lawn area is by the punch bar method. Make holes 2 to 3 feet apart with a crow bar or other instrument. Make them 18 to 24 inches deep, depending on the size of the tree.

Since the fibrous feeding roots are way out from the trunk of the tree, no fertilizer is needed close to the trunk. Holes should be punched from 2 to 3 feet out from the base of the tree to just beyond the drip zone of the branches.

After fertilizer is distributed into each hole, fill them with a loose soil to help eliminate green splotchy spots on the grass from grass uptake of the fertilizer.

Other means of tree fertilization are liquid injections in the soil and the new fertilizer bars which can be pounded into the ground and left to dissolve. The liquid fertilizer is quicker acting and shortly depleted within the soil while the newly marketed fertilizer bars are the longest lasting fertilizers available.

Dates to Remember

November 12	Laurel Pines Country Club Host: Gilbert Shapiro
January 5, 6, 7, 1975	Mid-Atlantic Conference Baltimore Hilton Inn 1726 Reisterstown Road Exit 20 Baltimore 695 Beltway
December 10	Eagles Nest Country Club Host: Bill Emerson Annual Election Meeting
February 16-21, 1975	GCSAA Conference and Show Pre-Conference Seminars New Orleans, Louisiana

GOLF

The average 18-hole golf course can provide the oxygen required by a town of 7,000 people, according to Philip A. Wogan, chairman of the Environmental Impact Committee of the American Society of Golf Course Architects. Wogan also points out in a recent report that golf courses have been used to recreate areas that were formerly scars on the landscape; sanitary landfills, strip mines and gravel pits. The Society is examining the question of environmental impact, and will be issuing periodic statements concerning their findings.

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Means of Preventing Winterkill

1. Height of cut: This will vary with the type of turf used. For bluegrass used on fairways, the height of cut should be one inch or higher. Bents are recommended at a height of three-eighths of an inch. Field observations indicate that grass cut at one inch or more survives winter temperatures better than when cut shorter. The height of cut functions in two ways: (a) as an insulating factor, and (b) by providing increased photosynthetic areas for carbohydrate production.

2. Late summer fertilization: Timing is of considerable importance when applying nitrogen fertilizers in the late summer or early fall. Soluble nitrogen will increase the danger of overgrowths and the development of soft grass that is highly susceptible to winter injury. A complete fertilizer that is low in available nitrogen and phosphorus and high in potash should be used. The recommended ratio of a 1:1:2 ratio in pounds per thousand square feet should be sufficient.

3. Removal, or breakup, of ice sheet formations.
4. Apply protective fungicides.
5. Assure good drainage.
6. When spring comes and the ground begins to thaw, water lightly and regularly.
7. Try to keep traffic off frozen greens.
8. Aerification and spiking should be done to relieve compaction.
9. Excessive thatch elimination before freezing temperatures.

Norm Culbertson
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Politics is an eight letter word that sometimes ends in a sentence.

Proposal Writing Requires Planning & Work

If you are making a written proposal to your green committee chairman or to some other group at your course, here are some suggestions you may want to consider before you begin to type.

Perhaps the most important consideration is that of knowing to whom you are writing. Having his name and address correct is not the subject here, you should anticipate and answer his questions in your proposal, thus you must know what he is likely to be interested in, you must know the individual. For example, most people will ask, What is this about? Should it concern me? Can the writer prove his statements? What will it do for me or the course? What should I do?

If your proposal covers these points in a friendly factual manner, you will be halfway there, providing of course there is a real need or you can create the desire. Very few people, whether buying for themselves or for their course will agree to ill presented ideas of questionable worth. They must be convinced that what you are suggesting is the only way to go, and that it is beneficial because of savings in time and/or money, or it will provide worthwhile improvements.

Another item to consider in writing proposals is your reader's point of view and ability to understand what it is you are saying. Although you may be fully convinced that what you are recommending should be, or even must be, done, it will more readily be accomplished if your explanation is phrased in language that is familiar to the reader. While compaction problems may not be fully understood, the long-term improvements to the putting surface and how it will affect the game will be appreciated. What about the advantages of multi-gang fairway units? Although these units may be expensive initially, at which point will this cost be offset by reduced labor costs,

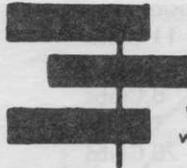
particularly when you consider the ever increasing expense of labor?

Whenever writing a proposal keep two points in mind, clarity and brevity. Because you are asking someone to take some of their valuable time to read and consider your proposal, these two considerations must be made. However, if they seem to conflict with each other, take the side of clarity. Briefness that confuses is totally wasteful of both you and your reader's time. Clearness of thought and intentions should help to demonstrate the care with which you have considered the subject, and help convince the reader that you are correct.

Finally, does your proposal include a conclusion that answers the natural question, "So what?" Does it encourage the reader to want to learn more, or to take action and say, "Let's do it!"?

When you put all of this together, it comes down to knowing your "audience," using familiar language, bring brief but clear, and giving the reader a desire to act favorably.

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1974 Course Maintenance Survey

Only a third of our A & B members completed this survey, and for the most part this third represented those most in need of a comprehensive area survey.

Unfortunately, the vast majority of our membership doesn't see fit to disclose any club information even when they do not sign their name or the name of the country club.

Undoubtedly a great many of us will still derive many bits of useful information from this survey — I only wish I were able to send the results to only those members who sent in their survey sheets. For those of you who did not return your survey and find of value some of this information, I hope you will be the first to return future surveys in the years to come.

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1. Type of Operation — 39 Responses

Private Club	24	Military	2
Semi Private	7	County or Public	6

2. Acres of Maintained Grounds

Average: 183 acres
Average with each 36-hole course (5) counting as two separate courses: 170 acres

3. Other Sports Facilities Under Supervision

Tennis Courts	11 Clubs
Paddle Tennis	6 Clubs
Picnic and Recreation Areas	6 Clubs
Model Homes	1 Club
No Other Responsibilities	20 Clubs

4. Average Superintendent Salary: \$19,180.00

This figure reflects value of house (\$4,000 per year) and transportation (\$1,500 per year) when these benefits are offered.

5. Benefits

Health Insurance	33	GCSAA & Meeting Expenses	34
Transportation	30	Family Insurance	19
Meals	17	Life Insurance	21
Pension	19	Lodging	12
Annual Cost of Living Increase	22	Contract	15

Vacation: Average 3 weeks

6. Average Years Superintendent Employed

Present Job: 7 years Previous Job: 5½ years

7. To Whom Superintendent Responsible

Greens Committee	15	Park Director	5
Manager	7	Other	7
President or V.P.	5		

8. Assistant's Salary — 27 Responses (2 with houses)

Average: \$10,467
High: \$15,000
Low: \$ 7,200

9. Foreman's Salary — 26 Responses (3 with houses)

Average: \$ 9,671

High: \$14,352

Low: \$ 6,000

10. Mechanic's Salary — 27 Responses

Average: \$10,172

High: \$12,300

Low: \$ 7,000

(Value of house not figured in above three figures.)

11. Hourly Wage Scale

Average Starting Wage: \$2.54 per hour

Average High Wage: \$4.15 per hour

12. Number of Men Employed

Full Time Average: 6 men

Summer Average: 11 men

BUDGET FIGURES (Average)

Golf Course Maintenance, minus labor	\$62,369.00
Labor Budget	74,393.00
New Equipment and Machinery Budget	9,244.00
Repair of Equipment	6,698.00
Flower and Landscaping	1,233.00

TYPE OF IRRIGATION SYSTEM

Automatic 11 Semi-Automatic 7 Manual 21

SOURCE OF WATER

City and Pond 4 City Only 7 Pond or Well Only 28

Average Annual Cost of Repair Parts: \$986.00
(27 Responses)

Average Annual Cost of Labor for Repairs: \$1,680.00
(22 Responses)

Average Age Automatic: 4 years old

Average Cost: \$114,000.00

Average Age Semi-Automatic: 7 years old

Average Cost: \$90,000.00

Average Age Manual: 16 years old

Average Cost: \$66,000.00

Oldest Irrigation System: 28 years

Newest Irrigation System: 2 years (5 courses)

GCSAA Scholarship Fund

I was recently asked to write an article on the recent GCSAA request for a \$25 contribution for our national scholarship drive.

I only glanced at the mailed request and then promptly filed it in the nearest trash can — for the request also asked of its thousands of members to sign over their GCSAA insurance benefits their family would normally receive upon their death — which is \$1,000.00.

While, admittedly, a thousand dollars will not come close to carrying all funeral expenses, it seems to me this would be the least appropriate time for my family to give up \$1,000 for a donation to be made in my name. If I want to make a donation towards the education of a worthy agronomy student, I would much prefer to make it at a time when my family would not directly suffer from such a contribution. I didn't have to ponder over this literature very long before laughing and throwing it in the trash.

Many Mid-Atlantic members didn't find the dry humor in the request of donating your life insurance benefits as I did — and as a result, brought their complaints to me suggesting that I write an editorial.

The general consensus of opinion of Mid-Atlantic members is that monies generated from scholarship purposes are best derived from sources other than the superintendents pockets.

Our national scholarship drive has grown larger with each passing year, growing from annual commercial contributions to now include annual affiliate chapter contributions from across the country. To supplement these annual sources of scholarship income a special booth has been set up each year at our annual conference to receive contributions from each and every passerby; potentially over \$5,000 if only a dollar was collected from each person. The net result is that total funds now coming in for scholarships are far exceeding all past history efforts of our national organization.

Our national directors are to be commended on their rewarding scholarship drive success — even upon their insight to ask for country clubs across the nation to donate \$25.00 to this worthy cause. We all realize the country clubs will be the true benefactor of scholarships and consequently, should help with the larger contributions. The National's timing of mailing for requests would enable many of us to include the donation as a 1975 budget expense; if only the request did not also ask of the superintendent to give up one of the only benefits our National has offered its membership, a \$1,000 life insurance policy. Hopefully, some of our members saw fit to go ahead with a request for the club's \$25.00 donation.

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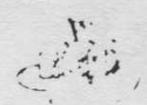
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Dieter Heads '75 Nominating Committee

Lee Dieter, president emeritus, will head up this year's nominating committee for the upcoming December elections at Eagles Nest Country Club. Helping Lee are two other past presidents, George Thompson and George Cleaver. Their proposed slate of officers and directors are as follows:

Alex Watson	President
David Fairbank and William Emerson	Vice President
Angelo Cammarota	Secretary, Treasurer

Board of Directors - two to be elected

Samuel Kessel
Gerald Gerrard
Richard Anderson
Craig Spottswood
Louis Rudinski

Further nominations can be made from the floor prior to election at the December meeting.

Suburban Country Club Tournament Results

Class A & B Bill Glover Trophy donated by John Connally

1st low gross	Silver and AM Digital Radio	Bob Orazi 74
2nd low gross	Silver and Weather Plaque	Al MacCurach 80
3rd low gross	6 Band Radio	Virgil Robinson 81
4th low gross	AM-FM Clock Radio	Bob Miller 85
5th low gross	Pro Shop Gift Certificate	Bert Yingling 85
6th low gross	Pro Shop Gift Certificate	Ken Braun 85

Class A & B Reuban Hines Trophy donated by Bert Yingling

1st low net	Silver and Cassette Recorder	Grafton Lumsden 74-10-64
2nd low net	Silver and Attache Case	Al Watson 83-16-67
3rd low net	Calculator	Sam Kessel 81-14-67
4th low net	Travel Bar	Stan Lawson 84-15-69
5th low net	Pro Shop Gift Certificate	Lou White 90-18-72
6th low net	Pro Shop Gift Certificate	Dave Fairbank 97-25-72

Class C, D, and H

1st low net	Camera	Lee Jarman 81
1st low gross		Ron Nolf 104-36-68

Class E

1st low gross	Travel Bar	Tom Comalli 76
1st low gross	Attache Case	Tom Harris 95-30-65

Guest

1st low gross		Charles Parcelles 78
1st low net		Howard Michael 85-14-71

High Score Ken Baker 129

Closest to Hole Howard Michael 4½"

Longest Drive Grafton Lumsden 290 yards



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MacCurrack - New PGA Agronomist

As counterpart to a USGA Agronomist, Allan MacCurrack, formerly superintendent of the prestigious Chevy Chase Country Club, in Montgomery County Maryland, has joined the Professional Golfers Association professional staff as their agronomy consultant. Allan was recruited by the PGA to visit all golf course facilities hosting PGA events to assist the superintendent in preparing his course to meet PGA tournament guidelines.

Allan is certainly to be commended on his new promotion and we in the Mid-Atlantic are all very proud of his accomplishments. Washington will still be home base for Allan, so we will still retain Allan as a member of our organization and hopefully see him at some of our future monthly meetings.

I.A.A. -University of Maryland

Dr. Douglas Hawes of the Institute of Applied Agriculture, University of Maryland, reports that of the seventeen students in the freshman turf class, seven are from Maryland, six from Virginia, two from Pennsylvania, one each from Connecticut and New York. Two of the above are retired military personnel. Two are females. Two are interested in sod production. Two already have bachelor's degrees.

In addition to these, there are two part-time students who are taking turf courses only. One of these has a B.S. degree in general agriculture; the other is already a superintendent.

The senior class contains eleven students out of the seventeen that started last year. Nine of these have worked two or more seasons on a golf course. Doug Hawes claims the chaff has been removed, the light grains are being blown away, and if you desire a competent assistant you should move quickly before somebody else finds the remaining finely riped kernels.

(Sounds like Doug is getting a bit swellheaded in his "old" age.)



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November 12 at Laurel Pines

Gillie Shapiro's Laurel Pines Country Club and golf course will be the site of our November 12 meeting. Our association had the privilege of meeting at Laurel Pines in May last year to witness the major renovation and reconstruction underway resulting from the flooding rains of Agnes. At that time, two whole fairways, 13 and 14 were being elevated, a two-acre lake constructed, two greens being reconstructed, and extensive fairway drains being installed. This new face lifting of the golf course has now been completed and we should all visit Gillie's course before attending the business meeting of the evening. Get there early enough to enjoy a round of golf and enjoy the improvements throughout the course.

Attitude adjustment hour — 6 p.m.

Dinner — 7 p.m.

Golf — Anytime

Directions: From Virginia — take the Baltimore-Washington Parkway to Maryland Route 197 (Laurel-Bowie). Turn left and club is on the right about 2½ miles. From Baltimore — take the Baltimore-Washington Parkway to Route 198 to Laurel. Turn right. Go to light at Route 197. Turn left. Club is on the left 1/3 mile.

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