Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents

July/August 1996

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What Happens to Pesticides Applied to Golf Courses?

Dr. Michael P. Kenna

Director, USGA Green Section Research

rotecting ground and surface water from chemical pollutants is a national initiative. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that 1.2 billion pounds of pesticides are sold annually in the United States. About 70 percent of the pesticides applied are used for agricultural production of food and fiber. Only a small fraction of this amount is used on golf courses. Yet, increased public concern about chemicals has drawn attention to golf because of the perception that the intense maintenance on golf courses creates the potential for environmental contamination.

In the late 1980's, golf was faced with a dilemma. On one hand, regulatory agencies responding to public concern routinely initiated environmental monitoring programs of ground and surface water. On the other hand, very little public information was available on the behavior and fate of pesticides and fertilizers applied to turfgrass. Probing, sometimes over-zealous federal and state regulators looking for non-point source polluters raised concerns about a recreational game that had relied on the integrity of chemical companies and the EPA to provide products and guidelines that protect the environment. There were lots of questions but few answers.

The game of golf needed answers to environmental questions, and the USGA wanted these answers based on scientific facts, not emotions. In 1991 the USGA initiated a three-year study

of the fate of pesticides and fertilizers applied under golf course conditions. This article first briefly describes what is known about the fate of chemicals used on golf courses and provides some supporting documentation to help choose a pesticide. Highlights of the research projects then are summarized, but the articles should be read to learn more about the particulars of each research project.

THE FATE OF CHEMICALS APPLIED TO GOLF COURSES

Do golf courses pollute the environment? No, they do not. At least not to the extent that critics state in undocumented media hype. Golf course superintendents apply pesticides and fertilizers to the course, and depending on an array of processes, these chemicals break down into byproducts that are biologically inactive.

In general, there are six processes that influence the fate of chemical products applied to golf courses.

- · Solubilization by water.
- Sorption by soil mineral and organic matter.
- Degradation by soil microorganisms.
- Chemical degradation and photodecomposition.
- · Volatilization and evaporation.
- · Plant uptake.

The relative importance of each process is controlled by the chemistry of the pesticide or fertilizer and environmental variables such as temperature, water content, and soil type (See figure 1).

Solubility

The extent to which a chemical will dissolve in a liquid is referred to as solubility. Although water solubility is usually a good indicator of the mobil-continued on page 5



Glenn Smickley, CGCS and Cary Sciorra take the 1996 Superintendent-Pro Tournament honors back with them to the Robert Trent Jones Golf Club.

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President's Message Bill Shirk, CGCS



ell, here it is! The last week of May and what a difference a year makes. Nineteen ninety-five was

hot and dry and to-date, 1996 has been cool and wet! Is it possible that we won't need our irrigation systems this year? Fat chance!!!

I am always very thankful for what I have, who I know, what I am able to do, and many other things, so that's why I usually start this message with a few thank you's. Again, I would like to thank both my assistants, John Stern and Steve Raube, along with the entire staff at Queenstown Harbor Golf Links for their outstanding effort in preparing Superintendentour Tournament. Even the weatherman gave us four dry days to prepare and just enough time to finish play. I also would like to thank our June host, Gerry Hasbargen and the entire staff at Prospect Bay Country Club for their fine efforts.

I would like to finish this message with an update on the BOD's work almost half way through 1996. Our first two board meetings averaged four hours and our May board meeting lasted one and one-half hours, which indicates to me that things are

very organized and running quite smoothly. Financially, our association is in very stable condition and



our money is being managed very well. All of our paperwork on affiliation has been completed and sent to GCSAA. Our monthly meetings, even without the help of the weather, are having record attendance. This is in part due to the good educational speakers and the support each member is giving our association. Our Newsletter continues to improve with every issue and your comments can only help support or improve its efforts. In short, due to the entire BOD's team effort, our association has completely recovered from the management problems of last year. Any concerns or comments about our association may be directed to any director, and I assure you they will be addressed,

Lastly, I would encourage and invite every member to attend each monthly membership meeting. Among the MAAGCS greatest strengths are the fellowship and knowledge that are shared at these meetings.

Mid Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents

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Lentz Wheeler

Superintendent's View

Dean M. Graves



r. Chris Ayers, Communications Director, asked me to write this article with some perspective on the ways Superintendents make purchasing decisions. I have learned that no two of us approaches this process the same way. My intent was to discuss purchase pro-

tocol with individuals representing different segments of the golf course industry and to present you with their points of

consensus as well as any contrasting viewpoints.

The lucky individuals were; Mr. Andrew Sheehan, representing the private club that is privately owned, Mr. Louis Rudinsky, depicting the municipal course operated by the public [government], Mr. Mike Legere, portraying the management company segment, Mr. William Shirk, personifying the public course owned by private business, and myself, describing the private club owned by its members.

Planning

Everyone prioritizes his particular needs and then presents this information in writing to his respective superiors. What happens after that point is as variable as the weather. Mr. Rudinsky explained that his requests go to four different branches of the county government. At any of these approval stages monies may be reduced for what ever reason. Mr. Shirk expressed that usually his requirements were approved with minimal justification. As a consensus, if the facility did well financially it was most likely that the request would be looked at more favorably.

How do you decide which equipment is purchased," brought out other interesting thoughts. Mr. Sheehan simply rotates out the old to be replaced by newer and similar equipment. The decision for replacement is discussed with his mechanic, Pat, and his able staff. By evaluating this information Andy feels, I can make the best decision for all concerned.

How newest equipment was discovered and evaluated is fairly consistent throughout the participating professionals. When it came to gathering this information the International GCSAA Trade Show was by far utilized the most. The consensus went like this:

Area of Interest	New Equipment	Replacement Equipment
International GCSAA Conference	orenet ur One	3
Trade Magazines	2	4
Word-of-mouth	3	1=8=
On Course Demonstrations	3	2

Information gained at "the National" is most useful for evaluating equipment just introduced, while personal experiences and dealer demonstrations ("demo's") prove most telling in gauging equipment that has been on the market awhile.

Negotiating

Negotiating consensus came out the same as if we were purchasing a used car. Our opinions were mixed, some of us liked the challenge of negotiating and others simply say "Give me the best price."

Continued on page 4

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SUPERINTENDENT PROFILE

Our Host for the July Meeting: Lentz Wheeler

of Hidden Creek Country Club

entz Wheeler, of Hidden Creek Country

Club, has made grooming the land his life for over two decades. He graduated from the University of Tennessee (Go Volunteers!) in 1979 as a Bachelor of Science in Ornamental Horticulture and Landscape Design. He has been serving the northern Virginia golf industry ever since. He apprenticed under Bill Brock for the first year out of college as the assistant superintendent of the Reston Golf Course. He took over for Bill and ran the Reston course until 1987. Lentz spent the next two years, until he moved exclusively to Hidden Creek C.C. (Reston North Course) in 1989, overseeing both Reston courses. He has kept a steady hand on the tiller at Hidden Creek ever since.

Remarkably, Lentz managed to get married and have two wonderful children in the interim. He wed his lovely wife, Jane, almost twelve years ago, while heading the Reston G.C. Greens Department. His oldest, David, came along just after Lentz relegated himself to superintending a single golf course. Katie, his youngest, is just three years old and the apple of her father's eye. Jane, an educator by background and training, now superintends her own very active crew-home daycare. Lentz values his sports, whether on the links, the court, the track, or the couch (Rabid Tennessee football fan). His most challenging, as well as most rewarding, sport remains the balancing act that we all face between the pressures of the turf industry and the everyday details of bringing up another generation of golf course aficionados.

Superintendent's View

Continued from page 3

Mr. Legere does not have any negotiating with his national accounts. The price is set nationally and that is the price he pays. He does have a checks and balances system in place. Mike simply, "calls his fellow superintendents with Kemper Sports Management" to check consistency. Another interesting fact with Kemper is they do not purchase any equipment, they totally lease everything

When asked to rank service, price, and compatibility to their expectations the group was very consistent. Service was by far the most important. We realize the equipment will eventually need repairing and it is of upmost importance to have it completed in a timely fashion. Compatibility is second with influencing our decision. With consideration to the mechanic and staff, it is vitally important we keep our equipment manufactures consistent and not change unless their is a huge gap in pricing or equipment quality.

Pricing was considered a distant third and is considered a minor part of the formula. I believe that this only if we feel we are getting a good value for the money. When researching equipment do you honestly feel that there are really many poor pieces of equipment sold by our local distributors? I feel, "you cannot go wrong with the quality of equipment produced today and service is of primary importance when deciding on anything."

Evaluation	Rating
Service	1
Compatibility with present equipment	2
Price	3

In conclusion:

In conclusion a few interesting points were discovered.

1. It is simply amazing how variable the five of our needs were. We have a better realization of how difficult it must be when a distributor tries to customize each proposal to their interested customer. How do they keep all of our particular needs organized? Good luck!

2. Financing was a topic that was discussed essentially by accident but provoked lengthy review. Basically we are all running businesses. We can become more creative and dynamic with the monies we have to spend. We owe it to the facility to do so. With margins of profit and budgets being scrutinized as they are we invite more creative financing. think with this season starting so slowly and revenues being greatly reduced this is even more essential especially for daily fee courses.



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Pesticides

Continued from page 1

ity of a pesticide in soils, it is not necessarily the best criterium. In addition to pesticide solubility, the pesticide's affinity to adhere to soils or sorption must be considered.

Sorption

The tendency of a pesticide to leach or run off is strongly dependent upon the interaction of the pesticide with solids within the soil. The word sorption is a term that includes the process of adsorption and absorption. Adsorption refers to the binding of a pesticide to the surface of a soil particle. Absorption implies that the pesticide penetrates into a soil particle. The adsorbed or absorbed pesticide is often referred to as bound residue and is generally unavailable for microbial degradation or pest control.

Factors that contribute to sorption of pesticides on soil materials include: a) chemical and physical characteristics of the pesticide; b) soil

composition; and c) the nature of the soil solution. In general, sandy soils offer little in the way of sorptive surfaces. Soils containing greater amounts of silt, clay and organic matter provides a richly sorptive environment for pesticides.

Adsorption of pesticides is affected by the partition coefficient which is reported as Kd or, more accurately, as Koc. For example, a Koc of less than 300 to 500 is considered low.

Microbial Degradation

Pesticides are broken down by microorganisms in the soil in a series of steps that eventually lead to the production of CO2 (carbon dioxide), H2O (water) and some inorganic products (i.e., nitrogen, phosphorus, sulfur, etc.). Microbial degradation may be either direct or indirect. Some pesticides are directly utilized as a food source by microorganisms. In most cases, though, indirect microbial degradation of pesticides occurs though passive consumption along with other food sources in the soil.

Regardless, microbial degradation is a biological process whereby microorganisms transform the original compound into one or more new compounds with different chemical and physical properties that behave differently in the environment.

Degradation rates are influenced by factors such as: pesticide concentration, temperature, soil water content, pH, oxygen status, prior pesticide use, soil fertility, and microbial populations. These factors change dramatically with soil depth, and microbial degradation is greatly reduced as pesticides migrate below the soil surface (see Figure 2).

Persistence of a pesticide is expressed as the term half-life (DT50), which is defined as the time required for 50 percent of the original pesticide to break down into other products. Half-life values are commonly determined in the laboratory under uniform conditions. On the golf course, soil temperature, organic carbon and

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Pesticides

Continued from page 5

moisture content change constantly. These and other factors can dramatically influence the rate of degradation. Consequently, half-life values should be considered as guidelines rather than absolute values.

Chemical Degradation

Chemical degradation is similar to microbial degradation except that the breakdown of the pesticide into other compounds is not achieved by microbial activity. The major chemical reactions such as hydrolysis, oxidation, and reduction are the same. Photochemical degradation is a different breakdown process that can influence the fate of pesticides. It was the combination of chemical, biological, and photochemical breakdown processes under field conditions that was the focus of the USGA sponsored studies.

Volatilization and Evaporation

Volatilization is the process by which chemicals are transformed from a solid or liquid into a gas, and is usually expressed in units of vapor pressure. Pesticide volatilization increases as the vapor pressure increases. As temperature increases, so does vapor pressure and the chance for volatilization loss. Volatilization losses generally are lower following a late afternoon or an early evening pesticide application than in the late morning or early afternoon, when temperatures are increasing. Volatilization also increases with air movement, and losses can be greater from unprotected areas than with windbreaks. areas Immediate irrigation is usually recommended to reduce the loss of highly volatile pesticides.

Plant Uptake

Plants can directly absorb pesticides or influence pesticide fate by altering the flow of water in the root zone. Turfgrasses with higher rates of

transpiration can reduce the leaching of water soluble pesticides. In situations where the turf is not actively growing, or where root systems are not well developed, pesticides are more likely to migrate deeper into the soil profile with percolating water.

Good Management Can Make A Difference

A primary concern when applying pesticides is to determine if the application site is vulnerable to ground or surface water contamination. In most cases, level areas away from surface waters (rivers, lakes, or wetlands) will not be prone to pesticide runoff and if the depth to groundwater is greater than 50 feet on fine-textured soils, the chances for deep percolation of pesticides is greatly reduced. More attention to the pesticide's characteristics is needed when applications are made to sandy soils with little organic matter, or sloped areas with thin turf and low infiltration rates.

Continued on page 10

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1996 Superintendent/Pro Tournament at Queenstown Harbor G.L.



Jim McHenry (left), Golf Director, hard at work before the tournament



Lee Dieter (right) plays his last Supt-Pro Tournament before embarking on his emeritus status, or so he says!



Mid-Atlantic superintendents hard at play



Our hosts for the 1996 S/P event, Bill Shirk, CGCS (right) and Trent Wright (left)



One of several unofficial grill oversight committees

MAAGCS Golf Notes

Jim McHenry,

Director of Golf



inally, after being snowed out of our first two golf outings, we got to play a couple of pretty good golf courses. Here are the results from the past couple of months.

May 15 Superintendent/Pro Tournament

Many thanks to Bill Shirk, CGCS and his staff at Queenstown Harbor Golf Links for providing us an outstanding golf course for our 24th annual Superintendent/Pro tournament. The full field of 60 teams enjoyed a well conditioned course and were challenged over the newer of the courses, the Lakes Course. Thanks Bill, and congratulations on a job well done!

Congratulations to Glenn Smickley, CGCS and Cary Sciorra from Robert Trent Jones on a fine round of 61 to win the 1996 Presidents Cup and the \$750 first place prize. The other winners from the day were:

Net	1st	Glenn Smickley / Cary Sciorra	61
	2nd	Lentz Wheeler / Bud Lintelman	64
	3rd	Tom List / Dave Quelland	63
	4th	Chris Ayers / Steve Madsen	65
	5th	Bill Shirk / Trent Wright	66
	6th	Ed Gasper / Quinn Sullivan	66
	7th	Steve Cohoon / Ron Milner	66
	8th	Donn Dietrich / Marty Novak	66
	9th	Dean Graves / Chris Kenney	66
	10th	John Newcomb / Bill Edwards	67
Gross	1st	Jeff Vietmeier / Tom Hanna	68
	2nd	Paul Krout / Bob Leeman	69
	3rd	Scott Wagner / Luther Showaker	69
Closest to Pin		Steven Cohoon	#3
		Dave Walker	#8
		Ed Brown	#11
		Jim Napier	#17
Long Drive		Jim McHenry	#9
		Glenn Kelley	#13

I would also like to thank our sponsors for the day, who contributed \$2,850.00 to the tournament. Make sure you thank the following companies:

continued on page 11

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Reroutings

David Nehila, formerly at at Caves Valley GC, now at Jacobsen Textron, Carrollton, TX.

Philip Plaskowitz, formerly at Carroll Park GC, MD, now Baltimore Municipal Golf Corp., Baltimore, MD.

Congratulations

R. Tucker Mostrom, of Lakewood CC, who married his fiancé, Kathryn, on June 1st.

Get Well Wishes

Frances Graves, mother of Dean Graves, Superindent of Bethesda CC, Bethesda, MD, recovering from angioplasty.

Scott Verchick, husband of Sharon Verchick of Terra International, recovering from a severe arminjury.

Condolences

The friends and family of **Tom Miller**, a graduate of the University of Maryland and longtime veteran of the Mid-Atlantic area, who passed away May 14th at his home in Cincinatti.

Pesticides

Continued from page 6

The most important thing a golf course superintendent can do when applying pesticides is to read and follow the label directions. From planning and preparation to storage and disposal, following label directions will significantly reduce the risks of contaminating our water resources. When possible, select a pesticide that poses the least threat of rapid leaching and runoff and is relatively non-persistent.

The Rest of The Story

This is only a very brief overview of the processes that affect what happens to pesticides and nutrients in the environment. The rest of this issue of the Green Section Record is devoted to the USGA sponsored environmental research projects, which were conducted from 1991 through 1994. Compared to agricultural crops, the results not only build on what is known about pesticide and nutrient fate, and often show that turfgrass systems:

- reduce runoff
- increase adsorption on leaves, thatch and soil organic matter
- maintain high microbial and chemical degradation rates
- reduce percolation due to an extensive root system, greater
- plant uptake and high transpiration rates.

These results reinforce the view that turfgrass areas generally rank second only to undisturbed forests in their ability to prevent pesticides and nutrients from reaching ground and surface water.



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Golf Notes

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June 4 Challenge Cup

The MAAGCS team won the 4th Annual Challenge Cup held this year at Kennetts Square Golf and Country Club. Congratulations to team members:

Gross	Bill Shirk	Net	Nick Vance
	Scott Wagner		George Renault
	Jeff Blind		Mike Evans
	Paul Brandon		Lou Rudinski

Counting the three best scores for gross and net, they shot 468 to win by 6 strokes over Old Dominion. Scott Wagner posted the best round of the day over the challenging lay-out with a 78.

Thanks to Tim Sage, golf committee member and Challenge Cup chairman, for organizing this fine event.

June 11 Points Tournament

Everyone must have heard what great shape Gerry Hasbargen had Prospect Bay Country Club in for this years tournament. 66 payers competed on a very fine golf course. Gerry, GREAT job! Thanks.

Winners for the day were:

Gross	Jim McHe	nry	36 pts	Net	Dave Rudinski	+11
Paul Brandon Glenn Smickley		30 pts		Lee Dieter	+6	
		ickley	29 pts		John Howell	+4
		29 pts	101 1 19	Joe Hau	+4	
		29 pts		Gerry Hasbarge	en +4	
Tom		John	Newco	mb	#3	
		Mik	Mike Gygrynuk		#7	
		Wojcik		#12		
		Paul Krout		#15		
Long Drive John		Newco	mb	#13		
Straight Drive Jim \		Weaver		#2		

Fun prizes were also given out for the worst rounds of the day for both gross and net. (I hope they don't mind me printing this).

Gross Stephanie Hau 2 pts Net Tom Tallier -12

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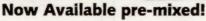
August 13 will be our picnic. This year it will be held at Hobbits Glen Golf course with Bill Neus, CGCS acting as our host. There will be no organized golf event, however golf will be available that day to anyone wanting to play. Please contact the Pro shop at Hobbits Glen to reserve a tee time at (410) 730-5980.

Since our tournament was snowed out in April, it is being rescheduled in September at Rattlewood Golf Course. Look for details in an upcoming flyer.

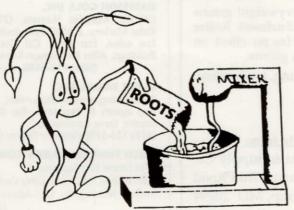
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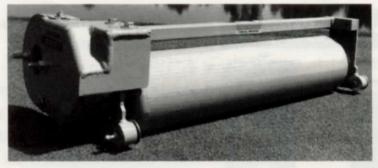
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continued on page 14



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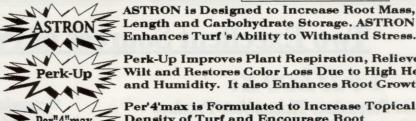


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CALL: 800-631-6888 Balt: 410-388-9101 **Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents**

July, 1996

July Meeting Site: Hidden Creek Country Club

Tuesday, July 9, 1996 Host Superintendent-Lentz Wheeler

Two Man Championship
Tee Times 10am - 12 noon
\$12.50/Person-Cart & \$10/Person Tournament Fee
Call Pro Shop @ (703) 437-4222 for tee time
Lunch Available (Cash or Chargeback to Club)

Dinner: Cocktails @ 5:30 / Dinner @ 6:30

Dress - Coat & Tie Required

Dinner Fee: \$25.00

Call MAAGCS @ (800) 726-6501

by Friday, July 5th to RSVP

Make Checks Payable to "Hidden Creek C.C."

Education: Dr. Eric Nelson from Cornell University "Managing Microbes for Improved Turfgrass Health"

= Hidden Creek Country Club: A Brief History=

idden Creek Country Club, owned by the Washington Hall Corporation, lies on 160 acres of rich, rolling terrain in Reston, a quieter slice of Northern Virginia. The Ed Ault designed layout takes excellent advantage of the hills, woods, and numerous creeks - Hidden Creek comes by its name honestly. Originally named the Reston North Course, Hidden Creek was built by the Gulf Oil Corporation, opening for play in 1964. The club was bought by private investors in 1983, then finally by Washington Hall in 1990. The membership is now private with 475 active full golf memberships. With a #6 Hole still regarded by many as the toughest hole in Area Code (703), Hidden Creek plays 6450 yards from the white tees, with a par 71, slope 127.

Lake Anne feeds offsite water into the golf course irrigation reservoir at #17 pond. This bevy of water is then pumped into the new irrigation system installed just last year. Brian Ault has also been updating his father's work with some course design improvements and renovations. He designed the six newly installed tees, three fairway bunkers, the mounds at #17 green, and yes, another creek. The club's master plan calls for construction to begin this summer on a new indoor tennis facility as well as an improved parking layout.

If you believe that Lentz Wheeler and his staff have their hands full with construction, look under your feet as you play the ryegrass tees and fairways. Note the encroaching bentgrass that was first introduced last August. Imagine the carpet in the next three to five years when the bent has completely taken over. Reston may be a quiet slice of Northern Virginia, but there will be plenty of activity this summer in the corner called Hidden Creek.

Directions to Hidden Creek Country Club

Work your way to the Washington Beltway, Route 495, to the Dulles Toll Road, Route 267, in Northern Virginia. Take the toll road (Only runs outbound from Beltway) to the Reston Parkway exit and turn right at the end of the exit ramp after paying your exit toll (75¢ total each way). Temporary Road is your third light on Reston Parkway—Take it to the right. Follow Temporary Road until it deadends at North Shore Drive. Take a Left onto North Shore Drive—Hidden Creek's entrance will be mile on your right.

Remember to save 75¢ for your return trip!

Next MAAGCS Meeting:

ANNUAL PICNIC
TUESDAY,
August 13th



HOBBITS GLEN GOLF CLUB



Host:

Bill Neus, CGCS



Golf:

Annual Picnic Open Play

Published by the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents



TURFGRASS FIELD DAY

Wednesday, July 17, 1996

University of Maryland Turfgrass Research and Educational Facility
Cherry Hill and Gracefield Roads, between Routes 29 & 212, near Beltsville
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Free Tours of the Research Plots 9 - 3pm (Lunch is \$15.00)

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