

Letters to the editor

DEAR EDITOR,

While we are always glad to see United Horticultural Supply or its products appear in print, we are extremely concerned about the way our Signature fertilizers were misrepresented in the March TurfGrass Trends article, "Spoon-Feeding with Granular Materials," written by Dr. Nick E. Christians and Mark J. Howieson.

As your title states, the article was intended to showcase various granular fertilizer options for providing nutrients to sand-based golf course greens.

For trial material, you picked fertilizers primarily from Andersons/Scotts, Lesco and UHS.

Our Signature 14-14-14 product does not compare in any way to the other materials when it comes to its designed purpose. It clearly states on the label that the product is intended for use on landscape ornamentals. It's SGN size and minors package is built for hand broadcasting and feeding ornamental plants, not spreading on USGA-specified greens.

We are extremely curious to know why a product never designed for, recommended for, nor sold for use on sand-based greens would be included in a trial for that purpose.

While we do not know who funded your study, nor particularly care, it saddens us to see our product dismissed as "the only fertilizer that we would hesitate to include in a spoon-feeding regime."

We are sure nothing deliberate was done to defame our products, but we feel a clarification is needed to keep readers from thinking Signature products are poor performers, which they most certainly are not when used correctly.

**BRIAN PAYSANO, MARKETING DIRECTOR
UNITED HORTICULTURAL SUPPLY
DENVER, COLORADO**

Dr. Nick Christians replies:

First of all, I want to apologize if the article caused any inconvenience for UHS. It was not our intention to put UHS 14-14-14 in a bad light or indicate in any way that it is not a good product. It was our intention to evaluate products with varying particle sizes and this just happened to be the material with the largest particle size among the materials tested.

Notice on page 10 of the article that we clearly acknowledged that the UHS product was not designed for spoon-feeding and that we state that it is a good product when used as it is designed to be used.

While we regret any misunderstanding, it is often necessary in research to include a variety of materials that may not always be designed specifically for the objectives being studied.

**NICK CHRISTIANS, PROFESSOR
DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE
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