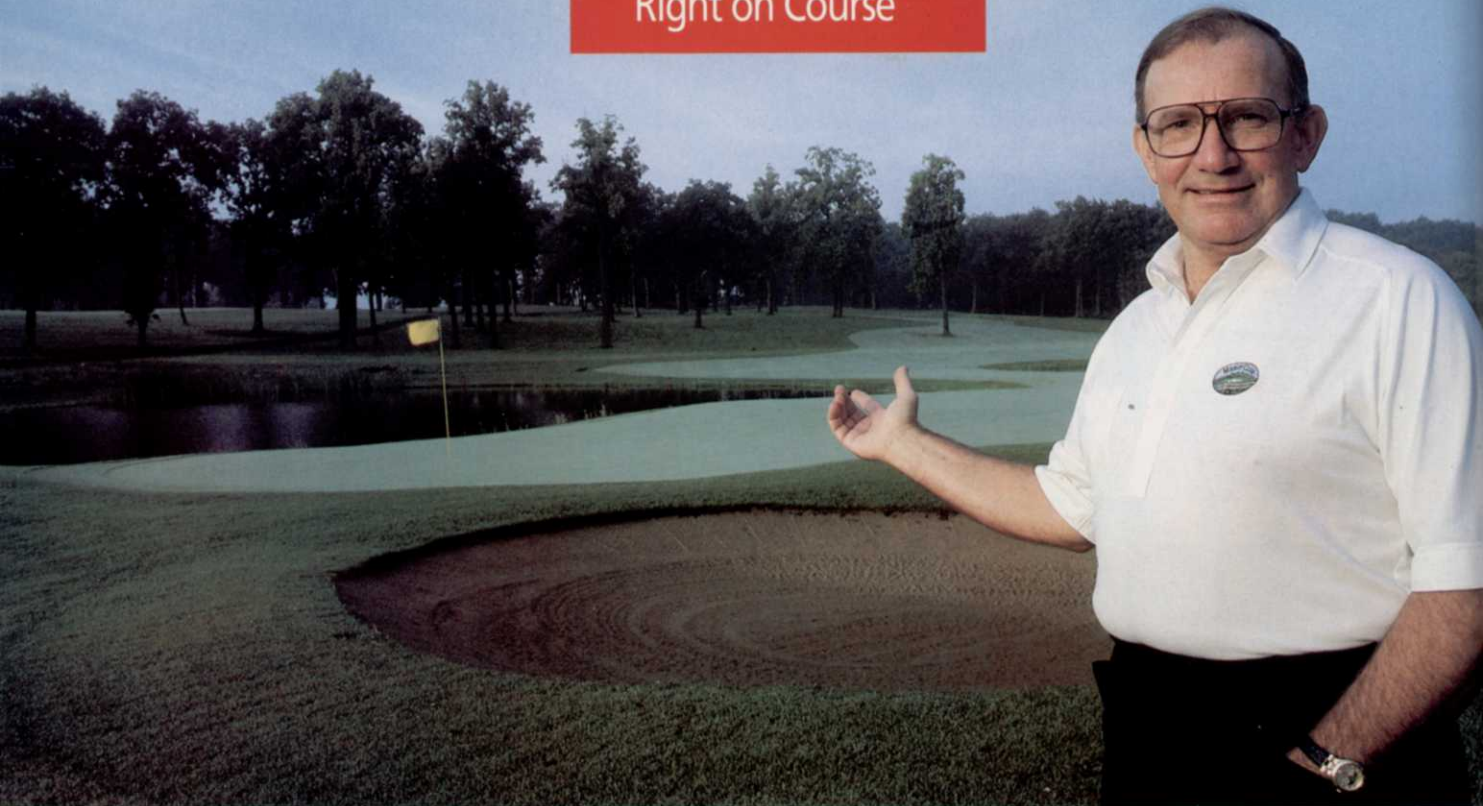


The Penn Pals:
Right on Course



Oscar Miles, CGCS, overlooks the 6th hole at the Merit Club, Libertyville, Illinois.

PennLinks Greens. Penneagle Fairways. Penncross Tees. The 'Penn Pals' Are Picture Perfect At The Merit Club.

Superintendent Oscar Miles, with Club President Ed Oldfield's affirmation, specified all the grassing of this Robert M. Lohmann designed club. With a clean canvas and open palette, Oscar began with PennLinks greens, Penneagle fairways and Penncross tees, framing them with bluegrass/fine fescue/wildflower and prairiegrass roughs. You couldn't paint a more attractive picture.

Oscar chose PennLinks greens for its rapid establishment, marvelous root system, a crown and stolons that take topdressing, upright, grainless qualities and good, consistent color ... the best putting surface available.

He selected Penncross for tees because they recover from divot scars more quickly.

And the Penneagle fairways? Oscar chose Penneagle for its upright growth, reduced thatch development, low nitrogen requirement and good drought and dollar spot resistance. He seeded at 80 lbs. per acre for immediate turf development and

erosion control. The fairways were playable in 8 weeks. Oscar's crew usually mows fairways in the evening and leaves the clippings; recycling nutrients while reducing removal and fertilizer costs.

Oscar articulates it best: "The unique coloring of the 'Penn Pals' contrasts beautifully with the grassing around them, defining the target areas. And with the dew on the bents early in the morning, they're a marvelous work of art."

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Oscar L. Miles

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International Society of Arboriculture, P.O.
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International Turfgrass Society, Crop & Soil
Environmental Sciences, VPI-SU, Blacksburg,
VA 24061-0403; (703) 231-9796.

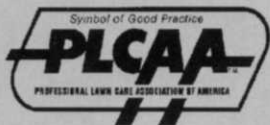
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03031-1094; (603) 673-3311.

National Golf Foundation, 1150 South U.S.
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Ohio Turfgrass Foundation, 2021 Coffey Rd.,
Columbus, OH 43210; (614) 292-2601.



Professional Grounds Management Society,
10402 Ridgland Rd., Suite 4, Hunt Valley, MD
21030; (301) 667-1833.



Professional Lawn Care Association of
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Responsible Industry for a Sound
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Sports Turf Managers Association, 401 N.
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644-6610.

Turf and Ornamental Communicators
Association, 8400 Normandale Lake Blvd.,
Suite 500, Bloomington, MN 55437; (612) 832-
5000.

AS WE SEE IT

TERRY McIVER, MANAGING EDITOR



A lesson from the President: always keep your promises

In his State of the Union speech of February 17, President Clinton made it official: he was to move ahead with a plan to raise income taxes and implement new levies, most notably an energy tax.

If this troubles you, there is a way to salve your disappointment: always keep your promises.

Private enterprise and government are both sustained by the promises made to customers and voters, respectively.

You campaign for employees, suppliers, customers and perhaps sub-contractors as a politician campaigns for votes. (In what is a bold rhetorical move, President Clinton says the American people are also "customers" of the government. Unfortunately, it would take this entire March issue to expose the faults of that analogy. For one thing, the Better Business Bureau would never be able to handle all the complaints!)

As a businessman, you promise prospective employees a specified salary, periodic raises, excellent working conditions, well-tuned equipment and support.

You promise suppliers on-time payment; you might even promise them your loyalty.

Your advertising is truthful. You promise service to your customers, pricing that matches quality work, and advice on how best to satisfy their landscaping or lawn care needs.

Certainly, any of those three groups may themselves prove untrustworthy, in which case the contract is null and void, and you're left a bit wiser. But in the best of times, when *they* play it straight, *you* do the same.

And forget about making excuses. The only one they're likely to accept is, "the weather made me do it." But when the birds sing and the sky is blue and cloudless, your course is clear.

Compare the relative consequences of a broken promise, to you as a business owner, and to your customers:

An energy tax, if passed, will mean an estimated seven-and-a-half cent per gallon gouge by 1996. If you own a fleet of 20 vehicles, and each one averages 15 gallons a week, that's \$1170 per year *extra* in gasoline tax. And don't forget mower fuel.

Mr. and Mrs. Jones are new homeowners, excited about the prospects of a well-designed, properly-built landscape, followed up by dependable maintenance.

But your estimate proves impossible to meet. You promised a certain price to get the job, rather than stress to them the cost of quality. You cut corners on equipment and training. The post-emergence weed control is late, and their yard looks like hell, just in time for their daughter's wedding party.

I wouldn't want to be there when Mr. Jones calls.

Planning is essential in the prevention of broken promises. Clinton, if we're to believe his claim that he "imagined" the deficit to be lower, could be called guilty of poor planning, although I believe he knew what would happen, especially with a Democratic Congress by his side. Rather than say what he planned to do, he lied to the people rather than tell the truth during the campaign.

The best and the bravest among us, regardless of profession, are those who keep their promises, especially when compelled to renege.

Plan ahead. Know your company's limitations. Know your market, and be careful of what you say.

And no matter how much it hurts, never, ever break a promise.



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Always read and follow label directions carefully.



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LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

INCORPORATING LAWN CARE INDUSTRY

MARCH 1993 VOL. 32, NO. 3

COVER FEATURE

11 Controlling spring weeds

As March comes, so do the first weeds of the season, invading turfgrass areas everywhere. Warm-season tips by Dr. Tim Murphy of the University of Georgia begin on page 11, cool-season on page 16.

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Though the engine is only part of what you'll be purchasing when you go to your lawn mower dealer, it's an important part, and you should know the options available.

Jerry Roche

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LAWN CARE INDUSTRY

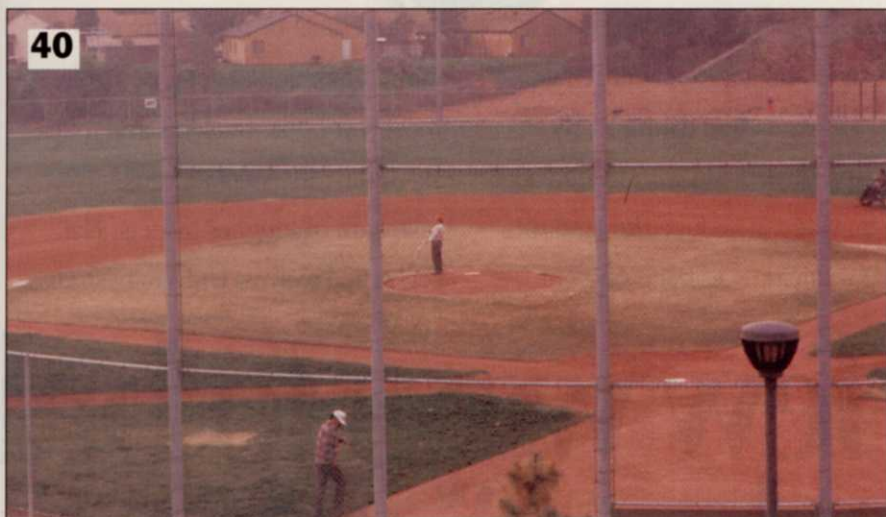
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Proper fertilization and mowing allow turfgrass to out-compete crabgrass, but pre-emergents are still very popular. Also: tips for better product applications, a rundown of newer products that give turfgrass pros more options.

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72 A new weed control

Spring-Green Lawn Care's 'biological' program stresses fertility, cuts herbicide use, receives customer approval.



74 Tick risk small on turf

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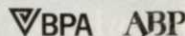
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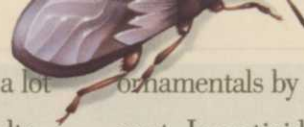


You might think using less insecticide means you'll have to put up with more insects. But that's not necessarily the case. Because *how* you use your insecticide is as important as *how much* you use. With

the right tactics, you can use a lot less and still get excellent results.

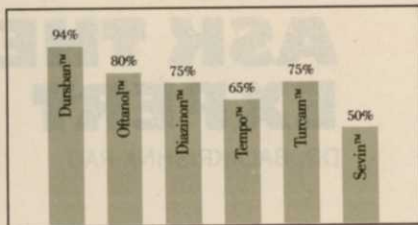
Here's a good example. By mixing insecticide with insecticidal soap, you can reduce the amount of insecticide you need on your

ornamentals by about fifty percent. Insecticidal soap controls most soft-bodied insects and mites. By adding insecticide, you'll also take care of tougher insects, like scales and worms. University studies



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Pitfall Trap

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ASK THE EXPERT

DR. BALAKRISHNA RAO

Anticipating droughty conditions

Problem: If we experience another water shortage this summer, I'm sure restrictions will be imposed. Are there any products that will stretch our rainwater and help alleviate the stress which will be placed on our lawns and trees? (The first thing I read is your informative column—keep up the good work.) (New York)

Solution: The past several years, many parts of the country experienced extended periods of dry weather, leading to drought-related problems of established turf and plants.

Reports indicate that proper fertilization, preferably prior to drought but also during or after, helps promote deeper and healthier grass and tree roots. Potassium in the fertilization program will help develop thicker cell walls and make plants more drought hardy. Consider providing proper fertilization to improve overall plant health.

Other cultural practices such as mulching for trees helps maintain soil moisture and prevents weed establishment.

If the soil is compacted, consider aerification to promote better rooting and infiltration of water and fertilizer.

Water trees infrequently and deeply. Generally, for most clay types of soils, two inches of water per week is sufficient to wet the top 12 inches of soil. For sandy soils, watering twice a week should be sufficient. Since most of the active roots are in the top 12 to 18 inches, this will help maintain good root growth.

The soil may repel water if it is very dry (hydrophobic). In this situation, an application of dishwashing (soapy) water or a commercial wetting agent such as Aquagro would be beneficial.

To improve water holding capacity, a number of polyacramide gel products can be used. These should be amended into the soil and can be tried on a small scale if you are not familiar with them. Our experimental results have been variable.

For lawn areas, the same cultural practices are beneficial. During drought periods, use greater proportions of low-burn fertilizer. Water the turf one inch per week for most clay soils and two times a week for sandy soils.

When such watering is not possible, some extension personnel recommend infrequent light watering (synergizing) to keep the turfgrass crown alive. Research information on this is lacking.

Another important factor is mowing. Cut the turfgrass blade at the recommended cutting height. Generally, if in doubt, maintain the cutting height for cool-season grasses at 2½ inches. This will help conserve moisture and improve density, color and greater surface area for photosynthesis.

Residual activity on insecticides

Problem: Where can information be found that gives residual activity time for various insecticides such as Dursban, Sevin, diazinon and malathion? (Michigan)

Solution: Residual activity of most of the pesticides can be found in a publication entitled "Pesticide Information Manual," edited by the Northeastern Regional Pesticide Coordinators and published by the Cooperative Extension Service, USDA. For the most up-to-date information, contact the manufacturers of specific pes-

ticides. The residual activity of some of the insecticide available in the green industry is as follows:

Insecticide	Plant surface	Unexposed surface	Soil
diazinon	1 week	2 months	10 days
malathion	1-3 days	2 weeks-1 month	short residual
Dursban	few days	several weeks	9 weeks-1 year
Sevin	2-10 days	3-4 months	3 weeks

Grass clippings on lawns

Problem: The removal and disposal of yard waste in general and grass clippings in particular presents a major problem in the future because of new regulations. I would appreciate your opinion on leaving grass clippings on the lawn. (Ohio)

Solution: Reports indicate that many states in the U.S. will have regulations on yard waste, including grass clipping disposal, in the near future. In the past couple of years, a number of articles were written in various magazines regarding these issues (LM, October, 1990). Also, a number of private companies and municipalities are showing interest in dealing with this problem. Contact your city officials and cooperative extension service to find out more about these activities.

Reports suggest that return of clippings over an extended period of time tends to reduce the turfgrass quality under intensive turfgrass culture. Therefore, you may want to consider clipping removal under these conditions. Clippings should be removed when the plates are too long or they have a high potential for disease development.

Turfgrass maintained under a low-intensity fertilizer program can benefit by returning the clippings. These clippings release nitrogen to the soil, which can in turn be used by the turfgrass plant. This would help reduce the total amount of nitrogen needed by the plant. In general, returning the clippings can provide up to one pound of actual nitrogen over a period of one year.

Where feasible, consider using a mower that would shred or mulch the clippings to aid in decomposition.

Dr. Balakrishna Rao is Manager of Research and Technical Development for the Davey Tree Co., Kent, Ohio.

Mail questions to "Ask the Expert," LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT, 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130. Please allow two to three months for an answer to appear in the magazine.