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POTASSIUM - The lacking element

From the New Hampshire Turf Grower, October, 1977

In reviewing soil tests it becomes quite evident that most turf areas are low in potassium. This has been mainly due to the continuous use of descending ratio fertilizers like 10-6-4 or 6-4-0.

Potassium is an essential element for plant growth. It is second only to nitrogen in the amount required for a plant. And yet it is usually the most neglected when it comes to fertilization.

A potassium deficient plant has a lower disease resistance, is more susceptible to winterkill and may be more susceptible in insect damage. Potassium deficient plants have high water losses, thus require more water than those not deficient in potassium.

Potassium is the most active of the essential plant nutrients. It is easily leached from the soil and may even be leached from plant leaves during a rain or during irrigation.

It is because of its leachability and normally low availability in our soils that, in general, fertilizers should be used which contain high amounts of nitrogen (N) and potassium (K). Suggested fertilizers ratios are 3-1-2, 4-1-2, 2-1-2, etc. If pH is controlled, soil phosphorus supply is usually adequate and thus not as much as required.

Potassium is commonly available as muriate of potash (0-0-60). When a soil test indicates the soil potassium supply is low, muriate of potash may be added at the rate of 2 pounds per 1000 square feet or use a fertilizer of the ratios listed above to supply the equivalent of 1 pound potash per 1000/sq. ft. Potassium sulfate may also be used at the rate of 1.5 pounds per 1000/sq. ft.

When high amounts of nitrogen in relation to potassium are supplied to a plant the plant produces a lush succulent type of growth. This type of growth is easily winterkilled, more susceptible to insect and disease and requires more water to keep it alive. Even though this is a fast growth rate it is not a desirable growth rate.

Potassium tempers the adverse effects of a high nitrogen supply when it is supplied in large enough quantities. The value of a good potassium level in the soil and plant cannot be over emphasized.

Fall Fertilization

This is the time of year to get the most for your fertilizer dollars. Fall is the time that cool-season grasses, especially Kentucky bluegrass, develop new tillers, healthy rhizomes and sturdy roots. A complete fertilizer containing a slowly available source of nitrogen (ureaformaldehyde, IBDU, or natural organic) is preferred because sufficient nitrogen can be applied with a single application. Coated nitrogen materials are questionable at this time as some will imbibe water, split open from freezing and release soluble nitrogen. Lawns should receive 2 to 3 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet at this time of year. You may wish to try a dormant or winter fertilization. Turf fertilized in mid-November attained an attractive green color as much as four weeks earlier than turf fertilized the previous summer. Timing of fall fertilizer applications will vary from one area to another. In studies in 1974-75, the mid-November application worked very well at U.N.H. However, as you live further inland, you may want to move the date up to the first of November.

Seven GCSAA Seminars scheduled for coming months

Seminars on seven different topics will be sponsored by GCSAA this fall and winter: Management II, Landscape I, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Turf Disease Identification, Nutrition I, Pesticide III (insects), Pesticide IV (weeds) and Irrigation I. All seven will be offered as preconference seminars, and Management II and Landscape I will also be taught in a number of cities this fall.

Ronald Frame, an Oklahoma City management training consultant, will teach the Management II seminars, slated for four cities: Baltimore, Oct. 18-19; Minneapolis, Oct. 25-26; East Lansing, Mich., Nov. 8-9; Hyannis, Mass., Nov. 14-15; and Biloxi, Miss., Dec. 6-7. Seminar registrants will explore employee motivation, training and evaluation, the art of delegation and the development of leadership skills. Cost is $80 for GCSAA members and $115 for others.

Landscape I will be taught by Charles M. Sacamano, extension specialist in landscape horticulture and professor of horticulture at the University of Arizona, Tucson; and William R. Nelson Jr., professor and extension landscape architect in the Cooperative Extension Service, University of Illinois. The seminar, which will teach participants proper landscape design techniques and methods to identify and solve their own landscape problems, will be offered Nov. 1-2 in Indianapolis and Nov. 9-10 in Tucson, Ariz. Registration fee for GCSAA members is $90; non-members will pay $125.

GCSAA members who are certified can earn two points toward certification renewal by taking the seminar and successfully completing the optional examination. Registration fees include all training sessions, reference materials, the examination and lunch each day. Participants will be responsible for housing and other meals.

Informative flyers will be sent to GCSAA members in the vicinity of each seminar. More information about these seminars, including location and a registration form, can be obtained by sending the coupon below to GCSAA Headquarters, 1617 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence, Kansas 66044. Registration is limited, so don't delay. Information about the preconference seminars will accompany conference registration materials.

– CLIP AND MAIL –

Please send me more information about the seminar indicated below:

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Getting the blues...and blacks...and whites

You have a power loss and you see smoke coming from your engine. Your mind races to determine the problem and to reach a solution. But a hastily drawn conclusion may cost you in service time and parts.

An engine with low power that emits smoke, especially black smoke, tells a service person a great deal about what's going on inside. Smoke means energy is being wasted.

White smoke generally indicates a cold engine and results from liquid fuel particles in the engine's exhaust. Power complaints involving white smoke are generally caused by:

A. Improperly operating thermostats or radiator shutters stuck open. A good operating engine temperature is in the 170 - 180 degree Fahrenheit range.
B. Misfire.
C. Excessively advanced timing.
D. Low compression.

Blue smoke indicates lubricants are burning. Power complaints involving blue smoke are usually caused by worn engine components, such as:

A. bad oil rings
B. valve Guides
C. Turbocharger seals or bearings

Black smoke results from the presence of soot or unburned carbon in the exhaust. Power complaints involving black smoke are caused by localized rich mixtures, or lack of air where the fuel is actually burning. Causes can be:

A. engine overloading or overfueling
B. Restricted air supply
C. Retarded fuel injection timing
D. Uneven fuel spray distribution in the combustion chamber due to an improper nozzle spray pattern or low popping pressure.

Quick analysis and correction is helpful whenever smoke is apparent. Since there can be several kinds of smoke at one time, start with a smoke analysis before attempting any corrective action.

In your analysis, look for these items to guide you to the real problem:

1. Are factory governor seals intact?
2. Is the fuel pump timing proper? Are any capscrews loose on the drive or coupling? Is these excess gear lash?
3. With an accurate tachometer, check for the proper no-load high idle speed.
4. Does the air cleaner restriction exceed 27 inches of water? If so, it is an indication that the filter element is dirty.
5. Check the turbocharger crossover pipe connections, hose and hose clamps, pipe plugs and intake manifold bolts to insure that there are no air leaks that can cause low boost or intake manifold pressure.
6. Check for exhaust leaks - these can cause low boost pressure.

Reprinted from the G.C.S.A.A. "Fore Front"

OSHA booklet available from GCSAA

Copies of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Handbook for Small Businesses is available from GCSAA Headquarters free of charge. The handbook, designed by OSHA to help employers meet its requirements, includes information about setting up a health and safety program, self-inspection and how to get assistance from OSHA.

Request copies of the handbook from GCSAA Headquarters, 1617 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence, Kansas 66044.

God never closes a door, without first opening a window.

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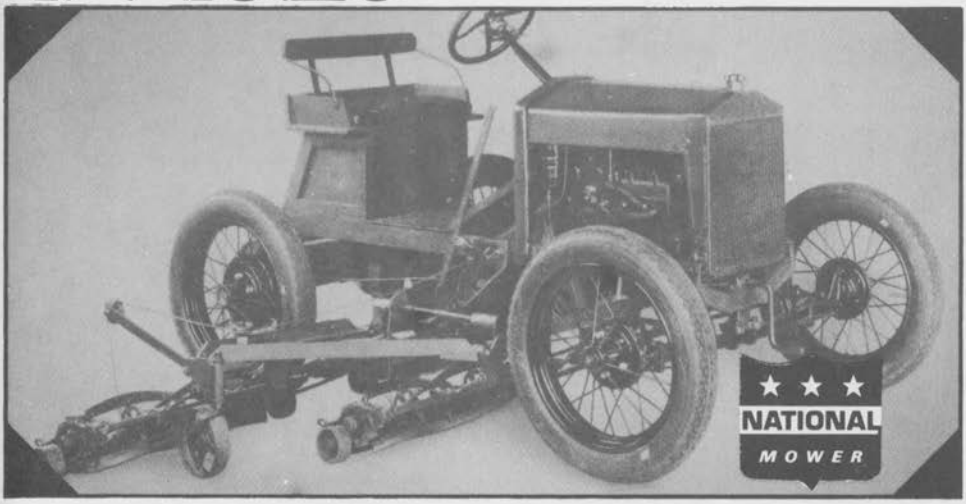

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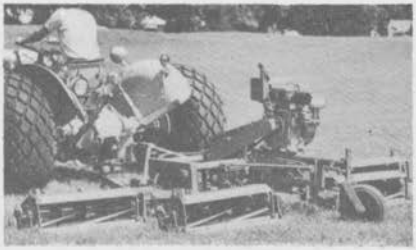

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WHAT'S NEW:
Research completed on electrostatic spraying

Electrostatic spraying equipment could help golf course Superintendents do a better job of applying pesticides and also save them money. Despite the fact that this equipment isn't on the market today, the basic research and development has been completed and patented.

Other industries have used electrostatic spray equipment for years to paint appliances. The charged spray particles are attracted to the grounded appliance and form a very even paint coat on the appliance surface.

Trying to adapt this principle to crop spraying - without the controlled industrial conditions - created several problems.

Recent research has identified and solved many of these problems, creating a new life for electrostatic spraying of living plants - including turf.

Early attempts of electrostatic crop dusting in the '60's were unreliable.

Ed Law, University of Georgia agricultural engineer, says he believes his newly designed and patented system overcomes the problems of earlier electrostatic machines, giving consistent results. Law's system uses electrostatic induction to charge the spray drops. Air transports the charged drops to the plants.

Each nozzle has a washer-like electrode embedded in a conventional air-atomizing spray cap device. The electrode is connected to a miniaturized built-in power supply, converting ignition battery output to 1000-2000 volts at a low amperage. The electrode sets up an intense electrical field in the insulated nozzle.

The spray droplets in the nozzle take on a negative charge. A stream of compressed air carries the spray toward the plant. The air stream also keeps the electrode dry to prevent discharges within the nozzle.

The negative charge of the spray increases plant coverage two ways. First, because like charges repel, the spray cloud drives the plant's negative ions into the ground, leaving the plant with a positive charge. Because opposite charges attract, the negative spray particles are drawn onto the plant.

At the same time, the negatively charged drops in the spray repel each other, expanding the cloud and drawing it to any grounded surface. The spray is distributed under emerging leaves and stems, covering the plant more evenly than uncharged sprays can.

The charge level of the spray cloud necessary for maximum effectiveness varies for different plants. Points or irregular leaf tips neutralize the electrified pesticide cloud when the charge is too large. Too small a charge, however, does not deposit enough pesticide.

A calibrating and monitoring system maintains a properly charged spray cloud in the field. A monitoring electrode in the nozzle corrects voltage settings to adjust for varying conditions, such as temperature and humidity changes.

Law's laboratory and his field tests both indicate that producers can control insects by applying half the recommended pesticide rate in one gallon of water per acre.

The electrostatic system appears to be adaptable to areas other than row

Continued on page 13

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Or you may contact the next golf course supplier who calls on you and give him the information needed for application.

crop spraying. Law says a system for turf would use the same technology as the row crop spraying system. He also has begun investigating orchard spraying and says he expects to develop a similar system for use in that area.

The electrostatic system would be suitable for home gardening because the electrode can be powered by a transistor radio battery. It would be safe to use because all high-voltage components are insulated and embedded in the nozzle.

A single-nozzle sprayer's mobility would be limited only by a hose leading to a small air compressor similar to those currently used. - *by Loren Bode, University of Illinois extension agricultural engineer.*

Turfgrass Research Benefit Day

Remember - 13th annual Turfgrass Research Benefit Day, Thursday, September 7, 1978.

Donation $55.00 per player - the "Las Vegas Party" culminates a day of golf at one of 25 clubs in the Metro Detroit area. The party will be held at Bay Pointe Golf Club.

Association Trends reports that there are now 80 federal regulatory agencies, administering 1,000 federal regulatory programs, producing up to 10,000 new regulations per year from 100,000 employees, at a cost estimated up to $300 billion.

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First - is it the truth?
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Garry N. Crothers

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1978 Meritorious Service Award to Dr. James Beard *by Paul E. Ricke*

Dr. James B. Beard (left), professor of crop and soil sciences at Texas A & M University, and former long-time Michigan State University turf professor, received the Meritorious Service Award from Michigan Turfgrass Foundation president James Smith at the 48th Annual Michigan Turfgrass Conference in January.

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USGA Green Section Research

The American Society of Golf Course Architects, through the USGA Green Section, is sponsoring a three-year study of water sources for turfgrass irrigation. The project is under the direction of Dr. A.E. Dudeck of the University of Florida. Water for non-crop use is now restricted in some states and will become critical in the future. This project is an example of the research projects coordinated or directed by organizations associated with golf to satisfy the future needs of the turfgrass industry.

During the years 1945 through 1977, the USGA Green Section Research and Education Fund allocated approximately $650,000 to turfgrass research at 28 universities and agricultural experiment stations throughout the country. Of this amount, approximately $208,000 was contributed by the National Golf Fund; $47,300 by the Carolinas Golf Association; and $33,900 by the New England Golf Association.

Other associations that have contributed generously - Alabama Golf Association; Alabama Chapter PGA; Anthracite Golf Association; Augusta National Golf Club; Birmingham Golf Association; Central Ohio Golf Course Superintendents Association; Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association; Miami Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association; Michigan & Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association; and Southern Golf Association.

MEETING SCHEDULE for 1978

SEPT. 7 – GOLF DAY
SEPT. 13 – M.S.U. FIELD DAY
Traverse City C.C.
OCT. 3 – Maple Lane Golf Club
OCT 24 – Grosse Ile G.&C.C.

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COMMENT: Tee-off from "Gender-less" ground

By Don A. Rossi, NGF Executive Director

There is a move underway to rename the traditional "women," "mens" and "championship" tees. It is a move the National Golf Foundation favors and has recommended.

Golf is now an active sport for well over 16 million players. Some are younger, some older, some weaker, some stronger than others. But all should be able to tee-off from "gender-less" ground.

Consider the senior golfer who still enjoys his round of golf but can't knock the ball as far as he once did. If he plays off the red (women's) tee, there is a certain stigma attached. But his confidence is far less susceptible to erosion if the tee is designated "executive" and bears, say, a gold marker. It's a simple enough substitution that emphasizes the positive as does "sudden victory" instead of "sudden death."

To provide flexibility for all ages and to accommodate the variations of strengths for all players, some golf courses are now marked and rated from "short," "middle" and "long" tees. At some courses, tees are called "championship," "regular," and "executive."

Urban Hills Country Club at Richton Park, Illinois, for example, has done away with the traditional terminology and has computed its course ratings from the *short, middle* and *long* tees for men and women.

These courses go out of their way to encourage their higher handicappers to take on the challenge of the short course.

No man knows another man's burdens and sorrows.

Improve Pesticide Planning with annual calendar

If you could project, up to a year in advance, what types and amounts of pesticides you were likely to need, wouldn't your long-range planning be more accurate?

Many turf managers find that the more common pests and diseases are most likely to surface at a particular time of year. By keeping track of these cycles, they can tell well ahead of time what provisions they need to make to counteract potential problems.

An efficient method for forecasting your pesticide needs is to create an ongoing annual calendar, divided into months or weeks, as appropriate. Go through your records of actual pesticide usage for the past several years, noting in your calendar when pests or disease historically have appeared on your course and what action was most effective against them.

In addition to past experience, you should enter data collected from local experts, including universities, consultants and other superintendents. This information will make you aware of developing problems.

Taken together, this information will give you a rather specific time frame in which to be alert for a given pest or disease. Weather may affect your timetable somewhat, but you should be able to maintain a schedule accurate within 10 days.

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GET INVOLVED: Benomyl may become one of the endangered chemicals

The Environmental Protection Agency is currently reviewing the fungicide, Benomyl (Benlate, Tersan 1991) to decide whether to allow its continual use. The EPA is seeking comments on the benefits and risks of using Benomyl.

Send your comments to the EPA, using as many facts and figures as possible. Tell how it has solved your disease problems and describe its availability, cost and effectiveness of chemicals you'd have to use if you couldn't use benomyl.

Send three copies of your written comments to:

Federal Register Section
Technical Service Division (WH-569)
Room 401 East Tower
401 M. Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Use this identifying number with your comments: (OPP-30000/23).

– 13TH ANNUAL –
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OCTOBER 25 & 26, 1978
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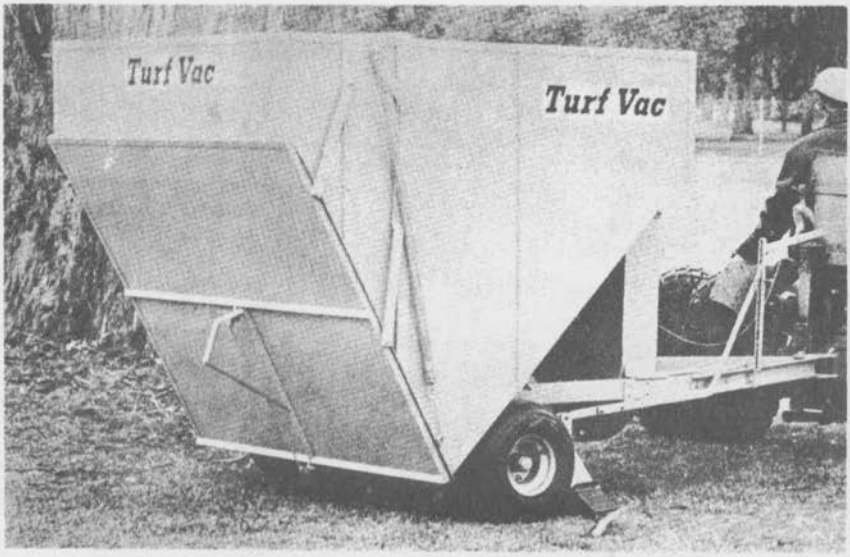

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