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Turf Times



The newsletter from the Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association

BI-Monthly Update March/April Volume 28, No. 1

1998

Clean The Skeletons Out of Your Closet! A Safe Way to Dispose of Unwanted Pesticides

Have you got some yellow ooze starting to show through that old jug of stuff (who knows what it used to be) in the back of your pesticide closet? In a crowded room, rarely do you get anyone to raise their hand to that type of question. Having some pesticides hang around a grounds maintenance operation is not uncommon. What is uncom-

mon is the ease with which you can now dispose of these products, thanks to the Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program at the Michigan Department

the turf and ornamental "green" industry. Inheriting old products, changes in the scope of the business operation, label changes and new products emerging on

the back of the storage room.

Clean Sweep Program

The MDA has

"Seven (drop-off sites) are currently available for your call and an additional four will open in the early summer."

of Agriculture (MDA).

There seems to be a variety of ways in which pesticide products can accumulate in

the market are a few ways that pesticide products can become unwanted, fall out of favor and get pushed to

been aggressively building a mechanism to move old unusable or unwanted pesticides

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1999 Ambassador Speakers Program

Four members from the Northern Michigan area are needed for participation in the 1999 Ambassador Speaker Pro-



gram. This is an outreach program, which prepares members to educate the public about the environmental benefits of the green industry. Participants agree to complete six community presentations and/or media placements throughout 1999-and have the advantage of working with a program coordinator to book presenta-

tions with local organizations and schools. The program is sponsored by GCSAA, the Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA) and RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment).

If you would be interested or know someone from our chapter who may be, please contact

Kristi Frey GCSAA Public Relations Manager at your earliest opportunity (800/472-7878 ext. 608, or kfrey@gcsaa.org)

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Biodegradable Hydraulic Fluid vs. Annual Bluegrass

During the spring of 1997, I was very interested in trying a new biodegradable hydraulic fluid available for golf course equipment. My research with the biodegradable oil was focused on reducing the crown damage normally caused by petroleum based oils. A particular company advertises that turf will recover or "bounce back" in two weeks after a hydraulic spill occurs while using their biofluid. We replaced our conventional hydraulic oil with biodegradable oil in a triplex mower. As recommended, we followed their intensive eight step flushing procedure exactly.

I performed my Biofluid testing in May. We simulated many different light, heavy and misted fluid leaks across my Penncross Bentgrass/Annual

Bluegrass nursery green (ouch!) I made these spills with cold fluid before mowing in the morning and with hot fluid after mowing for 3 hours. Some spills I watered lightly, some I soaked heavily and some I didn't water at all.



The turf showed signs of normal leaf tip burn within two days and after one week the light, heavy and misted hydraulic spills all had significant damage. None of the watered or non-watered spills were noticeably different nor were the cold and hot fluid trials any different. The Annual Bluegrass was more severely injured than the Bentgrass. The similar to a petroleum based

oil leak. Early leaf tip damage did occur on some of the Bentgrass but much of the leaf tissue recovered after 30 days. Ninety percent of the Annual Bluegrass never did recover. Three months later after the biofluid broke down in the soil, the Annual Bluegrass finally grew in.

My conclusion is that this biofluid has many beneficial environment qualities, however, the "bounce back" time on the Bentgrass was one month and the

"bounce back" time on the Annual Bluegrass was not evident. I was not expecting a miracle with this product but simply testing their claims of a two week turf "bounce back". If you have performed any research on your golf course, please share your experiences with fellow NMTMA members in the newsletter.

*Article Courtesy of:
Steve Hammon, NMTMA
Board Member
Traverse City Golf & Country
Club*

1999 NMTMA Mini-Conf.

Monday April 5 at the Grayling Holiday Inn
Contact Kay Patrick to make your reservation!

Guest Speakers to include:

*Paul Emling, Arcadia Bluffs
Brian Ursu, Prime Vest Financial Serv.
Dr. Dave Smitley, M.S.U.
Dr. Baird, M.S.U.
Dr. Rieke, M.S.U.
Greg Lyman, M.S.U.
David Gilstrap, M.S.U.
John Garletts, Spartan Distributors*



Phone Tree



Your Board of Directors is always looking for ways to save your association money and time without sacrificing a quality product. We feel we have done just that by purchasing a unit called

a "phone tree"

The phone tree easily hooks into a PC and is used as a communications tool for its members and their phone numbers we will now be able to contact you by phone at a mo-

ments notice. It has been determined that for us to send out a single piece of first class mail out is bt. 50 to 55 cents per letter. Also, by the time Kay sends it out from our Lansing address it is another 2-3 days before you receive it. With the phone tree we will now be able to contact you on the same day with any communication we want you to be informed about. We have just switched
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President's Message

As time draws near for a new golf season to begin, I find myself in the familiar position of preparing to return to work. Being laid off for a few months has its advantages and disadvantages. I enjoyed being off for the holidays, spending time with my wife and children. I was able to be involved in the kids' school, their sporting events, and even taught a science class once a month at their school.

Starting back to work re-

duces the amount of time I spend with the children. However it allows me to get back on the course, doing something I really enjoy, in surroundings that I wouldn't want to trade. My point in all of this is when the golf season is in full swing, don't forget to make time for the most important people in your life. When I spend time with my family, I am reminded of what is truly important in my life.

One of the events on the

N.M.T.M.A. schedule this season that promotes this theme, is the picnic set for July 11th at Beaver Creek Resort. Bring your family and spend a fun filled day along with your fellow N.M.T.M.A. members.

The N.M.T.M.A. is about participation - so plan to attend as many events as possible. See you at the mini-conference, April 5th, at the Grayling Holiday Inn.

Brian Holmes

....Disposal of Pesticides

(Continued from page 1)

off your storage shelves and into the hands of disposal professionals. We have conducted several Clean Sweep projects in the past five years for the green industry, but the system just became even easier. The Groundwater Stewardship Program has been establishing permanent Clean Sweep disposal sites and recently announced that a total of 11 will be operating in 1998. Seven are currently available for your call and an additional four will be open in the early summer.

The System

Now for the incredible news. There is no cost for those operations that are considered end

users of the products. These include ground maintenance, golf courses, athletic fields, municipalities, and homeowners. Those who are in the business of selling pesticide ap-



plication services will be charged a nominal cost: around \$1.00 dollar per pound. This is a fraction of the cost if you tried to arrange this yourself. Program, a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and services provided by the local

cooperators. This includes unknown pesticide products - those packages which have no label. To take advantage of this system, simply contact the site that is closest to your operation, let them know what you have, follow their packing and transport directions, make arrangements to drop them off at the site, and then drive away with a smile knowing that you have helped your company, the environment and the industry.

In general, green industry operations don't have large quantities of unusable or unwanted pesticide products hanging around in storage sheds. More commonly, small amounts

of a few products accumulate over time. This project enables everyone to easily dispose of those few jugs of product that you just don't plan to use any longer, or those that have a big drum of "stuff" in the corner. Make it work for you. A tip of the hat is in order for the MDA and the Groundwater Stewardship Program for this proactive approach.

Persons interested in participating in the Clean Sweep program should contact the site coordinator at the location nearest to them.

*Article Courtesy of: Gregory T. Lyman
Turfgrass Environmental Education Specialist
Department of Crop and Soil Sciences*

(Continued from page 2)

our phone service to Unidial Communications; their rates are only 8.9-9.9 cents per minute 24 hours a day with no minimum charges. As a result, each time we contact you, it will only cost us a maximum of 10 cents per call plus Kay Patrick's time in making the message on the machine. We believe this will be of great service to you, our members.

Now if an emergency arises, contact one of your board members and communicate your message to us, we will then be able to contact the rest of our association.

If you have any questions about this company contact me via e-mail to the below address and I will be happy to answer any of your questions.

GCSAA Site Evaluations

The N.M.T.M.A./G.C.S.A.A. is currently looking for Superintendents to do site evaluations for certifying superintendents during the 1999 season. If you are interested in participating please contact Brian Holmes at (517) 736-6493.

You must be a CGCS to

Phone Tree #'s

Please decide which number you would like the "Phone Tree" to dial for information. Please contact Kay Patrick and let her know at (517) 327-5474 or e-mail her at mtfturf@msn.com.

N.M.T.M.A. Scholarship Winner

Dear N.M.T.M.A.

I am writing this letter to thank you and the Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association for awarding me with your 1999 scholarship. It is a great honor to be recognized by an industry organization for my accomplishments at Michigan State University. Being new to the industry, this award will help give me the confidence to succeed in my future endeavors. The whole scholarship experience, from interviewing to the awards banquet at the Michigan Turfgrass Conference, has been a positive experience that I will not forget. Please accept my sincere gratitude and thanks for being chosen as this years scholarship recipient.

I think it is great that your association, as well as others, awards up and coming turf management students for their hard work and merit. This practice can only help the industry continue to grow and strengthen in the years to come. Hopefully, I will have the opportunity to help other newcomers to this career field the way your organization has helped me.

I look forward to taking part in the N.M.T.M.A. in the future, since I plan on making my home in Northern Michigan. Thank you again.

Sincerely,
Tracy D. Edwards
Cheboygan, MI 49721

N.M.T.M.A. Member Recognized in Orlando

On Thursday February 11th at the Michigan hospitality room in Orlando Florida, Dave Longfield was honored by the NMTMA for his years of dedicated service. Dave is one of the original members of the NMTMA, number 14. Dave started in the turf industry in 1971 when he became superintendent at West Branch Country Club, and oversaw the building of the back nine. He stayed there until 1980, when he became the superintendent at Garland, and was personally involved in the construction of 54 of the 72 holes at Garland Resort. He is a past board member and president of the NMTMA and also served six years on the MTF board, two of those years as treasurer. The board of the NMTMA would like to once again thank Dave for all his years of service.



WHEN IS A BALL EMBEDDED?

A player's first stroke from the tee rises quickly, strikes a tree limb and rebounds to the teeing ground, where it embeds. Does the player get relief? You'll know by the end of this article. Rule 25-2 specifically covers situations regarding embedded balls. It reads as follows: A ball embedded in its own pitch-mark in the ground in any closely mown area through the green may be lifted, cleaned and dropped, without penalty, as near as possible to the spot where it lay but not nearer the hole. The ball when dropped must first strike a part of the course through the green. "Closely mown area" means any area of the course, including paths through the rough, cut to fairway height or less.

If a club or association wishes to employ the rule regarding an embedded ball anywhere through the green, regardless of whether it is a closely mown area, then it should adopt the language found in the Local Rules portion in Appendix I of the Rules of Golf. This is a local rule the USGA adopts for all of its competitions and qualifying rounds.

If a club does not adopt such a local rule, then a player is only entitled to what Rule 25-2 allows. That rule permits a player relief from an embedded ball in all areas through the green (excluding hazards) except the rough. That reference is confirmed by the phrase "closely mown area." The USGA adopts the local rule language to also encompass the rough. At our Rules of Golf Workshops, we are often asked why we don't exclude "closely mown area" in Rule 25-2, which would then eliminate the need for the local rule. The basic answer is that our rules-writing partner, the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, does not want to include rough because of the matted grass often found on courses in its jurisdiction. It must be clarified that the rule regarding the embedded ball deals with a ball embedded in its own pitch-mark in ground. Therefore, in the R&A's case, with the matted turf, it is often very difficult to determine if a ball in the rough is embedded in ground or matted turf.

There are a couple of additional points of interest to remember regarding the embedded ball:

- For a ball to be considered embedded, it must be in its own pitch-mark.
- A player may not repair his pitch-mark prior to dropping his ball. (See Decision 13-2/10.)
- If a player's ball comes to rest on the fringe of the putting green, he may repair a ball-mark on his line of play on the putting green. (See Rule 16-1c.) But, if a player's ball comes to rest on the fringe of the putting green, may he repair a ball-mark on his line of play if it is located on the fringe? The answer is maybe. If the ball-mark was made by the player's stroke or was there prior to his stroke, the player may not repair it. However, if the pitch-mark was created after his ball arrived on the fringe, he may repair it. (See Decision 13-2/8.)

Rule 25-2 provides that a player taking relief for an embedded ball may lift and clean his ball, but he may not repair the pitch-mark prior to dropping his ball or playing his next stroke, assuming the repair would improve his ball's position for his next stroke. The rule also requires the player to drop the ball as near as possible to where it lay, but not nearer the hole.

During the 1985 U.S. Amateur, I was the referee of a quarterfinal match between Jack Kay and defending champion Scott Verplank, whose tee shot at the 12th hole embedded in the middle of the fairway. Proper relief was provided, but when Verplank dropped his ball, it came to rest directly behind his pitch-mark. He immediately looked at me for help, but in fact the ball was in play. Perhaps being a little disgruntled with me, or the rule, he laced a 2-iron onto the green from well over 200 yards and two-putted for his par and a half of the hole.

Now for the answer to our opening question. In reading the language of the rule, it seems that our player whose tee shot returned to the teeing ground, where it embedded, would not be entitled to relief without penalty since his ball is not through the green. The USGA Rules of Golf Committee realized, however, even though this situation may never arise, it would look pretty bad to deny relief for this situation, and therefore it wrote Decision 24-2a/3. That decision gives relief under the rule of equity (Rule 1-4).

— Tom Meeks

(Article submitted off the USGA Web Site)

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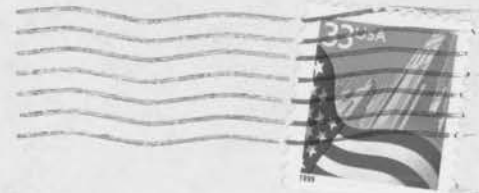
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