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June 1974



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A Patch of Green

Official Publication of the
Michigan & Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association

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MAY/JUNE. Now is the time to apply MCPP for clover and chick weed control on greens. On fairways and roughs, add "2,4-D Amine" to MCPP for most effective clover and broad leaf control.

L&E CHEMICALS OF SPECIAL THE MONTH

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE IN FERTILIZERS AND SWIFT CHEMICAL I.B.D.U. IS THE DIFFERENCE . . . LET US SHOW YOU HOW I.B.D.U. CAN WORK FOR YOU.

Q. WHAT IS IBDU AND HOW IS IT MADE?

A. IBDU is the registered trade mark for isobutylidene diurea, a relatively new controlled release nitrogen source. It is manufactured by combining isobutylaldehyde and urea to yield the most effective source of water insoluble nitrogen.

IBDU is totally unique. Although it is slow acting, it is 100% available to the turf in a single growing season. Unlike UF sources, IBDU is not substantially affected by variations in temperature or bacterial activity, and depends almost entirely upon hydrolysis (water) for its release to the soil.

Q. WHAT IS THE ANALYSIS OF IBDU?

A. IBDU contains 31% nitrogen. About 90% of the total nitrogen from IBDU (27.9%) is a slow release or water insoluble nitrogen. IBDU itself contains no phosphate or potash, but is available in Par Ex fertilizer grades containing phosphate and potash.

Q. WHAT ARE THE PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF IBDU?

A. As can be seen in the picture in this ad, IBDU is a white, totally homogenous granule. The picture in this ad shows the two commercially available sizes of IBDU (fine and coarse). It is non-caking, uniform in granule size, highly flowable, and will not absorb water during storage - making it ideal for handling and spreading.

Q. WHY IS IBDU AVAILABLE IN TWO GRANULE SIZES?

A. The release rate of IBDU to the soil is only governed by two factors - soil moisture and granule size. By changing the granule size, the rate of release can be controlled.

Q. WHY IS IBDU SLOWLY RELEASED?

A. IBDU itself is very slightly soluble in water, being about 1000 times less soluble than urea, a commonly used fast release fertilizer. In addition to its basic insoluble nature, the release rate of IBDU is slowed even further by granulation, which decreases the contact surface of IBDU with water in the soil.

Q. GENERALLY, HOW LONG WILL IBDU LAST?

A. Since the duration of availability of IBDU is mainly determined by soil moisture and granule size, its release rate is very predictable.

Depending upon the granule size and soil moisture, IBDU will continue release of nitrogen a minimum of 3 months and a maximum of 6-7 months at normal rates of application.

Q. HOW DOES THE GRANULE SIZE AFFECT THE IBDU RELEASE RATE?

A. The larger the original IBDU granule, the longer it will last and continue supplying nitrogen to the soil.

Q. HOW DOES SOIL MOISTURE AFFECT THE IBDU RELEASE RATE?

A. Up to a point, the higher the soil moisture, the faster the release rate of IBDU. However, since the release rate of IBDU is limited by its solubility, it will only release at a certain maximum rate - no matter how wet the soil becomes from watering or rain fall. This characteristic prevents leaching in high moisture conditions, without changing the rate of release.

Q. DOES SOIL TEMPERATURE AFFECT THE IBDU RELEASE RATE?

A. Unlike UF fertilizers, IBDU is not substantially affected by variations in soil temperature. There is only a 25% variation in release rate with IBDU from 40°F to 80°F.

Q. DOES SOIL pH AFFECT THE IBDU RELEASE RATE?

A. Only slightly. Some tests have indicated that IBDU will release at a higher rate as the pH of the soil decreases. In other words, pH values ranging from very acid to moderately alkaline (7.5 pH) do not substantially affect the release rate of IBDU. However pH values in excess of 9.0 (very alkaline soils) do tend to somewhat inhibit the release rate of IBDU.

Q. HOW IS IBDU MINERALIZED?

A. IBDU cannot be used by the turf until it is first dissolved, and then it is mineralized in the same manner as other sources of nitrogen.

In other words, the release rate of IBDU is more dependent upon its granule size and the soil moisture than on the actual mineralization process - since once it is released from the granule, it is almost immediately converted to the available form.

Q. DOES BACTERIAL ACTIVITY AFFECT THE IBDU RELEASE RATE?

A. No. Because IBDU is released by hydrolysis (water), its rate of release does not depend upon bacterial attack. Typical UF fertilizers depend almost entirely upon the bacterial activity of the soil for their release.

Q. HOW MUCH IBDU CAN BE APPLIED SAFELY?

A. The critical quantity of IBDU depends, of course, upon the type of turf, but generally it may be applied to most types of turf at rates 3-4 times higher than other conventional slow release fertilizers with no damage.

Tests at UCLA indicated no damage on turf when IBDU was mixed into the soil (not top dressed) at as high a rate as 32 lbs. Nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. Top dressing rates as high as 12-15 lbs. Nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. may be used with no damage to the turf.

Q. WHAT IS THE KEY ADVANTAGE TO USING IBDU?

A. Control. Because the release rate of IBDU is so even and predictable, the professional turf manager can literally control the response of turf at will - without considering the interfering conditions such as temperature and weather that alter the response to other slow release products.



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Wilkie Turf Equipment Company

May Meeting at Davison C.C.

The weather was cold, wet and snowy for the meeting at Davison, but the hospitality was warm as usual.

The Minto family showed us a wonderful time despite the weather. The food was delicious and the service was pleasant.

Guest speaker, Ted Woehrl, a Director of the GCSAA, spoke to us about plans for 1974 concerning the various committee reports from the National Association.

It was pointed out by Ted that it is the responsibility of the individual to keep his membership classification up to date. If he desires a change in his classification, he must write headquarters requesting such a change. It is not done automatically.

He went on to explain the new format for the Educational Program at the National Conference. There will be many selections to choose from for your educational requirements. Seminars are being planned and Certification examinations are going to be offered as well as the usual general turf subjects in the old style conference.



On the left, Walt Ostrander, the "right hand man" of Bob Minto, Superintendent of Davison Country Club.



Mr. Walter Trombley, Supt., Arrowhead Golf Club, newly Certified Golf Course Supt.

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Bald Mt. Meeting

Another night of bad weather plagued us at Bald Mt.

Despite the bad weather, Jerry Prieskorn, host for the evening, displayed his new facility for us. Bald Mt. has just recently completed its new clubhouse and banquet hall. It is without a doubt, one of the finest buildings around. It is well planned and appears to be very efficient.

Guest speaker for the evening was Walter Wilkie of the Wilkie Turf Equipment Company. He spoke on "Water Good and Bad," a presentation given by Don Clemans at Purdue two years ago.

The point stressed throughout the presentation was the importance of water when applied properly and in the

correct amounts. Mother Nature and poor construction of turf facilities are perhaps our two biggest enemies as far as water is concerned.



Mr. Walter Wilkie of Wilkie Turf Equipment Company speaks about, "Water, Good and Bad."

The July issue of *A Patch of Green* will feature Prof. John H. Madison's presentation given at the California Golf Course Superintendent's Institute in 1973, "How Much Water is Enough?"



The good old summertime is not vacation time for fungi

**Acti-dione turf fungicides
simplify 4-season disease control**

**start summer disease control NOW
with TUCO Acti-dione® Thiram**



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A Pleasant Surprise

One evening a few days ago, I was watching Channel 7 television and one of the highlighted or feature stories dealt with the importance of the man behind the scenes.

The story was about the Greenkeeper or "Superintendent" as he is now called. Don LaFord, Superintendent of Bay Pointe Golf Club, was interviewed about his viewpoints on lawns and their importance in the environment.

It was stressed that the Superintendent is the man behind the scenes. Keeping the golf course beautiful and green and is seldom exposed to the golfing world.

Nice going, Don. We're proud of you. It made a good story.

MBCGCSA Donates to National Golf Day

President Gerald Gill presented a check for \$500.00 in behalf of the Golf Course Superintendents to the Michigan Section P.G.A. at the 7th annual National Golf Day Dinner held at the Raleigh House, Southfield, Michigan on May 13, 1974.

The presentation was made to Professional Tom Talkington, President of the Michigan Section of P.G.A. and Golf Professional of Barton Hills Country Club before a capacity crowd of 600.

The proceeds from the dinner will go to the National Golf Day Fund which directly help the Golf Course Superintendents Scholarship Fund.

Michigan continues to lead the nation in contributions to the Fund.

A friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out.

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use a
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Make Your Membership More Valuable

What are YOU doing to improve the value of your Chapter and GCSAA membership? Have you taken an active part in the functions of these organizations? Have you volunteered to work on any of these organization's many projects and committees?

As a member of a professional organization, either locally, regionally or nationally based, there are many things that you might want to consider as an individual member to make membership more valuable to you and your fellow members. The following list is just a starting point, but it may give you some ideas from which other helpful methods will arise.

1. When you have a problem do you:

- a. Call fellow members of your organization for suggestions?
- b. Check through back issues of your Chapter newsletters, "The Golf Superintendent," or the GCSAA Conference "Proceedings" for articles relating to your problem?
- c. Discuss this problem at your next meeting?
- d. Check the programs of up-coming conferences and other meetings to see if your problem will be covered either directly or indirectly?

2. Before going to a meeting, do you:

- a. Plan in advance to talk about specific professional topics?
- b. Make plans to talk with someone before, at, or after the meeting?
- c. Anticipate how you can apply the speaker's talk to your situation?
- d. Plan to participate in the program, either by asking or answering questions?
- e. Plan to volunteer for an assignment to help your organization?

3. When a fellow member telephones you with questions or problems, do you:

- a. Call him back with the information you promised?
- b. Offer to help, regardless of your own problems?
- c. Respond to all questions in a helpful, friendly and professional manner?
- d. Remember that other members volunteered to take time to help you solve your problems?

4. When asked to serve your organization in some manner do you:

- a. Accept the assignment, even though you may be busy?

Continued on Page 16



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We Know Agrico 18-5-9 Can Improve Your Fairways. And We'll Go To Any Links To Prove It!

We know Agrico Country Club Fertilizer can improve fairways. Because it feeds more efficiently to help build pusher turf—turf that will approach your greens in quality.

We'll prove it to you on your own course, free of charge.

Formulated with moderate-size granules, Agrico 18-5-9 can be spin-spread faster and more accurately. Once spread, 18-5-9's power-feeding formula makes your fairway turf uniformly thicker. This helps "keep the ball high on every lie" and gives your golfers better fairway shots.

Because 18-5-9 is high in nitrogen content, you need fewer bags for normal fertilization. A real savings when you've got 40 to 65 acres of fairways.

The nitrogen is derived from organic as well as quick green-up sources. Five units of nitrogen are in water insoluble form to keep your turf greener—longer.

Higher potash content, one-third from sulphate, makes turf so resilient that it resists tracking—even under heavy traffic conditions. Five units of phosphorus will maintain, but not increase soil levels.

"We'll Go To Any Links"

To prove that Agrico can improve your fairways, we'll go to any links. Complete the coupon below and we'll come to you—with a free product demonstration. We'll prove beyond a doubt the effectiveness of Agrico's 18-5-9 formula for fairways. And we'll fill you in on Agrico's full line of dependable course-care products.

Agrico[®]
Country Club

Bud Camp
5208 Renfrew Drive
Ft. Wayne, Indiana 46815

Please contact me for a free product demonstration of 18-4-10 or 18-5-9 and for information on Agrico's other course-care products.

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How To Keep Golf Course Turf From Wearing Out



MONOSlabs permit lush grass to grow despite wear from wheels or feet.

Q. What are MONOSlabs T.M.?

A. MONOSlabs are concrete turf reinforcement grids, "a big concrete waffle with holes through it".

Q. Where should MONOSlabs be used?

A. Wherever golf course lawns and turf show signs of wear, from golf carts, from service vehicles, or from golfers.

Q. How are MONOSlabs used?

A. The MONOSlabs are merely laid on a 1" bed of sand so the top is at grade level. Then soil is placed in the "pockets", which is seeded and fertilized. You can't stop grass from growing, and you can't wear it out, because the concrete keeps the soil from compacting, which is what kills grass.

Q. Are MONOSlabs new?

A. They have been used in Europe and in Great Britain for over eight years, but they are new to the USA and Canada.

Q. What about overflow parking?

A. "Parking lawns" reinforced with MONOSlabs can accommodate visitors cars when the regular lots are full.

Q. Can MONOSlabs be used instead of asphalt for golf cart trails?

A. MONOSlabs are a "natural" for inconspicuous golf cart trails. They blend right into the turf, and they can be installed with your own staff in any weather at any time of the year. The cost for a golf cart trail would be about \$1.75 per lineal foot.

Q. What about erosion control?

A. MONOSlabs protect riverbanks, ditches; wherever there is mud or erosion MONOSlabs can reinforce the turf or soil.

Q. How much do MONOSlabs cost?

A. In truckload lots of 360 or more, about 64¢ per sq. ft.

Q. How can I find out more about MONOSlabs?

A. Phone George Amber, P.E., Grass Pavers Limited (313) 549-4046, and ask for the information booklet.

Q. Are MONOSlabs available?

A. Yes, buy MONOSlabs from Fendt Builder's Supply, Inc., Farmington, Michigan, (313) 474-3211.

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CITIES GOLF COURSE
SUPERINTENDENTS
ASSOCIATION?



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Fill in the questionnaire below and mail to:

DATE _____

NAME OF INTERESTED PERSON _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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

Problems Encountered in Obtaining a Successful Program of Algae and Aquatic Weed Control

To obtain satisfactory algae and weed control in any body of water it is essential to know the species and amount of algae and weeds that are present in the body of water. A moderate to heavy infestation of aquatic weeds in a body of water with any algae problem is an important consideration in determining the recommendation to be made for algae treatment, for aquatic weed treatment, or for both. The greater the aquatic weed infestation, the more essential it becomes to treat the water either for both algae and aquatic weeds or to increase the dosage used for algae control. Most all registered algicides and aquatic herbicides are absorbed equally rapidly by algae and aquatic weeds. Therefore, a chemical added to a body of water which is heavily infested with weeds and algae and is being treated only for algae, may fail entirely because much of the algicide is being absorbed and detoxified by the aquatic weeds. A further look at the Questionnaire and Data Form suggests the problem that may be encountered in the control of algae and weeds present, it is essential to

know their location in the water and whether the algae and weeds are young and actively growing? All plants and algae are easier to kill in their earlier growing stage than when they are mature. Temperature of water is also important. Treat for algae and weeds in late spring or early summer after water temperatures have reached 62 - 65 degrees F and before the aquatic plants have gone to seed.

The physical condition of the water is equally important in assuring successful control of algae and plants. Muddy water rapidly deactivates most of the known algicides and aquatic herbicides. Therefore, never treat a pond after a rain when the water may be muddy. The chemicals will be rapidly deactivated and will not perform. Be sure not to stir up the shallow water with oars, paddles, motors, or other equipment.

Time of application especially for algae control is important. The best time of the day to treat for algae is in the middle of the day in a bright sun when the algae are growing rapidly. They are much easier to kill when in

Continued on Page 14



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Weed Control Cont.

an active metabolic state. Postpone the treatment if conditions are not right.

The question is often raised - Will one treatment control weeds and algae all year? Usually aquatic weeds can be controlled with one application. It is sometimes necessary to spot treat a week or two later to take care of weeds which may have been missed by the initial application. For algae control it is usually necessary to treat more than once a season, followed by periodic spot treating when new growth appears. Algae are better controlled if the algicide is applied directly on the algae. If a pond has filamentous algae concentrated primarily near the shore or on the bottom in the shallow areas, use the recommended amount of algicide to treat the entire pond but apply it only where the algae are growing. Never add algicide to clear algae free-water. It probably will be wasted.

Finally, if the weed and algae growth are moderate to heavy, don't treat the entire body of water at one time. Treat half of it one week and half a week or ten days later. This will insure that the dead weeds and algae will not rapidly and completely deplete the dissolved oxygen. A great number of fish kills result not from any toxic property of the chemical used but from lack of oxygen caused by decaying and dead algae and weeds.

Algae and aquatic weeds can usually be controlled satisfactorily in most bodies of water. To obtain satisfactory control, however, it is necessary to survey the body of water, to determine the kinds of weeds and algae present, the area, and the flow of water through the pond or lake. On the basis of this and other information a sound and successful recommendation for treatment of the body of water can be made.

Canadian Open Access Granted

We are very pleased to inform you that we have received notification from the Royal Canadian Golf Association granting access to the Canadian Open Championship for any GCSAA member who shows a 1974 membership card.

Please advise your members the Canadian Open Golf Championship will be played at the Mississauga Golf & Country Club July 25 - 28, Mississauga, Ontario.

We are very gratified that the very cordial invitation was extended to GCSAA and it is our hope that many of your members will be able to take advantage of this opportunity.

When everything looks hopeless and desolate, look and see if you are not facing the wrong direction.

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Broadcast DASANIT 15% Granular for season-long control of microscopic "eel-worm" nematodes that destroy turf root systems; cause grass seedlings to wither and die. Thorough watering leaches it into root zone for maximum control.

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Fast-acting selective insecticide gives quick clean-up of sod webworms. Dissolves readily in water for application with any spray equipment.

®BAYGON insecticide

This carbamate controls turf insects, including species resistant to chlorinated hydrocarbons and organophosphate insecticides.

For great turf that gives your golfers great shooting, order these Chemagro turf pesticides from your chemical distributor.

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METHAR 80 — Controls Dallisgrass and crabgrass. Water soluble.
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AMA PLUS 2,4-D — Control of Dallisgrass, silver crabgrass, plantain, dandelion, knotweed, chickweed, and other broad-leaf weeds.
AMA (SUPER METHAR) — The new "AMA" liquid crabgrass killer.
ALL-WET — Added to water, it allows quicker and deeper penetration...enables soil to retain needed moisture.
CLEAR-SPRAY — Liquid Hygrostatic Sticker to protect against wilt and winter kill.
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GRASS-GREENZIT — Permanent green pigment, restores green color to dormant or discolored grass. Not a dye.

W-A-CLEARY CORPORATION P. O. Box 10 Somerset, N. J. 08873

More Valuable Membership Cont.

b. Offer assistance on projects in which you may not be directly involved?

c. Recognize the opportunities for individual and group exposure and growth value by participating in any such capacity?

Remember, your professional associations should be a dynamic part of your overall growth plan. Volunteering for a more active role can provide you with greater membership benefits, particularly when you and the members of your local organization contribute as a unit for the betterment of GCSAA.

Always help people increase their own selfesteem. Develop your skill in making other people feel important. There is hardly a higher compliment you can pay an individual than helping him to be useful and to find satisfaction from his usefulness. — DONALD LAIRD

**Rain
aid**

W
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From the 'Detroit News' column . . .
JACK BERRY ON GOLF

NO MONEY WORRIES AT ONE AREA COURSE

Carl Roehl laughs when he's called Michigan's top golf entrepreneur.

"Well, I guess I'm the largest one in the business and I hope I continue to be . . . I don't like the alternative," Roehl added, noting that he is 73 years old.

Roehl is doing what he likes and he likes what he's doing - running Maple Lane Golf Club on 14 Mile Road in Warren, 300 acres with 54 holes, the largest golf complex in the state.

But Maple Lane is more than big. It's a public club conditioned like a private club and when you average 941 players a day during the summer months, reach a single-day high of 1,313, stay open year-round and have a waiting list for summer leagues, you must be doing something right.

Too often public courses are like public dumps with neither the players nor the operators too intent on making the course a pleasure to play and each blames the other.

Greens are fuzzy, and ball washers are broken. Players don't replace divots and they break rakes when they hit bad sand shots. The immaculately conditioned courses they see on Harbour Town Links and Firestone - are impossible dreams.

Maple Lane isn't Augusta National nor are there U.S. Open-type rough or St. Andrews-style pot bunkers to contend with. But it is superbly conditioned and you don't get an average

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of 941 players around daily with U.S. Open rough or St. Andrews bunkers.

"The proof of the pudding is in the eating," Roehl said, smiling, and then citing the volume of traffic.

"This is the only course around without a budget - we buy everything we need and we buy as much as we need. It isn't like a private club where the greens committee tells the superintendent to make do with less. And there isn't anything we don't have in the way of machinery."

Roehl also has one of the greenest thumbs in golf as his greens superintendent - Clarence Wolfrom. Wolfrom has been at Maple Lane since 1931, just four years after Roehl put together a group of six men, including his father, Major John Roehl, and restaurateur Joe Muer, to buy 112 acres of farmland.

Wolfrom probably has trained more greenskeepers than any man in the state and 12 of them have gone on to superintendent jobs at other courses. The list includes his sons Clem at Detroit Golf Club and Bruce at Barton Hills. Wolfrom also has been instrumental in Michigan State University's nationally known Turfgrass Foundation.

Roehl said the group purchased the land originally as an investment and that he convinced them to build a golf course. They added 45 acres in 1948 and added nine holes, bought 80 acres in 1952 and added another nine, then bought 53 acres and built another nine in 1960. In 1970 they redid the whole 300 acres with Roehl and Wolfrom doing most of the design.

"We can't go any farther," Roehl said while riding around the course in a golf cart, "we're hemmed in now. There are houses and apartment buildings to the west and north, a road to the east and 14 Mile on the south.

"We've had developers trying to buy us out, but I always say I've got a lotta blood here and all they want to give me for it is money."

Roehl, a retired attorney of 50 years, has been at the course daily since the middle 1960's when he sold out his interest in a machine shop.

"I've got a cane and I walk two-three miles a day around the course and check things," he said, laughing. "I let them know if any of the drains are plugged or anything is out of order.

"I don't play golf anymore - I get too aggravated. You can teach a dog to keep his head down, but not me."

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