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# Tee to Green

May, 1987

Published by the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume XVII, No. 3

## Ideas on Planting a Flower Bed

By: Frank Amodio

Mass flower planting is the key to low maintenance with high impact and visibility.

When setting up beds for mass color installations, you must be very sure that a particular plant is going to thrive in that location. Most annuals require good light, air circulation, water and fertilizer. The variety of plant should be selected to match that area. Listed below are the ten most

popular annuals and some requirements for each. Use this as your guide to planting. Varieties (\*) are extremely easy to maintain.

Soil preparation is the key to a successful planting. All new beds must be turned with organic matter and fertilizer. You should incorporate three inches of peat moss into the soil and approximately four pounds of 5-10-5 for each 100 square feet.

Supplementary feeding of liquid plant food such as Peters or Miracle Grow will ensure strong vigorous plants. Flower beds that are covered with chips must be fed at double rates because nitrogen-fixing bacteria are needed to break down the wood chips.

Color selection and types of planting are matters of personal taste. For a soothing

(continued on page 6)

SERIALS

### Most Popular Annuals

MAY 11 1987

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Plant	Growth Habit	Light Required	Water Required	Uses
*Argeratum	Low	Full Sun/Light Shade	Moist	Edging, Beds, Pots
*Impatiens	Low, Med, High	Shade	Moist	Edging, Beds, Pots
*Hybrid Impatiens	Tall	Full Sun/Light Shade	Moist	Beds, Pots
*Begonia	Medium	Sun to Shade	Dry	Edging, Beds, Pots
*Marigold	Low, Med, Tall	Sun	Moist/Dry	Beds, Pots, Cutting
Geraniums	Medium	Sun	Moist	Beds, Pots
*Alyssum	Low Border	Sun/Light Shade	Dry/Moist	Edging around rocks, pots
Salvia	Medium/High	Sun/Light Shade	Moist, well drained	Edging, pots, beds
Dahlia	Low	Sun/Light Shade	Moist	Beds, Pots
*Petunia	Low	Sun	Dry	Edging, Pots, Beds



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# Presidential Message

## “BALANCING”

Balancing — a pretty important concept. To me, it means juggling responsibilities to attain the greatest success and happiness that this life has to offer.

To Merriam-Webster, it is:

”a means of judgement or deciding”

”a mental and emotional steadiness”

”to bring into harmony or proportion”

U.S. News and World Report magazine, in their March 23rd edition, carried a feature article entitled: “YOU’RE FIRED!, Starting Over: A Survival Guide.” This special report covered the present belt-tightening trend of American industry to eliminate staff by firings, job reductions, early retirement, layoff, voluntary-termination, etc.

U.S. News reported that the turmoil resulting in an individual’s life from having one’s job eliminated includes stress, anger, pain, clinical depression, sexual impotence and a variety of physical ailments, including viruses.

The following comments were quoted from people who have gone through the process of coping with job loss and starting over. These insights emerged during the process of their “picking up the pieces” of their lives:

” . . . after starting over, they seem to enjoy greater flexibility in balancing work with family life”

(U.S. News, 3/23/87 — page 50)

”Many jobless executives — and managers who fear they may become jobless — are learning in the meantime that the best protection may be to live a more balanced life. Says psychologist Wilson: Executives will depend less on the corporation and seek reinforcement of their self-image through other institutions, such as the family, church, and fraternal organizations.”

(U.S. News, 3/23/87 — page 54)

Sometimes it takes calamity to cause us to focus on the really important things in life such as responsibility to God, family, and Country. How much better life can be if we learn to balance our life while gainfully employed, while enjoying the benefits of a loving family, and in recognizing God as our unfailing source of total supply.

For sure, to begin balancing in one’s life may not be easy. Nothing worthwhile ever is. It is becoming a bigger part of my life.

— Patrick Lucas

# Correcting and Improving Pesticide Use

by Michael H. Cook, Jr.  
Pesticide Control Specialist 1  
New York State  
Department of Environmental Conservation

Do you have a feeling of frustration and anger when you deal with New York State Environmental Conservation Laws relating to pesticides and their usage? Some golf course superintendents might grin and bear it. Others figure they can't do anything about it, so why try? Then there are those superintendents who succeed in complying with the various laws, rules and regulations of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). What's their secret?

This article is not meant to be an inventory of problems associated with utilizing pesticides nor to belittle the golf course maintenance industry, but to hopefully strengthen, enlighten and remind ourselves about the safe use of pesticides.

During the course of routine inspections

conducted on golf courses in DEC Region 3 (Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Westchester and Ulster Counties), numerous instances of non-compliance with DEC laws, rules and regulations relating to the application of pesticides were found. Specifically, inadequate to nonexistent record keeping, possession of prohibited and/or banned pesticides e.g., (Chlordane, Heptachlor, Silvex); possession and use of restricted use pesticides without proper certification, placing pesticide solutions and/or mixtures into other containers, including food containers without proper labelling; use of aquatic pesticides in bodies of water without possessing a valid permit and certification in category 5A (Aquatic

Vegetation); sloppy pesticide storage areas where open bags of pesticides spilled on the floor; and the lack of a warning sign indicating pesticide storage.

Not all inspections resulted in enforcement actions by the DEC. In fact, many facilities showed exemplary record keeping techniques, storage areas and knowledge regarding pesticide use.

In order to foster a more professional and safety conscious attitude, the golf course maintenance industry must make a commitment to continued training and education for employees handling pesticides. Training and education of individuals begin with becoming familiar with the pesticide product. The product's label instructions must be adhered to (mixing, protective clothing, disposal, etc.) and any laws, rules and regulations relating to the use of pesticides should be common knowledge.

Communication with other golf course maintenance personnel, the NYS DEC, associations relating to the "Green" industry, and especially, the Cornell Cooperative Extension Service, are excellent ways to keep up to date with pesticide use.

For example, the NYS DEC will be promulgating in the near future, new, more stringent, pesticide storage guidelines for commercial pesticide applicators. The guidelines will include structural, pesticide handling, as well as safety/emergency recommendations that should be considered when storing pesticides. Most industry and regulatory observers agree that the individuals involved must actively address the concerns raised by the use of pesticides on golf courses and work towards a common goal for the safe use of pesticides.

The golf course maintenance industry is a vital link in the chain of the "Green" industry. The services you provide are important. By doing business in a safe, professional manner, you can help to build the professional image of the entire industry. ■

## Coming Events

### MAY

12	MetGCSA Meeting	Fenway Golf Club Scarsdale, NY
13-16	American Horticultural Society 42nd Annual Meeting	Omni Park Central Hotel New York, NY
14	LIGCSA Meeting	Mill River C.C.
21	GCSANJ	Rumsen C.C.

### JUNE

8	CAGCS Meeting	Hopmeadow C.C.
9	Metropolitan Golf Writers National Awards Dinner	Rye Town Hilton Port Chester, NY
11-14	Manufacturers Hanover Westchester Classic	Westchester C.C. Ted Horton, Sup't.
25	MetGCSA Invitational	Westchester C.C.
25	Turf Research Field Day	U of Mass South Deerfield, Mass.

## Rules Proposed to Implement Immigration Reform Law

Rules to implement the new immigration reform law passed November 6, 1986 have been proposed by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. These rules should be finalized by late spring.

Employers will be required to verify the citizenship status of all employees hired after November 6, 1986. Acceptable forms of identification include: a) U.S. passport, b) certificate of citizenship, c) U.S. citizenship identification card, d) certificate of naturalization, e) unexpired foreign passport, f) alien registration card, and g) unexpired work permit. If the applicant does not have any of the above forms of identification, he or she may present documents which verify authority to work and identity. Applicants must present one form of identification from each of the following categories:

1. *Employment authorization* a) Social Security card, b) birth certificate, c) U.S. citizenship or Birth Abroad Report, or d) Form I-94 with employment authorization stamp;

2. *Identity of individual* a) driver's license, b) original identity document issued by a state or c) notice of discharge

from U.S. Armed Forces or a form stating active duty or reserve status in the U.S. Armed Forces.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service is advising employers to follow the following guidelines:

1. Do not discharge present employees or refuse to hire new employees based on foreign appearance or language.

2. Be alert for compliance information from the government during the six-month education period.

3. State intention to hire only authorized workers.

4. Inform all newly hired employees that when guidelines are received they must provide proof of work eligibility.

5. Assist applicants for legal status under the legalization or agricultural worker programs who request documentation of employment history to help prove their eligibility. Such documentation submitted by employers in support of legalization or agricultural worker applications cannot be used by the Government against the employer for possible violations of law which may be revealed except for fraud in the application process.

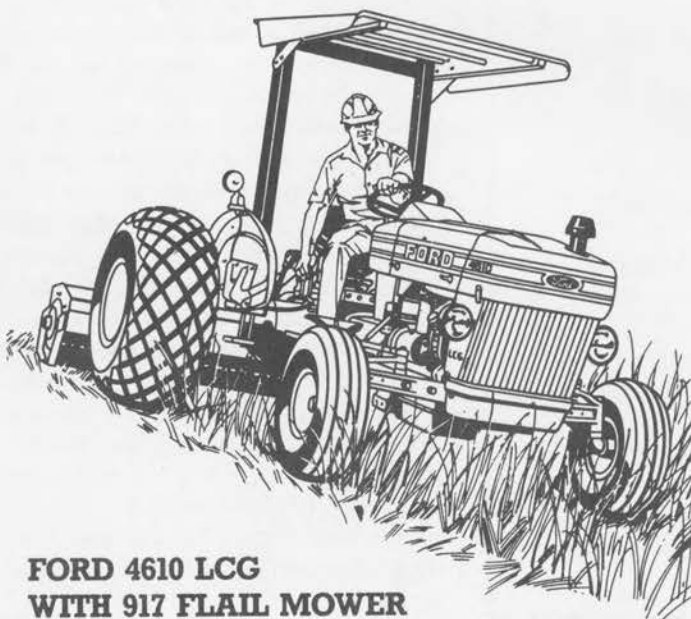
6. Employers are not subject to civil or criminal sanctions for the hiring of unauthorized workers which occurred prior to November 6, 1986.

7. Employers are not subject to criminal or civil penalties for hiring unauthorized workers during the education period running from November 6, 1986 to May 31, 1987. However, once employer sanctions begin to be enforced on June 1, 1987, an employer should not continue to employ any employees hired during the education period UNLESS the employer has complied with the verification requirements as will be specified by regulations.

8. Employers who hire workers to perform seasonal agricultural services will not be subject to sanctions during the 18-month application period for special agricultural worker ("SAW") status. However, those employers who have recruited unauthorized aliens outside the United States may be subject to sanctions. ■

*reprinted with permission from Outlook (monthly newsletter of the Club Manager's Association of America), March 1987 issue.*

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## Met GCSA Meeting

This month's meeting will be held at the Fenway Golf Club in Scarsdale, NY on May 12. Our Host Superintendent will be Joe Alonzi.

### Superintendent's Profile

A sense of determination and a love of the outdoors have helped to make Joe Alonzi the well-rounded superintendent that he is. Though he began at Tamarack C.C. as a groundsman at age 16, his first career after graduating from the RCA Institute was in the electrical engineering field. Finding that he much preferred golf course work to the confines of an office, Joe attended Rutgers Winter School, and took the Assistant's position with his brother Bob at Burning Tree. Joe later recalled his brother as being the "biggest influence" in his decision to become a superintendent. The head job at Huntington Crescent C.C. in L.I. followed, and in 1984 Joe became the superintendent at Fenway.

Built in 1924, Fenway is another of Tillinghast's challenging creations. New drainage installation, triplex fairway mowing with clipping removal, and a long-range tree plan calling for 300 new trees are all improvements implemented in Joe's first three years.

The most important quality in being a good superintendent is *devotion*, in Joe's opinion. "It's important not to let the long hours and hot summers bother you," he says. How many of us looked out at the gray barren landscape this winter, and wished it were summer?

Serving on the MetGCSA Board of Governors, and as Chairman of the Tournament Committee, Joe also is a member of the GCSA Communications and Awards Committee. His hobbies include golfing, skiing and fishing. In 1971, he married his high-school sweetheart Judy, and they have 4 children: Christopher, 15; Amy, 11; Allison, 6; and Amanda, 5.

Mary Medonis  
Assistant Superintendent  
Westchester Country Club

\*\*\*\*\*

The May meeting is planned to be a Manager - Superintendent Day. The speaker will be Met GCSA Executive Director Jim McLoughlin. Jim will be discussing Computer Graphics for the Club Manager and Superintendent.

## Met GCSA News

Social and Welfare Committee Chairman, John Carlone has asked that anyone with information pertaining to birth, illnesses, etc., of any member, or their family, please contact him at:

Middle Bay Country Club  
3600 Skillman Avenue  
Oceanside, New York 11572  
(516) 766-9638

## Welcome to New Members

The MetGCSA Board of Directors welcomes the following new members:

Michael H. Cook, Jr., Privileged  
Pesticide Control Specialist  
NYS Dept. Environmental Cons.

Gregory Piontek, Privileged  
Connecticut D.E.P.  
Director, Pesticide Control

If you have any questions or problems pertaining to the use, storage, purchasing, etc., of pesticides please feel free to contact them.



"I switched to SURF-SIDE surfactants in 1976. They work so well that a statement of what

they will do (by someone who has practical experience with them over a period of time) is greeted by almost universal disbelief by non-users; so much so they would feel foolish even making trial use of the products."

*Bill Smart*

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## The Only Way To Start

"If I could only hit all my clubs as well as my seven iron." As an instructor I've heard that statement repeated by students many times.

The truth is any player that has some hand-eye coordination should be able to use a seven iron with some consistency. However, long irons and woods cannot be played successfully without a proper backswing.

For right handed players, *the left arm and shoulder start the proper backswing. The shoulders coil a minimum of 90 degrees.* Looking from the top of the backswing the players left shoulder should be turned past the ball. The result should be *higher, longer and straighter ball flight* and more consistency with longer clubs.

Michael Summa  
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## Flower Beds (continued from page 1)

effect, use pastels in solid masses. Orange looks hot; try yellow as a substitute. A multi-color border around the edge of a bed can lend the appearance of a formal garden but multi-color beds give a nervous look. For low maintenance, use solid colors of the same plant in a bed. For lasting color from June to Labor Day, plant three 2" plants per foot or one 4" plant per foot. Complete bed coverage should result within 30 days of planting, freeing the flower maintenance person to work on the golf course in July and August.

Listed below is a general guide for insecticides and fungicides.

Insecticides/ Fungicides	Uses
Benlate DF Spray WP	General fungicide for Botrytis and powdery mildew.
Truban WP	Soil drench for root rot
Pentac Aquaflow	Mites
Orthene 75 WP	Aphids
SBP 1381 Resimetherin	White Fly, Fungus, Gnats

Most disease and insect problems can be cured easily, provided that the plants are inspected weekly and spraying starts immediately after the problem arises. Everyone is interested in planting early; May 15 to May 30 seems to be the most popular time. Soil temperatures are in the low 60's then and moisture from a wet spring has the flower beds saturated. Monday's flower delivery still isn't planted by Friday and is sitting on a hot blacktop driveway. These conditions can lead to root rot or Pythium. Inspect your annuals by tapping out a pot. Look for thin white roots. Try pulling some of the roots. If they break right off, drench them with TRUBAN. This will sterilize the decayed roots and new ones will start to grow immediately.

Flowers can provide a great first impression around the clubhouse or accent the beauty of any tee or green area. If properly designed, prepared and planted, the beds can be very attractive and require minimal maintenance. ■

*The author, Frank Amodio, is the owner of Valley View Nursery. He is also a member of the Met GCSA and a patron of the Tee to Green.*

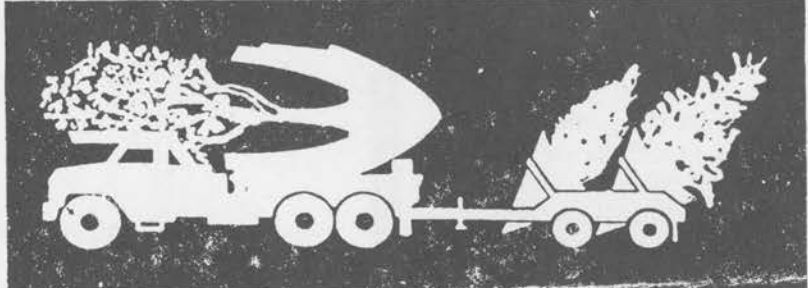
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## Health Officials Say Milorganite Okay

Following the earlier appearance around the country of a number of recent newspaper articles alleging a link between amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease) and Milorganite, the *Milwaukee Journal* carried a prominent story with the following lead:

"Madison, Wis. — There is no need to further study whether the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District's Milorganite fertilizer is a cause of Lou Gehrig's disease, federal and state health officials said here Thursday (during a meeting on the subject of concern held Feb. 19, 1987)."

The producers of Milorganite have been in contact with GCSAA on the matter, and have expressed their desire to reassure superintendents of the product's safety. In material they have provided to the Association, Milorganite's producers quote Alan Rubin — chief of the Wastewater Solids Criteria Branch of the EPA — as follows: "As of now (February 12, 1987), there has been no way to draw an

inference that cadmium, chromium or other substances in Milorganite were linked to ALS. In the studies we have, we have never seen any trends or statistics indicating a deterioration of people's health because of the use of sludges."

The producers' comments submitted to GCSAA also included the following: "The Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) is confident that Milorganite is not a cause of ALS. The workers who make Milorganite have had their level of metals in their blood analyzed over the last four years. These tests proved that the people who manufacture Milorganite had no greater concentration of heavy metals in their blood than the population in general."

The MMSD intends to continue production and marketing of Milorganite. ■

*The preceding article first appeared in the March 1987 issue of "Newline," a monthly newsletter of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.*

## Peat Industry Thanks

To all those who either wrote letters of concern and/or made telephone calls to elected officials or agencies (United States Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Corps of Engineers, Department of Environmental Resources) regarding the possible loss of peat-humus products because of the interpretation of the U.S. Clean Water Act, I would like to extend my deepest appreciation.

Your assistance was monumental in keeping a portion of the peat industry operational in wetlands of the United States. Before this issue is resolved, I'm sure we will again need your support to keep this much needed resource (peat-humus, topdressing, potting soil, etc.) available.

I cannot over-emphasize the importance of your phone calls and letters. They really worked. Again thank you so very much.

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