

## Applicator's Log

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Because of these concerns, the recommendation for the first N application on warm season turfgrasses is usually 30 days after green-up. If you want to apply some fertilizers at this time, consider making applications of starter fertilizers — sources with high phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) levels, but comparatively low N levels.

### Cool Season Grasses

While the curves for cool season turfgrass root and shoot growth are quite different, the philosophy in managing N fertility is exactly the same. The optimal time for making significant water soluble N applications is in the late summer/early fall when shoot growth is slowing and root growth is favored. The late summer/early fall fertility program also corresponds to the time when stored food reserves in the plant can also be maximized.

Note that root growth rates for cool season turfgrasses are quite significant in the spring, but the roots are

again overshadowed by the shoots at this time of year. High levels of water soluble N in the spring can result in the same problem for root growth as previously discussed for bermudagrass, and usually the discrepancy between root and shoots is even more pronounced for the cool season turfgrass. High N application rates in the spring on cool season turf can result in a grass that will be under tremendous stress during the summer months. Minimize N levels in spring applications to cool season turf and concentrate on applying P and K, particularly if recommended by soil or tissue tests.

### Foliar Burn

As warm, humid weather conditions approach, be aware of the increased foliar burn potential of water soluble fertilizers. Fertilizer granules that land on leaves can attract water directly from leaf tissues, causing what is referred to as "foliar burn."

Always thoroughly water-in water soluble fertilizers to minimize this

problem and to put them in the root-zone where the nutrient is available to the plant.

Consider choosing water soluble sources that have lower foliar burn potential. For instance, ammonium nitrate and muriate of potash (KCl) have greater foliar burn potential than do ammonium sulfate or potassium sulfate, and these N and K sources are commonly used when environmental conditions (high heat and humidity) are conducive to foliar burn.

Sports turf managers are placed in situations where quick plant growth response and recuperation are needed due to wear and/or damage to the turf from field use. Water soluble fertilizers can best meet this need. However, never lock yourself into a particular fertility program — consider interchanging water soluble and controlled release sources to meet both your needs and the turf's.

*Dr. Michael Goatley is an associate professor and agronomist in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences at Mississippi State University.*

# ROOKIES

## Wireless Control

SoloRain's 8010 and 8030 wireless battery powered programmable solenoids are waterproof, compact, quick to install and easy to program. The units are submersible in up to six feet of water. The latching solenoid design uses minimal electrical consumption, allowing the actuators to operate on a single nine-volt battery for one year.

The SmartZone EZ has been added to the controller line. In addition to being easy to program, it offers:

- a non-volatile memory, which stores the program without A/C power or batteries;
- three scheduling options — a seven-day calendar, one to 30 day interval, and odd/even scheduling;
- sensor connection with option to override;
- water budget option that reduces or increases watering five to 200%;
- three test cycles — manual with ManualAdvance feature, Cycle and 3 Minute Test;
- Select & Adjust programming that makes setting the controller easy.

**L.R. Nelson Corp.**

Circle Number 150 on Postage-Free Card

## Half-Rate Disease Control

A formulation that provides turf disease control at half the recommended rate of the original Subdue fungicide is now available. Subdue MAXX will be available to turf management markets in 1997 on a limited basis. It and other formulations will completely replace the original Subdue products by the end of 1998.

Subdue MAXX features an active ingredient, mefenoxam, that is twice as active as metalaxyl, the active ingredient currently in Subdue. An isomer of metalaxyl, mefenoxam is a more biologically active chemical compound.

The microemulsion concentrate:

- is clear;
- mixes completely with water because it is a highly stable liquid;
- doesn't crystallize or freeze;
- doesn't separate or settle in solution;
- doesn't clog filters, screens or spray nozzles;



- is less corrosive and abrasive;
- has little or no odor and a low potential for leaf-tip burn;
- is compatible in tank mixes with Banner MAXX, Sentinel, Primo and other turf protection products.

**Novartis**

Circle Number 151 on Postage-Free Card

## One-Step Playing Surface

The Diamond Demon, designed to get your sports field into shape with a



minimum of time and effort, is available in two models — Big League Model, with a six-foot width; and the Prep Model, with a four-foot width. It plows, pulverizes, drags and rolls the

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# THE FRONT LINES

## From Somewhere in the Zone

By Dave Ashman

Submitted for your approval. Meet Dave, a hard-working turf guy whose only mistake was he went to visit a friend in the ticket office. When turf people stray too far from the field, it can and often does get ugly.

### "Sorry, Wrong Number"

Dave had completed all of his work and went to visit a colleague in the ticket office. The game was winding down, and he knew his friend would not be very busy at that time. As he arrived at his friend's office, there was a small line of people buying tickets for future games. Dave's friend was the only person in the office, so she had to serve those people. After Dave sat a few minutes in the office, the phone rang. Dave's friend was still busy with customers, so he answered the phone for her.

The caller said, "Get lefty ready," and hung up.

Dave's friend asked who was on the phone, and he replied that it must have been a wrong number. A few minutes passed, and the line of people at the ticket window was getting longer. Dave's friend continued to sell tickets to future games. A moment later the phone rang again.

The caller said, "Get Q up," and then hung up. The voice was barely distinguishable over the background noise.

Dave's friend asked who was on the

phone, and he replied that it must have been a wrong number. A few more moments passed, and the phone rang again.

Dave picked up the phone, and the caller unleashed a tirade of colorful adjectives and metaphors. The gist of the message was to "get off your butt and start throwing."

By the time Dave asked, "Who is this?" the caller had hung up. Dave's friend asked who was on the phone, and he replied that it was some under-medicated person with a wrong number. Everyone in the line at the ticket window was served, and the two friends began to converse about the strange day. Then the phone rang again. Dave answered the phone.

The caller erupted into a rage, "How many [colorful metaphor] times do I have to [colorful adjective] tell you to get [color metaphor] Q warmed up?" and so forth.

Dave finally shouted into the phone, "Wait a minute! Who are you and what are you doing?"

The caller responded, "I'm the [colorful adjective] manager."

Dave tried to tell him he had a wrong number, but the caller advised Dave to stop [color metaphor] around and get the lefty ready. Dave told the manager there wasn't anybody in the office named Q.

"Well, who is there then?" demanded the manager.

"Just me and the woman who works here," Dave told him.

The caller erupted again, "Woman! Let me speak to her!"

Dave passed the phone to his friend. She said, "Hello," and then passed the phone right back to Dave.

The caller said, "I have just one question. Can she pitch?"

### Thanks

I would like to mention the names of the several people who contributed to the above, but they have requested anonymity. However, I do thank them and all others who have submitted stories and pictures to me. They are all great and I look forward to sharing them in this column.

One of the many benefits of joining an organization like the STMA is the interaction with the membership. It is always reassuring to learn you are not the first person to face a particular problem.

The concept of this column is to share experiences from members of the sports turf community. If you have a story or anecdote you would like to share, write it down (include your name and phone number) and send it to the following: Ashman & Associates, 3164 North Greenbrier Road, Long Beach, CA 90808.

### Rookies

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field in one simple operation. The operator can use all four functions, or three, or two, or just the roller.

The Diamond Demon features steel construction, a welded frame and sealed bearings on the axle shaft for long machine life.

All models carry a one-year limited warranty on parts and workmanship. Plows, tires and abused machines are excluded.

#### The Diamond Demon

Circle Number 152 on Postage-Free Card

### Improved Chipco

Chipco brand 26GT fungicide, an improved formulation of Chipco 26019

FLO, provides faster knockdown of brown patch and dollar spot. University trials show that it knocks them down up to 48 hours faster than the standard Chipco 26019 FLO. It also offers quicker turf recovery. In addition, Chipco 26GT controls a broad spectrum of turf diseases, including leaf spots, fusarium blight, gray and pink snow mold, and corticium red thread. It is a flowable formulation and is compatible with the same tank-mix partners as Chipco 26019 FLO.

#### Rhone-Poulenc AG Co.

Circle Number 153 on Postage-Free Card

### ReJeX-It Now

Since spring brings birds, now is the optimum time to apply ReJeX-iT products, which do not harm nuisance

birds. By using food-grade elements developed with testing from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal Damage Control and Denver's Wildlife Research Center units, the products have the ability to repel geese and other birds while being harmless to humans and other living creatures.

ReJeX-iT products are EPA approved, registered and are made from FDA GRAS (Generally Regarded As Safe) listed food-grade ingredients. They are biodegradable and meet the EPA's criteria for "Reduced Risk."

ReJeX-iT AG-36 repels geese and other birds from turf areas; TP-40 repels birds from bodies of water.

#### Martinson-Nicholls, Inc.

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