

CONNECTICUT CLIPPINGS

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President's Message

John Napier, CGCS
CAGCS President

Dear Colleagues,

As we go about our daily lives, we tend to become enmeshed in the challenges of career, family, and day-to-day activities. As spring is a time of renewal and new beginnings, it should also be a time to reflect on the needs of others and lend a helping hand. It may be difficult to think about "donating" after being hammered by telephone solicitors asking for money, after spending the day in mud up to your knees repairing a water main break, or after aerifying 18 greens. The concept of donating need not be only money—you can "donate" your time by volunteering to help out a worthwhile group or organization.

Personally, I was asked to help out a local cause called "Christmas in April". This program is about people getting together on one Saturday in April to make improvements in a home owned by an elderly or handicapped individual who is living on a fixed income.

At the time, I thought to myself,

(continued on page 3)

CAGCS adopts Bishop Woods School

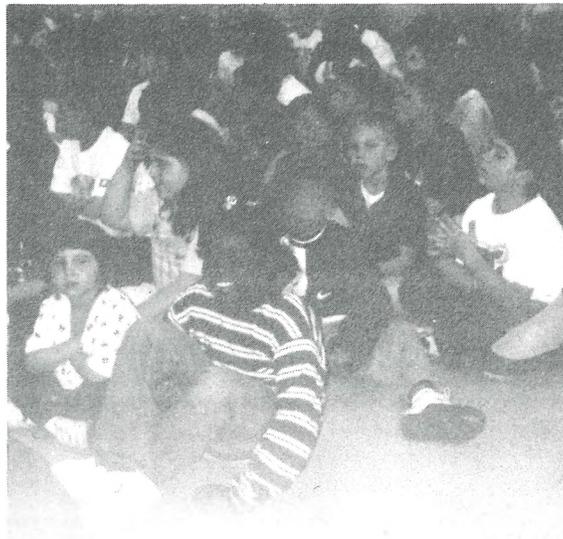
CAGCS has adopted the Bishop Woods School in New Haven, CT, to participate in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ACSP) for schools, an innovative environmental education program that helps students and teachers demonstrate environmental stewardship right at school.

Instead of field trips or environmental studies that focus on exotic places and wildlife species, the program provides information and guidance to help schools turn part of their grounds into nature areas that attract wildlife.

The program also encourages the school to develop an outdoor class-

room and adopt indoor conservation projects such as water and energy reduction and recycling.

Pictured here are students of the Bishop Woods School, grades K through 4, on May 9th attentively



listening to a presentation by Les Kennedy, Jr., CGCS, our Director of Governmental and Public Relations Committee.

The students' initial projects include building a butterfly garden and

installing bluebird houses around the perimeter of the property. Their goal is to become a certified sanctuary through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for schools.

(continued on page 2)



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"Bishop Woods School would not be able to take advantage of this unique program if it were not for the generosity of the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents."

Jean Lowery, Media Specialist for Bishop Woods School.

Bishop Woods' commitment to managing the school in an environmentally responsible manner."

"Bishop Woods School would not be able to take advantage of this unique program if it were not for the generosity of the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents" stated Jean Lowery, Media Specialist for Bishop Woods School.

CAGCS is proud to adopt the Bishop Woods School and assist them in setting up their program. We have "adopted" the school by paying its tuition for the year and helping its students in starting environmental projects as provided by the ACSP "Adopt-A-School" Program.

By joining and participating in the ACSP, the school will be involved in projects that further enhance wildlife habitat and conserve natural resources for the benefit of the local community,

while offering students engaging environmental education projects.

Future projects may include: placing nesting boxes for cavity-nesting birds such as bluebirds and purple martins, planting gardens to attract songbirds, conserving water and energy, and recycling solid wastes.

"The Cooperative Sanctuary System benefits both people and wildlife," said Mangum. "It's a great way for students to learn that they can have a positive influence on the environment. The program teaches them to work together to become responsible stewards of land and natural resources."

In addition to schools, the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System works with individual homeowners, businesses and golf courses.

(This article in part was taken from a press release of The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System.)

"By creating a sanctuary at the school, students learn that their environmental actions do make a difference," explained Lee Mangum, Manager of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System. "We welcome

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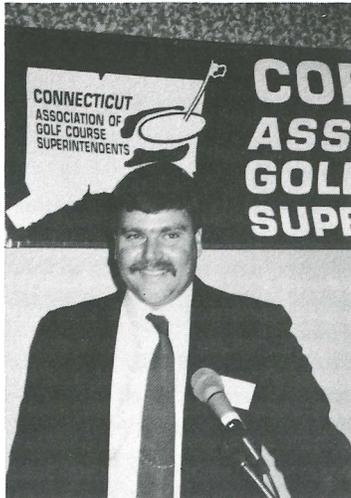
Connecticut Clippings is an official publication of the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents.

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*John Napier, CGCS
1997 CAGCS President*

President's message (continued from page 1)

"This is a very busy month for me, but I'll try it one year and that will be it." That was four years ago and I'm still involved in the program.

Not only that, but I've been the "house captain" for the last three years. I tell you this to let you know just how good volunteering your time can make you feel. After working on this

house for 11 hours and seeing the joy on the homeowners' faces when we were finished, I truly realized the value of being a volunteer—not only to help the homeowners, but for myself as well.

It was a wonderful experience to see a group of 25 to 30 strangers begin a project together, work hard and become friends by the end of the day.

There are so many worthwhile causes that desperately need volunteers such as Habitat for Humanity, reading to the blind, Meals on Wheels, working at homeless shelters, and Christmas in April. If you're the more athletic type, you can walk, run or climb stairs for a charity.

Volunteerism is vital to the success of our own association. We have committees that help the directors who are in charge of different areas of the association. Our association has adopted a school to help in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. Bishop

Woods school is located in New Haven and Les Kennedy, Jr., CGCS, Director of Governmental and Public Relations, is involved in our behalf. Think about the benefits of teaching young children the importance of our environment and the organisms that live in it. Showing children how to live their daily lives in harmony with nature are valuable lessons that can be learned, such as recycling, composting and respecting the world we all share.

Being a superintendent with responsibilities other than the golf course, I realize how important our spare time can be. However, try volunteering just once in something that interests you and see what a difference you can make in just one person's life.

I feel you will gain as much, if not more, than the person or organization you have helped. Volunteer! It can be a rewarding and personally satisfying experience.

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Earthworms in turf

by Dr. Steven R. Alm
URI Entomologist

Dr. Steven R. Alm was voted into CAGCS membership as an Honorary member at our annual meeting in November, and we were fortunate that he was able to be a speaker at our January Seminar.

We look forward to future articles from Dr. Alm for print in the *Clippings*.

This article is reprinted from the May issue of the Rhode Island GCSEA's newsletter.

Earthworms in turf

Earthworms are often abundant in turfgrass soils where their burrowing and feeding enhances soil fertility,

aeration and rates of water infiltration. Two-thirds of the total pore space in soil may consist of earthworm tunnels. Their feeding also aids in the physical degradation of plant litter. A lack of earthworms can result in soil compaction and excessive thatch.

Charles Darwin showed that as much as 18 tons of earthworm casts could be brought to the surface per acre per year; about equal to a uniform, 1/4" layer of soil being deposited annually (Potter 1995).

Considering these benefits, turf managers would be advised to conserve earthworm populations whenever possible.

Earthworms as indicators of ecotoxicity

There is a strong interest among environmental scientists and regulators in using soil organisms as indicators of soil quality.

Current regulations in several European countries demand data from tests on earthworms. Laboratory methods for studying sublethal effects and standardized field tests are being developed to improve understanding of potential adverse effects of pesticides and other chemicals.

These tests will provide information on the bioavailability of chemicals in soils. Bioavailability is the main factor determining effects on soil organisms.

There are three main

reasons why adverse effects of pesticides on earthworms may be important.

First, as mentioned above, worms play a major role in maintenance of fertility in most soils.

Second, reductions in worm densities will reduce the quality of habitat for their predators, who may switch to forage elsewhere, or may suffer impaired breeding success.

Third, the presence of toxic residues in earthworms poses a risk of secondary poisoning of predators. Predators higher in the food chain may be affected if the chemical has bioaccumulation properties (Greig-Smith 1992).

Earthworms and fertilizers

Excessive fertilization can increase thatch by increasing production of organic matter and by inhibiting decomposition. Ammonium nitrate at high rates can increase soil acidity, which can inhibit microbial breakdown of thatch. Ammonium sulfate can increase soil acidity even faster than ammonium nitrate.

Earthworms also tend to be sparse in acidic soils. Application of 5 lbs. of nitrogen per 1,000 ft.² per year for seven years resulted in a 50% reduction in earthworms and increase of thatch (Potter 1995).

Earthworms and pesticides

Turfgrass pesticides can have a dramatic impact on earthworm populations; for example, one application of the fungicide benomyl, or of the insecticides ethoprop, carbaryl or bendiocarb at labeled rates can reduce numbers and biomass of earthworms in Kentucky bluegrass by 60% to 99%. In some cases, significant effects lasted at least 20 weeks. The table on this page lists toxicities of several turfgrass pesticides to earthworms.

Table 1. Relative toxicity of turfgrass pesticides to earthworms based on mean reduction in population density in two independent field tests

(continued on page 8)

Toxicity	Common Name	Formulation	Rate (lbs ai/acre)	Class*
Low (0-25% reduction)	2,4-D	Dacamine 4D	2.0	H
	Trichlopyr	Garlon 3A	0.5	H
	Dicamba	Banvel 4E	0.5	H
	Pendimethalin	Pre-M 60 WDG	3.0	H
	Triadimefon	Bayleton 25 WDG	2.68	H
	Fenarimol	Rubigan 50 WP	2.68	F
	Propiconazole	Banner 1.1 EC	3.0	F
	Chlorothalonil	Daconil 2787	11.27	F
	Isafenphos	Oftanol 5G	2.0	I-OP
Moderate (26-50% reduction)	Trichlorfon	Proxol 80 WP	8.0	I-OP
	Chlorpyrifos	Dursban 4E	4.0	I-OP
	Isazofos	Triumph 4E	2.0	I-OP
Severe (51-75% reduction)	Benomyl	Benlate 50 WP	10.87	F
	Diazinon	Diazinon 14G	4.0	I-OP
Very Severe (76-99% reduction)	Carbaryl	Sevin SL	8.0	I-C
	Bendiocarb	Turcam 2.5G	4.0	I-C
	Ethoprop	Mocap 10G	4.98	I-OP

*H, herbicide, F, fungicide, I-OP, insecticide-organophosphate, I-C, insecticide-carbamate.

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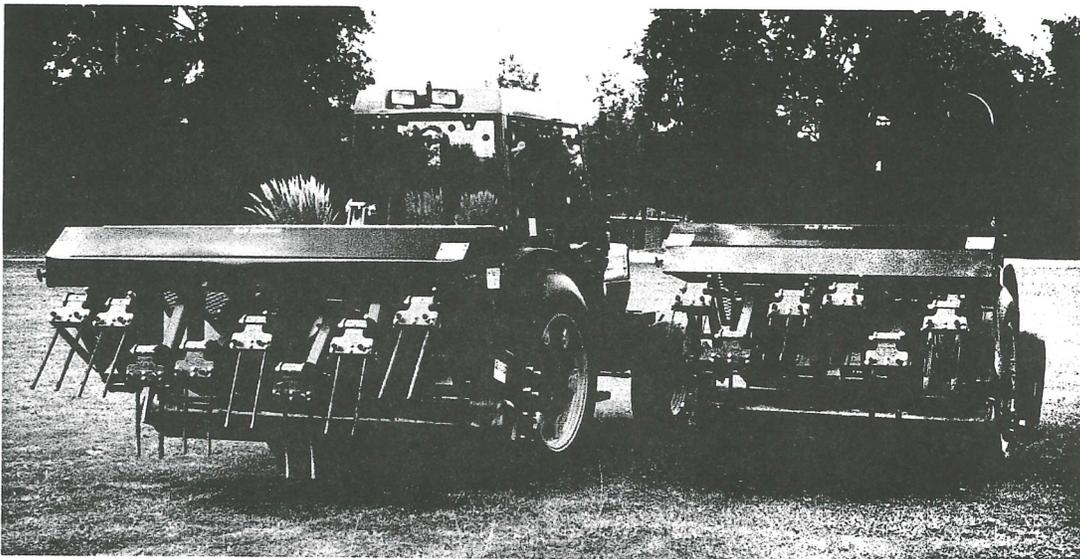
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Tri-State Turf Research Foundation

At the 1997 Rutgers University Research Symposium, representatives from the Tri State Turf Research Foundation presented funds for two projects underway at Rutgers. President, John Streeter, Vice-President, Timothy O'Neill, and Past-President Ed Walsh, attended the day-long symposium and made the following presentations:

* \$11,000 to a root-zone study being conducted by Dr. James Murphy. A total of \$55,000 will be awarded to this project over the next five years. This project is being co-funded by the USGA and GCSAA.

* \$10,000 to a project being conducted by Dr. Randy Gaugler for his work developing disposable fermenta-

tion equipment to produce insecticidal nematodes for the biological control of white grubs. A total of \$30,000 over the next three years has

been committed to this project. This project recently received matching funds from the GCSAA Chapter Cooperative Research Program.

Pictured above is Dr. Randy Gaugler being presented his first installment of \$10,000 by President, John Streeter, with Vice President, Timothy O'Neill, (far left) and Ed Walsh, Immediate Past President (far right).

The Tri-State Turf Research Founda-



tion is committed to the identification of turfgrass problems that exist in our region and support the research to generate environmentally friendly solutions and controls. Along with representation from CAGCS, the foundation is also governed by the Met GCSA, Long Island GCSA, New Jersey GCSA and Hudson Valley GCSA representing over 500 area golf facilities.

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June 17 - Monthly Meeting
Crestbrook Park Golf Club
Peter T. Cure, CGCS

July 8 - Monthly Meeting
Westwoods Golf Club
Kevin D'Amico, CGCS

July 19 - Annual CAGCS
Connecticut River Cruise

July 31 - Round One
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Monthly meeting golf results

April - Manchester Country Club (Par 72 — Built 1918)
 Host Superintendent: Gary Bryant

Long-time CAGCS member, Gary Bryant, has been the superintendent at the Manchester CC for 11 years. Gary describes the course as having two distinctive nines (one hilly and a flat nine). The course has 50-60,000 rounds of golf per year. Last fall, the 7th green was rebuilt and Gary is trying to implement a master plan for future construction. The signature hole is the par 3, 18th hole.

The golf tournament was a two-person best ball shamble, and the winners were:

Low Gross

- John & Kevin Kelley - 71
- Jud Smith & Mike Dukette - 72
- Peter Cure & Greg Stent - 72
- Closest to pin #5 - Paul Bonini
- Closest to pin #12 - Kevin St. Denis
- Longest drive - Greg Stent
- Closest to line #2 - Ron Holcomb
- Longest putt #2 - Dave Brownell
- Longest putt #18 Mike Streckfus

Low Net

- John Ruzsbatzky & Paul Bonini - 65
- Peter Pierson & John Motycka - 68
- Rick Schock & Ken Clear - 68
- Sean Moran & Scott Gennings - 70
- Wayne Urban & Dennis Houle - 70
- Steve & Dan Rackliffe - 70
- Jim Staszowski & Doug Stachura - 70

May - Pequabuck Golf Club (Par 69 — Built 1902)
 Host Superintendent: Peter Pierson

Peter, CAGCS Past President and currently serving as Treasurer, has been a member of CAGCS since 1978. During the past four years, Pequabuck has hosted two CSGA amateur qualifying, Father/Son finals, and a qualifying for the US Amateur Championship.

The May meeting's golf tournament was a low net/low gross tournament and also was the first round of the CAGCS Championship. It appears that our host superintendent, Peter Pierson, along with Les Kennedy, Jr., CC of Waterbury, Mike Dukette, LESCO, Inc., and Frank Savakis, Bruedan Corp., are leading the pack shooting 73, 74, and 75, respectively. The second round will be at our June meeting on the 17th at the Crestbrook Park Golf Club.

A Flight

- Gross Peter Pierson (73)
- Net Les Kennedy, Jr. (74-6-68)
- Greg Stent (76-7-69)
- Jim Staszowski (76-5-71)

B Flight

- Gross Scott Ramsay (80)
- Net Dick Cook (83-15-68)
- Sean Moran (87-18-69)
- Mike Sullivan (88-16-72)

C Flight

- Gross Tony Baviello (85)
- Net Dave Basconi (92-31-61)
- John Moran (96-33-63)
- Brian Skelly (95-28-67)

- Longest Drive - Greg Stent
- Closest to Line - Tom Fletcher
- Closest to the Pin #4 & #16
Les Kennedy, Jr.
- Longest Putt #10 - Jud Smith
- Longest Putt #17 Al Adaskaveg

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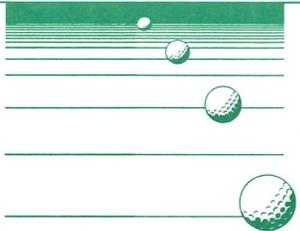
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Earthworms in turf

(continued from page 4)

(treatments were applied to Kentucky bluegrass in April and watered in, and earthworms were sampled using formalin drenches after 7-9 days) (modified from Potter 1995).

Short term effects of pesticides

A single application of diazinon, isazophos, benomyl, carbaryl, ethoprop or bendiocarb caused significant short-term reductions in earthworm numbers, the latter three by 90% or more (Potter et al. 1990). None of the herbicides (2, 4-D, trichlopyr, dicamba, pendamethalin) significantly reduced earthworm populations. And none of the fungicides (fenarimol, triadimefon, chlorothalonil, propiconazole) tested other than benomyl significantly reduced earthworm numbers one week after treatment.

Long term effects of pesticides

Five of the pesticides that caused the greatest reductions in short-term tests (bendiocarb, ethoprop, benomyl, carbaryl and diazinon) were evaluated for long-term effects (Potter et al. 1990).

Twenty weeks after treatment, earthworm numbers in plots treated with ethoprop, carbaryl, bendiocarb or benlate were still significantly reduced by 40%, 50%, 60% and 77% respectively.

However, there was a drought that occurred during this test. Earthworm populations did recover by the following spring.

In further tests, Potter et al. (1994) found that thiophanate-methyl and fonofos had the greatest adverse effect, reducing abundance of earthworms by 88% to 95% after three weeks. Syn-



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Earthworms in turf

(continued from page 8)

thetic pyrethroids, including bifenthrin, fluvalinate and cyfluthrin appeared to have relatively little toxicity to earthworms (Potter 1994).

What about the toxicity of new chemistry?

Merit (imidacloprid) sprayed at higher than standard rates had only a transient effect on earthworm populations (Pfluger and Schmuck 1991). Mach 2 (halofenozide) also appears to be relatively low in toxicity to earthworms (Rohmid, Tec. Bull.).

Summary

The carbamate insecticides carbaryl and bendiocarb, the organophosphates ethoprop and fonofos, as well as the benzimidazole fungicides benomyl and thiophanate-methyl appear to have the greatest adverse effects on earthworm populations in turf.

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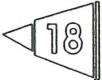
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Harsh reminder — happy ending!

by Mike Reeb, CGCS
Country Club of New Canaan

On a recent Saturday morning, sitting in my office contemplating plans for the day, I was unaware of a potential tragedy taking shape in our equipment staging area: one of my workers was fueling a hand greens-mower *while the engine was running*.

When the fumes ignited and the young man recoiled from the flash fire, more gas was spewed onto the mower, trailer, utility vehicle and ground. The five gallon gasoline can, still in his hands, also burst into flames.

Responding to frantic cries for help, all too familiar from my work with the town rescue squad, I ran outside to find a wall of flame obscuring equipment and employee.

Initially, I feared the worst, but relief

came an instant later when he appeared off to one side and the blaze was quickly brought under control with a fire extinguisher.

Duration of this incident: 30 seconds from flash point to fire knockdown.

Outcome: miraculously, the young man was not injured at all.

Potential outcome: serious injury, disfigurement, loss of life, destruction of equipment and buildings.

What happened here? Lack of common sense? Temporary lapse of good judgment? Flawed training?

It's remarkable to be able to reflect on this issue without the added burden of human suffering. Clearly, the equipment worked—a safety valve in the gasoline can prevented a devastating

explosion, and a fire extinguisher was readily available and operating properly. But safe thinking failed, resulting in a harsh reminder to supervisors and maintenance personnel: safety precautions need frequent reinforcement and should *never* be sidestepped.

Sharing this experience is intended to encourage thoughtful review of your own training and work procedures—never mind the happy ending!

Thank you, Mike, for contributing this article. All members are urged to share information and experiences.

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August 8th

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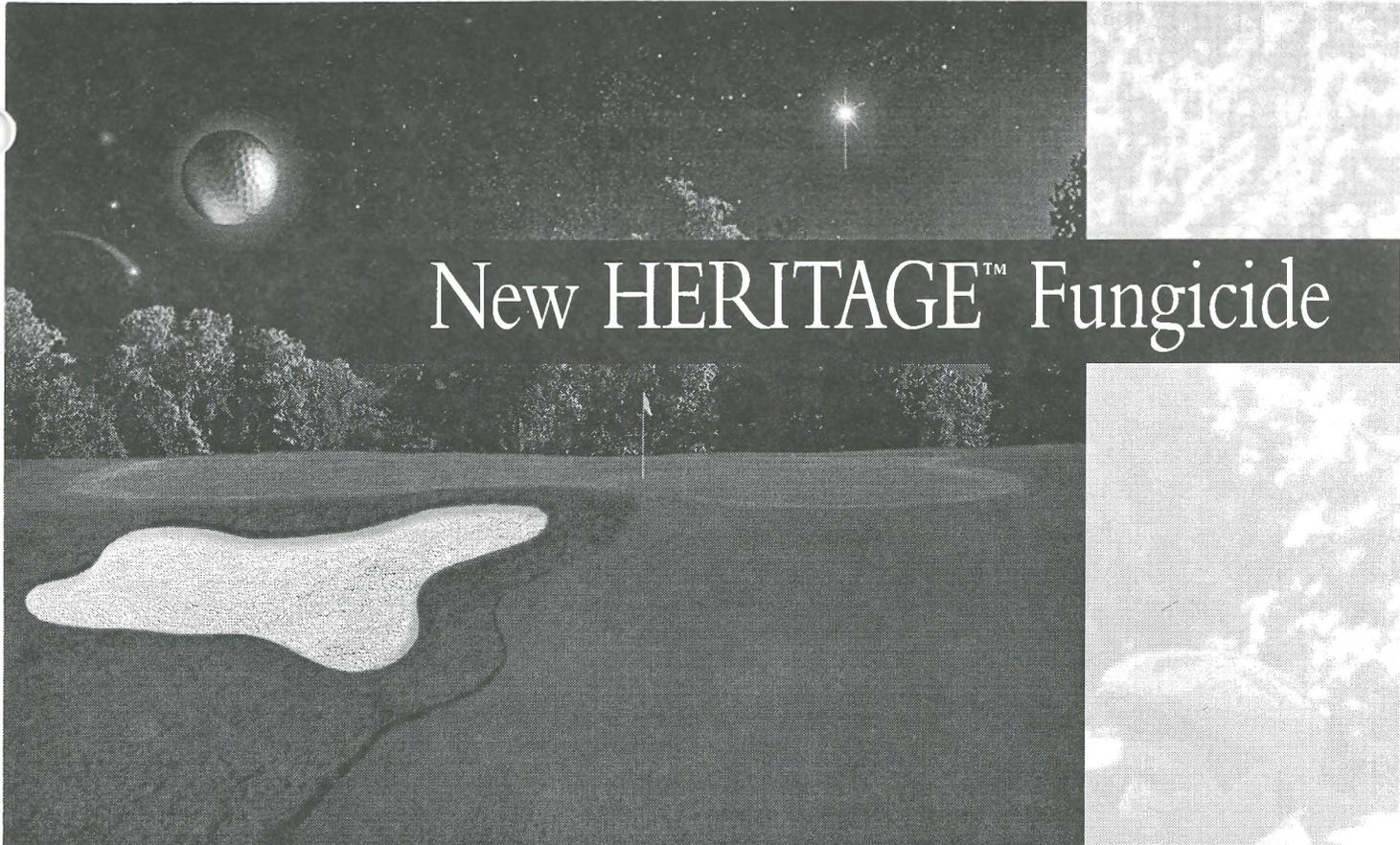
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