

Tea to Green

May 1981

Published monthly by the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association

Vol. XI, No. 4

COMING EVENTS

May 21	MGCSA Meeting, Quaker Ridge G.C. Green Chairman/Superintendent Meeting
June 3	Rutgers Turfgrass Research Day Adelphia Research Center, Halls-Mills Road Adelphia, N.J.
June 8-14	Westchester Classic, Westchester Country Club
June 23	MGCSA Meeting, Century Country Club Superintendent-Manager Meeting
June 24	University of Massachusetts, Field Day South Deerfield, Mass.
July 16	MGCSA Meeting, Edgewood C.C.
August	MGCSA Family Picnic, Woodway C.C.
August 25	MGCSA Joint Meeting with Hudson Valley, Waccabuc Country Club
August 26	Univ. Of R.I. Field Day, Kingston
September 24	MGCSA Invitational, Elmwood C.C.
October 14	Pro/Superintendent Tournament Old Oaks
November	MGCSA Annual Meeting
November 16-19	N.Y.S. Turfgrass Assoc. Conference & Trade Show, Albany, N.Y.
December 12	Christmas Party, Ridgeway C.C.

Our objectives are two fold — (1) to distribute funds on hand and (2) to plan for future fund raising and its distribution.

In conclusion, we need your input. Please send it to Robert U. Alonzi, Golf Course Superintendent, Fairview Country Club, 1241 King St., Greenwich, Connecticut 06830.

Bob Alonzi
Chairman, Scholarship Committee



Blue Hill Meeting. Frank Bevelacqua receives GCSAA recertification from GCSAA Director Bob Osterman.

Dear Member:

Last year, through the efforts of Billy Caputi, by way of Trip-to-Anaheim raffle tickets sales, our Association was able to establish a special scholarship fund.

Our Board of Directors has now formed a committee consisting of Billy Caputi, Craig Wistrand and Bob Alonzi to devise a plan for the equitable distribution of the collected funds to qualified applicants. In order to serve the membership best and to make certain that all qualified individuals are considered for an MGCSA scholarship, we ask you to advise us in writing:

1. if you have a child who will be seeking a scholarship;
2. if he/she is already enrolled in an accredited college;
3. his/her major;
4. if he/she is working towards a bachelor's or associate's degree.

Lastly, would you also advise us if you have a child planning to go to college who will be graduating from high school within the next twelve months.

BY-LAW CHANGES

At the recent membership meeting held on April 16, 1981 at Blue Hills, the proposed By-law changes were voted on by the attending membership.

After some discussion of the proposed change in Article IV section 1; a motion was made by Craig Wistrand of Round Hill, that the proposed changes in the By-laws be voted on in a block with the exception of Article IV section 1. The motion was seconded by Terry Boles of Bedford Golf and Tennis. Motion passed.

A vote was taken, and the by-laws were passed as the motion directed.

A motion was then made by Dennis Flynn of Wykagyl, that the membership vote on Article IV, section 1 as presented for



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change by the By-law committee. The motion was seconded by James Fulwider of Century. Motion passed.

The vote on Article IV, section 1 was 17 yes, 5 opposed.

All By-law changes as proposed by the By-law Committee were passed as presented to the membership.

—Peter R. Rappoccio
Secretary, MGCSA

This month we'd like to thank:

- Blue Ridge Peat Farms, Inc.
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for helping make this issue of *Tee to Green* possible.

WELFARE: Please contact Bob Alonzi, 203-531-8910 (office), or 203-531-1930 (home) regarding any hospitalizations, etc. of members of the MGCSA.

To: Turfgrass Personnel & GCSAA Chapter Secretaries
From: Palmer Maples, Jr., CGCS, Director of Education
Re: **GCSAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR 1981-82**

In accordance with our procedures to make scholarships available to students at the beginning of the school year, the due date for scholarship applications this year is June 15. The applications are reviewed, and the awards will be made in September.

Each year more and more students are seeking financial aid. For these reasons the competition for assistance will be great and we urge you to screen your applicants carefully.

Please note all applications must be postmarked no later than June 15. Those received after that date, as well as those that are incomplete, will not be considered. Because of the time involved in processing the applications, we cannot make exceptions to the foregoing.

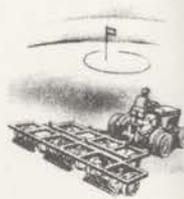
Photographs need not be sent in with the applications. These will be requested later of the scholarship recipients.

If there are other instructors at your institution advising students who might qualify for a scholarship, please share this material with them. If you need copies of the application, please request them from this office.

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Editor's Note: Our thanks to Dr. Ralph Engel for forwarding us this abstract highlighting items which he covered in his presentation at our March meeting on Water Conservation.

SOME AGRONOMIC DETERRENTS TO DROUGHT ON GOLF COURSES

A variety of long and short-range measures can reduce serious drought injury to the golf course. There is no way of knowing with certainty that a serious drought will occur. With drought, be prepared for the worst. Do not take chances with golf turf — especially greens. The following suggestions are no substitute for water, but some can reduce the severity of turf loss.

Use of Lime — Soils that are very acid and low in calcium are made more receptive to moisture with lime application. Lime gives other benefits, also. Applications of 1,000 and 2,000 lbs. per acre of ground limestone are appropriate. Fall application is best. While spring is not the best season, some of the more acid turf soils should still benefit from liming.

Nitrogen Fertilization — Minimal amounts of nitrogen are best when heat and/or drought stress is expected. Some spring turf areas may have acute need of nitrogen stimulation.



March meeting on Water Conservation at Westchester Hills. Left to right: Chuck Martineau, John Stoddard, Dr. Ralph Engel, Dr. William Dest, Sherwood Moore.

In such cases, use a nitrogen source that is low in slow-release nitrogen, and make the application as far in advance of hot weather as possible. When fertilizing in the warm months small applications of slow release nitrogen are usually best. An N-P-K fertilizer that has low phosphorus and moderately high potassium is best unless soil tests indicate otherwise. If potassium is required in warm weather, use the potassium sulfate source rather than potassium chloride. Except for earlier treatment, apply less than 1/2 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft.

I have always encouraged summer fertilization of bentgrass for this area; however, as long as the watering ban continues and rainfall is scarce, do not apply fertilizer after early May except for special reasons. With the earlier applications, time them with a fortuitous rain that will water the fertilizer in and stimulate the grass as much as possible prior to hot weather.

Disease Control — The importance of disease control increases during a water ban. Drought causes serious loss of turf by itself without allowing disease to have unhindered activity in those brief periods when rain and wetness occurs.

Also there are some dry weather diseases that should be preventable.

Cultivation and Topdressing — Growth of new grass plants is encouraged by cultivation and topdressing. Water penetration is improved, also. Late April to early May is an excellent season for this work. Of course, if watering is banned, this program must be timed with proper rainfall. Cultivation and topdressing in very early spring is questionable. Roughening of the surface at this season when the soil is still cold or cold weather follows may cause slow healing which is an ugly and annoying condition for the golfer. While late-spring early-summer and even mid-summer can be a desirable season for cultivation and topdressing, it is not worth the risk with inadequate moisture.

Use of Gypsum — According to theory, gypsum should relieve the compaction of sealed soil layers and permit better water penetration. A number of superintendents are of the opinion that it is helpful while others report no apparent results. Research data pro or con scarcely exists. However, an application of 1 ton per acre is not an expensive treatment and it may reduce water runoff on sites where sealed layers hinder penetration. If you use gypsum establish a treated and untreated comparison to help evaluate the value of future treatments.

Wetting Agents — Use of wetting agents is proposed enthusiastically by some for the purpose of increasing water efficiency. Most agree that they help reduce runoff with hard to wet surface conditions. Other benefits are questioned. It seems reasonable to use wetting agents where dry spots cause runoff and the turf is very slow to accept water. Again it is suggested that treated and untreated comparisons be used to help determine the amount of benefit.

Mowing Height — Closely mowed bentgrass gives better quality for golf. With raising the height of cut as a means of combatting drought and turf failure, the question of timing arises.

Raising the height of cut at an early date could prove to be unnecessary if the weather happens to give good rains that are well distributed. Little is gained by raising the mowers in the

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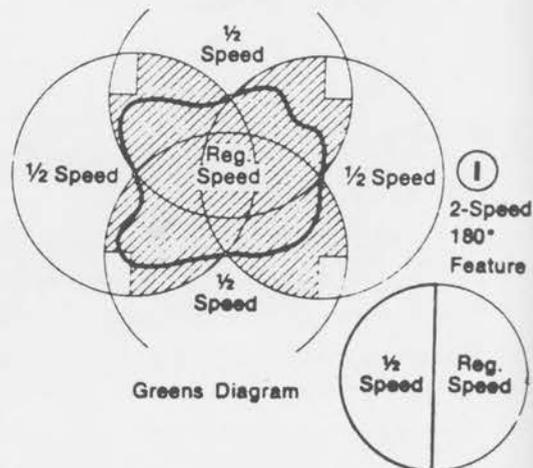
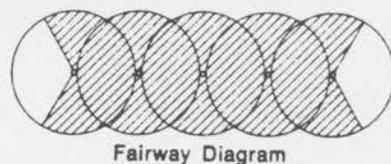
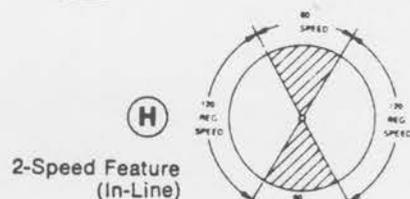
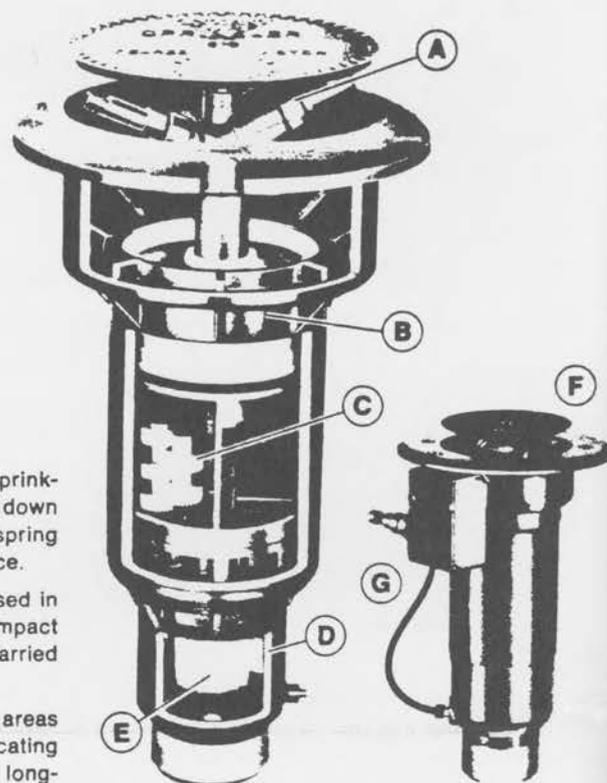
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cool moist weather of spring. Thus, mow the fairways, tees, and greens at the regular height as long as moisture is adequate. When serious drought is imminent, water is not available, and severe hot weather is at hand the mowers can be raised. At this time, hopefully, the grass would still have some reserves and the weather would not be hot enough to prevent the grass from making more growth. Increasing the height gradually seems best. This allows the day to day growth to remain. If possible avoid increasing the height above 5/16" on greens or 3/4 to 1" on fairways. Do not take off excessive green during warm or dry weather.

Some Cautions on Raising the Mowing Height — Cutting higher than the optimum height, even with official sanction of the club, will make many players unhappy. Hopefully, the golfers can be educated to accept the emergency policy of an abnormally high cut.

Also, the high cut must be lived with until the height can be lowered gradually with improved moisture and cooler temperatures.

Frequency of Mowing — When allowing bentgrass-type turf to grow longer with low nitrogen, the frequency of mowing can be decreased slightly, but avoid mowing large amounts of growth. Possibly, the number of mowings can be reduced from the regular 5-7 to 1-3 times per week with very slow growth. Also, confine mowing to the cooler hours of the day or week to avoid mower traffic injury.

Restrict Traffic — Losses of turf in dry hot weather are much greater with traffic. While banning the use of golf carts is not feasible because it is one of the quickest ways to lose your job, temporary and movable barriers can be utilized to keep traffic off wilt prone areas. Restricting traffic for brief periods can avoid killing sensitive turf that is drier, hotter, or subject to heavy traffic. Assign one of your better men to manage the traffic control barriers on a frequent and regular basis.

Watering — It is dangerous to have an inflexible watering procedure. Occasional deeper watering is usually required. This applies especially when the soil is dry underneath the surface root zone. Do not be afraid of frequent mist watering if

required to prevent wilt of bentgrass or annual bluegrass. Use of a sponge in a pan to show the evaporation rate will help indicate the danger of wilt.

Choice of Grasses — (1) Ask the good fairy for bentgrass as a replacement for annual bluegrass on the greens and tees; or (2) ryegrasses on tees and fairways will require less water than bentgrass and annual bluegrass.

Weed Control — Use the minimal amounts of herbicide on bentgrass annual bluegrass turf. The phenoxy's such as 2,4-D and mecoprop are often damaging to the roots of these grasses. With moisture stress, restrict the use of these chemicals as much as possible. If dandelions have become a nuisance in this type turf, apply 1/2 lb 2,4-D/acre with the hope of adequate control. If other weeds such as chickweed, clover and knotweed are present, add 1/8 to 1/4 lb of dicamba/acre. Avoid late spring treatment.

If clover, knotweed, and/or chickweed are troublesome and such weeds as dandelions and plantain are not present, omit the phenoxy. Apply 1/4 lb dicamba/acre before late May. This should give enough cool-weather for quick healing. Avoid clover and knotweed control in June or July as it often causes the weed patches to remain bare through the summer.

Ralph E. Engel
Rutgers University

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Presented to Ed Worthington

Ed Worthington has been involved with the turfgrass industry in New York State since 1935. He has been a strong supporter of NYSTA for many years and is known as "Uncle Ed" to many, many golf superintendents around the state.

Ed was born in Dansville, N.Y., October 2, 1909. Most of his early years were spent in Shawnee-on-Delaware, Pennsylvania. As a youth he worked and caddied at his grandfather's course — Buckwood Inn, now Shawnee Inn. It was here and

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in Stroudsburch, Penn. that the Worthington Mower Company began when his grandfather designed one of the golf course tractors and gang mowers for fairways and greens.

Ed began working for the company in 1933. He covered the southern states as sales representative. In 1934 he contracted tuberculosis and was sent to Trudeau Sanitarium in Saranac Lake to cure. In 1935 he sold his first Worthington Model B tractor to Loon Lake Hotel Golf Club (It was still being used in 1970!) He loved the Adirondacks and remained there after his health improved.

In the 1950's he sold golf course equipment and supplies in the Adirondack area in the summer and taught x-ray technology and radio theory in the winter. A few seasons with Sawtelle Equipment, owned by his cousin, and Resort Golf Supplies, operating out of the Catskills, convinced him he wanted to be self-employed. Since then, he has been traveling around Southern, Central, Eastern and Northern New York.

Ed's *Turfgrass Gazette* has become a familiar piece of turfgrass literature to his customers, industry, and university people in the Northeast. First sent out in April of 1960, the gazette has been full of helpful information and news about those involved within New York.

Ed has been a regular attendee at NYSTA conferences, first at Cornell, then as it moved around the state. He is active in four of our state's regional golf course superintendents associations. Ed has known many, many people in the turf industry over the years and his knowledge of the field is respected throughout the Northeast. He is one of the "grand

older men" in the industry and there are many turf managers in New York who have been helped along by "Uncle Ed" in their early days.

Editor's Note: This writer is one of those many turf managers who have been helped along by "Uncle Ed" way back since 1964. Thanks Ed.

Pat Lucas

Something to Think About . . .

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Insecticidal Evaluation for Hyperodes Weevil Control — 1980

by H. Tashiro

Department of Entomology, New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva

Introduction — Dursban[®] (chlorpyrifos) has been very dependable material for hyperodes weevil spring control when applied to turfgrass during the period from forsythia full bloom through flowering dogwood "full bloom". Further efforts were made for evaluation of Oftanol[®] (isofenphos). This is the most effective scarabaeid grub control material tested during the last 10 years and has the possibility for a single application controlling both pests.

Materials and Methods — Four fairway tests were treated on April 29, 1980 with Dursban as the standard and 3 arates of Oftanolplus the untreated checks. The four different sites were at Bonnie Briar C. C., Larchmont, Winged Foot G. C. (west course and east course), Mamaroneck, and Waccabuc

C. C., Waccabuc. Ten x 10 foot plots of 5 replications per treatment were laid out in Latin square design on fairways. Flowering dogwood was in "early bloom" during the date of treatment. Applications were made with a precalibrated Gandy spreader (Model 30H12) for the granular formulations and sprinkling cans for the liquids. None of the treatments were watered in immediately following treatment.

Each plot was sampled on June 11-13, 1980 by removing 5 plugs of 4.25 inch by 1-1.5 inch deep with a standard cup cutter. The 5 plugs were placed in a single plastic bag for transportation to Geneva for examination. They were held at 60°F until examined.

Summer retreatments were made to the very same plots yielding data in the spring at Winged Foot East (Table 1) and Waccabuc C. C. (Table 2). Since the spring Bonnie Briar and Winged Foot West plots had insufficient populations for results, two additional sets of plots were established on Bonnie Briar C. C. fairway 16 where damage was apparent from the spring brood. Treatment rates, materials, plot size,

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and replications were identical to the spring tests. Applications were made during July 7-9, 1980.

Results and Discussions — Only 2 of the 4 tests had sufficiently high populations in the untreated plots for meaningful evaluations. Untreated plots at Bonnie Briar 12 fairway averaged only .8 weevil and Winged Foot 9W fairway averaged only 2.8 weevils for every 5 plugs and were considered too low for analysis. In comparison untreated plots of Winged Foot 16E fairway averaged 23 and Waccabuc 6 fairway averaged 15.2 weevils for every 5 plugs, sufficiently high for meaningful evaluation.

As in past years, Dursban at 2 lb. active ingredient/acre rate was highly effective in controlling the weevil (Tables 1 and 2). It appears that it will require a 2 lb. rate of Oftanol to obtain satisfactory control (of at least 80%). However, where scarabaeid grubs (Japanese beetle, Asiatic garden beetle, Oriental beetle, European chafer, northern masked chafer, etc.) are also a problem on fairways, an Oftanol treatment would be far superior to Dursban because Oftanol will control both insects during the current spring with sufficient residues to control the next generation of scarabaeid grubs. It was learned during 1971, however, that a spring treatment with Oftanol is effective against the spring generation of the *Hyperodes* weevil but not against the summer generation. It appears that by the time the summer generation of the *Hyperodes* weevil requires control, the Oftanol residues are in the soil rather than in the *Hyperodes* target area, in and just above the thatch.

The summer treatments were examined a month after application during August 11-13, using identical techniques as in the spring. Unfortunately, *Hyperodes* populations were too low in all the untreated plots of all 4 summer tests to yield any meaningful data.

General Concluding Remarks for Field Tests — *Hyperodes* weevil control with Durban has been highly effective and dependable since research began with a single application of 2 lb. active ingredient/acre when made during a 2-3 week period from full bloom of Forsythia through the "full

bloom" of flowering dogwood. This period is generally from about mid-April into the first week in May in southeastern New York. Treatments towards the latter period have been slightly more effective than treatments towards the former period. Diazinon at 4 lb. A 1/A applied twice about a month apart mid-April — mid-May is also an effective treatment. These two materials are the only registered chemicals for *Hyperodes* control. Oftanol also shows sufficient activity at the 2 lb. A1/A rate. Its registration is highly desirable since a single application would control the white grubs as well. Registration for grubs is now expected in 1981 or 1982.

Control of the summer generation of the *Hyperodes* weevil is a little more difficult because timing of presence of adults is not as certain. Under most circumstances summer treatments should be made during the first week in July but only in areas of severe spring problems.



Meeting at Westchester Hills, 50-50. Tony Grasso wins. Center, Craig Wistrand; Mike Maffei, President at right.

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Blue Hill Meeting. Ed Walsh, Superintendent at Ridgewood is the 50/50 winner.

PROTECTING YOUR CREW FROM PESTICIDES

Pesticides are one of the worst health hazards involved in golf course maintenance. It is a superintendent's responsibility to make sure that the proper protective equipment is provided and worn by his crew. The following information is taken from GCSAA's *Pesticide Usage Reference Manual* available from Association headquarters in Lawrence, Kan.

Many superintendents are alert to the dangers present when applying pest control chemicals but overlook these equally hazardous situations:

1. Handling of containers in moving from transport vehicle to storage area or in rearranging containers in the storage area.
2. measuring, loading or mixing operations
3. disposal of empty containers
4. cleaning of equipment after use
5. laundering of contaminated clothing
6. personal cleanliness

Cotton, leather or canvas gloves or boots will absorb large quantities of toxic materials and provide a constant exposure to the skin. If organophosphorus or carbamate insecticides are involved, wear natural rubber gloves unless the container label specifically states otherwise.

Rubberized boots are generally preferred for protection against chemicals because they wear well and can be cleaned with soap and water. Disposable plastic boots and gloves should not be used because they may not be strong enough to stand the rough conditions of continuous golf course usage.

Workers need additional protection when opening containers, mixing chemicals and filling application equipment because these operations involve direct skin or lung exposure to the chemicals. Therefore, goggles or face shields, head coverings and respirators should be worn. A rainsuit or coveralls can provide maximum protection, especially when very toxic chemicals are being handled. Headbands or goggles and face shields should be replaced periodically since they are absorbent and are in direct contact with the skin and hair.

Maximum protection is needed when chemicals are being applied, and the type of protection is dependent upon the types of chemicals being used. In spraying operations, operators are often exposed to considerable hazard, because their clothing can become very wet. Waterproof rainsuits are recommended for the greatest degree of protection. If dusts or granular materials are being used, full-length coveralls are satisfactory. Both wet and dry applications require the use of respirators, gloves, boots, and head and neck covering for maximum protection.

A moderately high risk factor is involved in the cleaning of equipment after use. Workers often are eager to shed protective clothing as soon as they return to the maintenance building, especially on hot days when most pesticides are applied. Every effort must be made to prevent this since the normal splashing and spilling of contaminated water onto bare skin or clothing can lead to serious consequences.

Protective clothing suggested during clean-up includes: rubberized boots, rubber gloves, goggles or face shield, and waterproof suit or large rubberized apron. All clothing

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should be thoroughly washed with soap and water after each usage. This includes gloves, boots, coveralls, waterproof suits, etc.

The final safeguard is that of personal cleanliness — each person who has handled toxic chemicals must be instructed to wash or shower thoroughly as soon as possible after finishing his work. Failure to do so can produce tragic results, especially if the worker is unduly sensitive to a given chemical.

If all this seems unreasonable, bear in mind that you, as a golf course superintendent, are completely responsible for the health and safety of your crew.

—Credit: *Fore Front*

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*Keeper of the green,
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With determined force, —
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—Frank Paladino

GASOHOL: WEIGHING BENEFITS AND RISKS

Gasohol may help solve our energy problems, especially now that it has become more widely available, but fuel alcohols also have their risks, according to Clair Young, Ohio State University extension leader for safety.

Fuel alcohols, whether they are used straight or blended with gasoline, are Class I flammable liquids, Young says, and all fire codes and regulations pertaining to gasoline also apply to alcohols.

According to Young, a primary problem with gasohol is its high volatility. The addition of 10 percent alcohol to gasoline increases the mixture's volatility by as much as 35 percent. Most gasohol is a 90 percent-10 percent blend of gasoline and alcohol.

This results in increased vaporization in the fuel tank, which causes tank pressures to rise. This is especially critical in tractors where the fuel tank is located above the warm engine. Pressure may build to a point where fuel spews out when the tank cap is removed. Young recommends waiting to refuel until the engine cools and using a vented fuel tank cap.

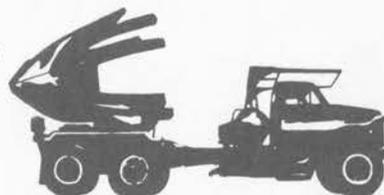
Another problem is alcohol's ability to absorb water. Even a dilute mixture such as gasohol can attack and destroy gaskets and fuel line fixtures, particularly those made of aluminum. Frequent inspections of gaskets, seals and hoses can catch dangerous faults, Young says.

—Credit: *Fore Front*

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