

# TURF COMMS



DEC. , '86

SPECIAL  
CONFERENCE

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

NOTES

**PURPOSE:** To pass on what we learn willingly and happily to others in the profession so as to improve turf conditions around the country.

**EDITORIAL COMMENT:** One of the things I most enjoyed reading as a USGA agronomist were conference notes sent out by the other USGA agronomist from around the country. So to soften the blow at billing time for next year I'm sending along this extra issue available to current subscribers only reporting on the Oklahoma Turf Conference held Nov. 12-14. These are "notes" and thus not guaranteed to be free of errors

**PESTICIDE RESTRICTIONS:** Dr. Nesheim, the Extension Pesticide Coordinator for the State of OK, noted that there was a good possibility that pesticides with a WARNING label might well soon have a label stating the need for a 24 hour period before reentry was permitted and that those pesticides with a DANGER label might well soon have a 48 hour reentry period.

Go look thru your pesticides and see how many have either of these words in bold letters on the label. Reentry restrictions will apply to workers and golfers.

**EQUIPMENT:** Paul McGinnis, superintendent at Union Hills Country Club, Sun City, AZ, emphasized one of my favorite tools to wake up a board of directors or green committee. He suggested superintendents get the board members to view the equipment. Spread it out for them someday. Put labels (5 by 7 inch cards) on each piece with: purchase price, present replacement cost, and purchase date or age if purchased second hand.

---

**TURFCOMMS is published at unpredictable intervals by the editor and publisher:**

**Douglas T. Hawes, Ph D  
Certified Professional Agronomist  
Specializing in Golf Course  
Maintenance Consulting**

**2408 Roundrock Trail  
Plano, Texas 75075  
(214) 867-0176**

**Subscription cost is \$10. Send checks to Doug Hawes at the above address.**

It soon will be time to start educating the new board. Read Charles White's article "Working Nine to Five" in the Nov./Dec. issue of the Record for more thoughts along this line.

**TRICALCIUM ARSENATE:** Dr. James Fickle, Mallinckrodt, Inc., spoke on tricalcium arsenate. He noted that they had been forced to reformulated Turf-Cal because of a distinct tendencies of the old product to: clump, sink to the bottom of spray tanks, harden like a brick in the container and otherwise not behave in a very satisfactory manner.

The new formulation has extended shelf life (still probably less than a year) and improved flowability. There is also less readily-available-arsenic in the new formulation and thus it has less tendency to burn turf. That was not a severe problem with the old product if used at the rates recommended.

Dr. Fickle reviewed Mallinckrodt's recommended program for tricalcium arsenate use. Here are the items that interested me: Below pH 6.0 there is increased availability of the arsenic. Above 7.8 the arsenic is tied up as carbonates. In light of that it was recommended that you not lime four weeks to either side of an arsenic application.

Thatch ties up arsenic. Also aerifier cores will bring up fresh arsenic free soil which if worked back into the turf will have the effect of diluting the arsenic concentration.

**SPRING DEAD SPOT:** Dr. Ned Tisserat, a plant pathologist from Kansas State Univ., discussed Spring Dead Spot (SDS), a disease of bermudagrass. He reported isolating a *Leptosphaeria* species of fungus and being able to reinoculate and cause the disease with the isolate. He noted that Midiron is showing resistance. That Rubigan at 1 to 2 oz in September will be labeled for control next year.

Dr. Lucas of North Carolina has been reporting control of SDS with Tersan 1991 at 8 oz applied in October.

Banner a Ciba-Geigy product has been found effective by Dr. Tisserat.

**NEMATODES:** Mark Andrews of the OK State U. Plant Pathology Diagnostic Lab. reported that they run nematode test for \$5/sample. Also that Dasanit has been effective for use on greens along with Nema-cur, the old standby.

Don Armstrong of Colonial Country Club, Ft. Worth mentioned in a private conversation that he had treated for nematodes 4 times in the last 2 years. He felt that treatments really helped but did not solve all his problems managing small bentgrass greens under heavy play thru a Texas summer.



ZOYSIA: Dick Stuntz of Alvamar reported finding that aerification with breaking up and working in the cores was the best approach to thatch control. Amen! He also reported that vertical mowing and removing of debris causes two problems - 1. slow recovery and 2. how to get rid of many cubic yards of thatch.

He has found it necessary to treat for grubs in late summer. He is putting on a lot of potassium on his zoysia also, 1 and 1/2 lb. of N/M/yr except where he has heavy wear. In wear areas he is VERY SELECTIVELY fertilizing with up to 8 lb.N/M/yr. Beware of thatch were his parting words.

RUBIGAN: A Panel - J.C. Banks of Elanco noted that the company was not sure why the results in controlling *Poa annua* with this product have been so erratic. He did stress that the fact that it was a growth regulator helped explain its erratic behavior. He noted his own success and others with 2-3 ounces of the product per thousand square feet on overseeded bermudagrass greens. In that situation it must be applied prior to seeding in mid-October for success. Use either one application or split applications starting in mid-September.

Harold Neal spoke of 1984 Elanco research on four of his greens. He said they still were seeing control of *Poa* from those 1984 applications. He spoke of losing more *Poa* than he could stand for awhile from those fall applications. He found bentgrass growth was slow to not at all for months after the applications.

Mike Wooten now superintendent at Cedar Ridge, Tulsa found a 3 oz. rate took out 85% of the *Poa* at his former golf course and turned the bentgrass purple while stunting it. Claimed he hardly had to mow for 3 months. I think this was an early spring application.

Rick Barnett superintendent at LaFortune, Tulsa (see TURFCOMMS V. 2, I. 7 ) spoke of losing 2 greens because he had more *Poa* than estimated and didn't have enough bentgrass after *Poa* removal.

Rick was the only one to report a reduced incidence of Goosegrass on treated greens when the panel was asked about this from a member of the audience.

Elmer Fugate of Kicking Bird in Edmond, OK, claimed to not get control at 1.2 oz after a 0.4 oz application on a limited area.

Bud Best, superintendent in charge of the famous Oak Tree Golf complex, reported on his results on new Cohansey greens. Two out of nine greens treated turned a bluish cast and stopped growing for about one month after 0.5 oz applied May 16th following an earlier 0.5 oz application made without problems on the same greens April 16. This reaction combined with *Pythium* on the collars of some of the treated greens the next March scared him away from Rubigan use as a *Poa* control chemical.

It was generally concluded that you might well expect stunting on bentgrass greens from the 2 to 3 oz needed for Poa control. Stunting might last 1 to 2 months from spring use and all winter from fall use. None observed improved rooting.

TREES: Dr. John Pair, KS State Horticulture Researcher, gave a good talk on the effects of trees on the golf course. For pluses he listed the creation of: challenging shots, shade for the golfer, and aesthetics. On the negative side he listed root competition for the grass, restricted air movement, and shade weakened turf.

He noted that we often create a corridor for the golfer to play down with trees. That caused me to think of Southern Hills and Kansas City C.C., on both of these courses I have tried to play down their tree lined corridors with not much success.

He also noted that a lot of courses are named after trees. (more than I realized - run thru a list and see).

Some new trees he suggested for the greater Oklahoma area: Chinese Hackberry, has shiny foliage, smooth bark and is good for city conditions, this one is still being looked at by research. Saw tooth oak, from Korea, likes clay soil and has good drought tolerance. Shingle oak also has similar properties. He feels the thornless male osage- orange is a tree worth looking at. Russian fruitless mulberry he notes has nice form. Flowering crabapples, he notes some do not drop their fruit and thus are not messy in fall but actually look pretty after the leaves fall off with fruit on them.

Dr. Paul Mitchell, OK Extension Hort. Specialist, talked about tree maintenance. His most important steps start with 1. select correct tree, 2. train tree toward goal in mind during the first 3 years after planting. 3. most training should be done in growing season.

Fertilizing - single best time is 10 days after fall frost. Best nitrogen source he feels is urea. He recommended 1 pound of N/1000 square feet of canopy cover. But, suggested you should ignore that area close to the trunk. He said ignore that inner are 1/2 the radius of the canopy out from trunk, but go out that distance again from drip line to insure putting the fertilizer where the feeder roots are.

CHEMIGATION: Dr. R. V. Sturgeon, retired OK pathologist, now research consultant, talked about chemigation. Chemigation is use of the irrigation system to apply pesticides. His work has been mostly with big circle irrigation and fungicides. He reported that it works well because where you have more water you have more fungicide applied. The higher disease incidence common to excess water situations is thus effectively treated.

END