



CHIPS & PUTTS

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DEP Urges All Courses to Permit

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has mandated that all counties under drought emergency must first apply for and receive water usage permits before any water may be used for irrigation purposes. Should Northern Tier counties currently under a drought "watch" label be classified as drought emergency counties at any time, you will not be permitted to use any water for irrigation purposes until you have been granted a permit. There is no grace period involved. Permits will be effective for a period of three years. For more info: www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/subject/hetopics/drought/ or 1-888-457-6653.



TOM WILCHAK TO HOST APRIL MEETING

On April 22, 2002, the Pocono Turfgrass Association's spring meeting will be held at the Bethlehem Golf Club. The course is owned and financed by the city of Bethlehem and was built in 1956. This Gordon design plays to a length of 7,017 yards and a par of 71. The 325-acre property features 18 championship golf holes and an additional 9-hole minia-

ture course, which measures 2,600 yards. The land also features a driving range for its patrons and for winter activities, an ice skating rink.

The turf types on the course consist of bent/*poa annua* greens which is standard on a mature course and a blend of ryegrass, bluegrass, and *poa annua* for the tees and fairways. The rough remains consistent with the rest of the course and has primarily the same varieties of grass as the tees and fairways, but also includes fescue.



President's Message.....

All right, I am about to go on a rant here, but before I do, I want to thank the Board of Directors. We had a very productive meeting on March 13, 2002, at Big Daddy's. I left that meeting feeling that the PTGA is headed in the right direction. Now onto my soapbox.

While at the PA Allied Hospitality Suite, I had numerous conversations with many superintendents and other professionals within the industry, but one conversation has bothered me since I returned from Orlando. While this conversation was not one on one, I felt as if it was directed towards me, being president of the Pocono Turfgrass Association. Someone within the industry made the comment "we need to get the Pocono on board." Now, I am going to accept responsibility for not questioning what that comment meant. After reflecting on it, I must take offense to it, because it was brought up again to our Past Vice President in Pittsburgh. I'm going to assume this individual meant we need to contribute more money to research, or could it be more involvement in a particular association. Well, excuse me, but I got involved with this association for one reason—to help the members of the association—period. I'm sorry if we are not doing enough for someone's research project or are not helping to fund a new building. Some of the superintendents in this area cannot get their club to pay for their dues! How and why should this membership put other interests first? We are going to continue to work on a self-sustaining scholarship for our members and continue to work towards more affordable meetings.

I see that I have taken a lot of room for something I should have handled right away. So for that I am sorry. Next month I will finish my original plans for this article (GCSAA or not?) and hopefully, have an update on my earlier rant. Thanks for reading while I vent. 'Till next time....

Gene Huelster

From the Editor's Desk.....

The head feather ruffler (see President's Message) told me that you know you are following a worthwhile journalistic trail when you foment a response from your audience (yes, those exact words). Apparently, that occurred with last month's article concerning soil analysis. If there is anything that this profession has taught me, it's that there are 100 different ways for 100 superintendents to do their jobs, and none of them are incorrect. Everyone is in search of the "big panacea" for turfgrass management, and we are all willing to try anything if we feel it gets us closer to that ideal. I don't intend to write gospel, I just try to report what I find interesting and helpful. Next moth.... "Purveyors of Serpent Suds: Uncovered."

Eric Reed



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DRIVE HERBICIDE

(Editor's Note: The purpose of this article is not to endorse the use of this product, rather to educate turf managers about the research findings of this postemergent herbicide formulation.)

Drive (quinclorac) is the most recent addition to the postemergent herbicide arsenal. Drive has been a good-to-excellent post crabgrass herbicide. The recommended label rate of Drive is .75 lbs. ai/A. Ohio State University research has shown that young crabgrass can usually be controlled with rates of .25 to .50 pounds ai/A. Most consistent and reliable results will occur at the .75 rate where Drive is being applied under a range of environmental and landscape site conditions, and where crabgrass may be in various maturity stages. Drive efficacy does not appear to be as sensitive to soil moisture as Acclaim or Acclaim Extra. However, the label recommends applying Drive when soils are moist. Drive can be applied in combination with broadleaf herbicides. Drive also exhibits some broadleaf herbicide activity, especially on legumes like black medic and clover.

Drive's rate of kill is rapid, with crabgrass kill usually occurring within one to two weeks after an herbicide application. Young crabgrass may turn brown and die within one week. Drive activity is obviously more rapid than Dimension or Acclaim. Research showed that Drive provided excellent early postemergent crabgrass control and good-to-excellent late postemergent control. Drive efficacy was somewhat variable at the intermediate crabgrass maturity stage. There are other research trials and field observations to suggest that Drive efficacy at the intermediate crabgrass maturity stage may be somewhat weaker and/or variable. The authors suggest avoiding or delaying Drive applications on intermediate crabgrass to a later maturity stage. This approach should work effectively because Drive appears to be more efficacious on more mature crabgrass than on intermediate maturity crabgrass.

Drive is considered in the agricultural literature to have both foliar and root activity and is used in some crops as a preemergent herbicide. It has not performed well as a reemergent herbicide in turf due to perhaps soil biomass interactions not encountered in agricultural systems. In fact, our research indicates Drive is predominantly a foliar herbicide in turfgrass. Several research results that support its foliar activity include:

- Irrigation applied shortly after applications significantly reduced efficacy.
- The addition of surfactants has significantly improved efficacy. Some surfactants enhance Drive's efficacy more than others do.
- Watered-in applications in OSU research have resulted in poorer efficacy than applications that were not watered in.
- A period with no rain of 6 to 12 hours was necessary to ensure acceptable control.

Therefore, Drive herbicide should be used as an herbicide that's absorbed through the leaves. Here are application techniques to insure maximum absorption:

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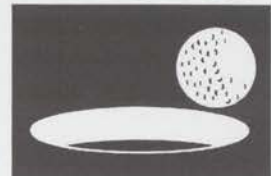
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(Continued from page 3)

- Apply when crabgrass is actively growing.
- Apply when soil moisture is adequate.
- Provide adequate spray contact/spray coverage using an appropriate water volume.
- Mow high grass before application to ensure the herbicide contacts the leaf surface.
- Use a surfactant. Best choices are methylated seed oil or crop oil concentrates.
- Avoid irrigation or rainfall within at least 6 to 12 hours after application (most labels call for 24 hours).

In tolerance studies, Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue, and perennial ryegrass exhibited good-to-excellent tolerance to Drive. Finer grasses are less tolerant. Creeping bentgrass is sensitive to Drive herbicide with discoloration (primarily yellowing) occurring at rates of .5 to .75 lbs ai/A. Higher rates will not only discolor bentgrass but cause thinning.

Lower-cut crabgrass appears more sensitive to Drive, resulting in acceptable control at lower rates. Superintendents using Drive at half-rate or less can reduce discoloration and still get acceptable control.

Sprayers must be operated carefully to eliminate overlap rates, and at constant speeds to ensure proper application. It is suggested Drive not exceed one-half the recommended rate on creeping bentgrass.

In seedings, Drive herbicide can be used for postemergent crabgrass control with Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, and tall fescue at 30 days after emergence or beyond. Fine fescues are more sensitive to injury than other cool-season grasses. Drive will effectively control or severely stunt mature crabgrass, favoring the competitive edge of the desirable grass. It also provides some control or suppression of a variety of broadleaf weeds. It is

(Continued on page 6)





DROUGHT CONCERNS DOMINATE SUPERINTENDENT CONVERSATIONS.

By Darin S. Bevard

The major topic of conversation throughout much of the Mid-Atlantic Region is the dry conditions that continue to persist, especially in the eastern half of the region. Flow levels for many of the rivers, streams, and creeks in Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania are much below normal. Some examples: flow of the Potomac River was 82% below normal for January, and the Susquehanna River flow into the Chesapeake Bay is at its second lowest level since record keeping was initiated in 1937. Additionally, many reservoirs are at levels equal to or below levels recorded in the 1999 drought. With no considerable snow pack for the spring melt, this is a serious situation.

To date, Delaware is in a drought warning with voluntary water restrictions. Drought restrictions in Maryland are imminent. In Pennsylvania, all but six counties are under some sort of drought restrictions. Virginia is also very dry. Superintendents and course officials alike need to communicate the severity of the situation to their clientele and work to meet regulatory requirements. Unless unprecedented rainfall occurs between now and June, golf course superintendents will be significantly impacted. Less than perfect turf conditions will need to be tolerated. Cart restrictions should also be considered. Now is the time to communicate the potential problems, not when the hotter, summer weather arrives!

On another note, the warm weather has superintendents in a three point stance just waiting to get to work on the golf course. Do not rush things; while the above normal winter temperatures may cause some slight differences, in the overall scheme of maintenance, they will be minimal. The earlier course conditioning can be implemented, the happier the golfers. Do not start too early or course conditions may suffer rather than be improved.

As always, if the agronomists of the Mid-Atlantic Region can be of assistance at all, you can contact Stan Zontek (szontek@usga.org) or Darin Bevard (dbevard@usga.org) at 610-696-4747 or Keith Happ (khapp@usga.org) at 412-341-5922.

SPRING HAS SPRUNG?

By Stan Zontek

Has spring arrived? In the USGA Green Section's Mid Atlantic Region, it is a question people ask daily.

Of all the operations superintendents need to schedule at this time of year, the application timing of preemergent herbicides for crabgrass control are critical. In order to be effective, the products need to be applied to the surface of the ground prior to the germination of the crabgrass seed. Normally, there are all sorts of indicators as to when to apply preemergent herbicides. One of the most used (and most inaccurate) is the flowering of forsythia. With the weather we have experienced this year, forsythias were flowering in January!

Nonetheless, the normal guideline is to apply preemergent herbicides sometime between the middle of March and the middle of April. Obviously, in this region, there is a difference between the eastern lowlands around the Chesapeake Bay and the mountains of western Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. In any event, it is time to start thinking about these applications, especially in the Eastern Mid-Atlantic Region.

Compounding this timing has been the dry weather and mandatory water use restrictions for golf courses. It may be wise to apply a preemergent sooner versus later. Most preemergent products must be activated by water. We may be looking at an earlier timing this year than normal.



(Continued from page 4)

more efficacious and safer than other postemergent annual grass options. For example, Acclaim will stunt and can severely injure young seedlings of cool-season grasses. Drive can be an interesting new tool for annual grassy weed control in spring and summer seedings.

Postemergent Treatments for Crabgrass Vary in Effectiveness by Dr. John R. Street and Pam J. Sherratt, *Turfgrass Trends*, Section 2, Volume 11, Issue 3, March 2002.

(Continued from page 1)

The superintendent is Thomas Wilchak. Tom is entering his eighth season as golf course superintendent and is assisted by 10 full-time and 10 part-time employees during peak months. Prior to Mr. Wilchak's current position, he was the superintendent at Kennett Square for two years, after being in the assistant's position for two years. Tom was also an assistant in New Jersey at a golf club named Fiddlers Elbow. He is a graduate of the Delaware Valley College with a 4-year degree in Ornamental Horticulture. Over the years Tom has developed a goal-oriented staff with a general work philosophy to be honest and show respect for a hard day's work.

When not maintaining the golf course, Tom enjoys spending quality time with his wife of 11 years, Jane. They complete their family with 2 daughters, Jill and Taylor, and a son Zachary. As a hobby, the outdoors rank very high in Tom's life and fishing is a close second. He and his family also spend a great deal of time in the Buffalo area of New York visiting family members.

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A message from your golf course superintendent and GCSAA



WATCH YOUR STEP



A team of researchers from the Medical College of Ohio has discovered that Canada geese may pose a more serious public health threat than previously believed. The geese, which often congregate in large numbers on courses, are known for the mess they make.

It is not uncommon for each goose to produce up to a half pound of fecal matter per day, and this is where the danger lies. According to the study, those droppings often contain parasitic microorganisms that cause gastrointestinal illnesses. Among the parasites are Giardia and Cryptosporidium, which was responsible for the death of 100 people in Milwaukee, Wisconsin eight years ago.

Dr. Brian Harrington, one of the study's authors, says the parasites are found throughout the country and are primarily transmitted via hand-to-mouth contact. While they may cause only minor stomach irritation to healthy individuals, Harrington warns that in cases where the individual is elderly or has an already compromised immune system, infection can be fatal.

The Medical College of Ohio is urging routine testing for the parasite in course maintenance workers and in golfers who are exposed to geese droppings and suffer characteristic intestinal problems. They are also asking that workers wear protective clothing and wash thoroughly after work.

"People should take precautions where ever possible," Harrington says. "Washing equipment and hands is very important because the parasites are highly resistant to disinfectants. The parasites can become imbedded on shoes and transmitted to people who themselves have not even visited a golf course."

Golf Journal, October 2001

PTGA MEETING SITES FOR 2002

<u>Month</u>	<u>Golf Course</u>	<u>Date</u>
April	Bethlehem Golf Club	22nd
May	Available	
June	Windsor Heights	10th
July	Skytop	9th
August (Joint Meet)	Lehigh C.C.	12th
Sept. (Clambake)	Blue Ridge Trail	17th
October (Elections)	Available	
November	Available	

We still have some meeting dates available. Please contact Tony Grieco at 610-866-6305 if you are interested in hosting a meeting—especially May!!



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POCONO ROUNDUP

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE POCONO
TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

PATTERSON SCHOLARSHIP



The Pocono Turfgrass Association is now accepting applications for the Patterson Scholarship. The deadline for the application is May 1, 2002. The following is a list of guidelines for all individuals interested in applying for the scholarship.

- Applicant must be a second year student in a two-year program, or a fourth year student in an undergraduate program. Preferably enrolled in a turf program. However, the student may be enrolled in a non-turf related program.
- The applicant must either be a member of the PTGA, employed by a member of the PTGA, or an

immediate family member being a member of the PTGA.

- Applicant must submit in writing why he/she should be considered for the scholarship.
- Applicant should include what he/she feels that his/her contributions to the turfgrass field will be. If the applicant is enrolled in a non-turf related program, he/she must explain the ties to the turfgrass field.
- Applicants must submit a letter of endorsement from his/her employer or family member associated within the turfgrass field.

Applicants requesting consideration for the Patterson Scholarship should send requests to:

Duane Schell
Scholarship Committee Chairman
Blue Ridge Trail Golf Club
260 Country Club Drive
Mountaintop, PA 18707



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