

Connecticut Clippings

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July/August 2006



VENDORS SETTING UP EARLY ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 21, 2006 AT THE UMASS TURF FIELD DAY.

Photo credit Gary Sykes, Executive Director NERTF

IN THIS ISSUE...

- President's Message.....2
- Pace IPM Photo Contest.....3
- Schedule of Events.....4
- Umass Turfgrass Pathologist.....5
- Umass Extension.....5
- Grasscatcher.....6-7
- June Meeting Results.....8
- Dr. Nathaniel Mitkowski.....9-10
- Water Quality Data.....11
- Umass Update.....11



Keith Angilly, President

The President's Message

Connecticut State Golf Association. I attended this meeting at Woodbridge Country Club and had a very good time. I feel that it is very important to maintain a close relationship with the CSGA; because this group is exactly the people we need to communicate the value of our experience and professionalism to.

The Tournament was very well run and while we weren't in danger of setting any course records, we had a good time.

Attending events like these are important not only for board members, but every member of our Association. If you are invited to an outing or meeting of an allied association, this is an excellent opportunity to improve the way we are perceived, one person at a time. I hope all is well with you and your family this summer and I look forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming Association events.

Another group we have reached out to is the Connecticut Club Managers Association. On July 10th, John Garcia, Peter Gorman, Chad Esposito and myself, attended their "Swing for Charity Golf Tournament", which we also sponsored as an Association. I would like to thank my playing partners for stepping up and representing their Association.

Thanks and good luck,
Keith Angilly
President, CAGCS

This time of the year, our activities on the Board take a back seat to keeping our turf alive. But that doesn't mean that there is not anything going on. On Thursday, July 6th I was invited to attend the Mid-Year Meeting of the

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**PACE IPM PHOTO CONTEST
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How do you teach your crew to recognize the symptoms of turf stress? How do you demonstrate your improved turf conditions to your club manager? And how do you explain to members the importance of the turf management practices you use on their behalf?

Let a picture do the explaining for you.

Good photographs can be worth much more than a thousand words. Because pictures can depict, educate and persuade so well, digital photography is one of the major innovations of the past 10 years that can really help you on the job. To encourage turfgrass professionals and students to use their digital cameras more effectively, Drs. Wendy Gelernter and Larry Stowell, research directors of PACE Turfgrass Research Institute, announce the creation of the PACE IPM Photo Contest. Photo submissions must be uploaded at www.paceturf.org

between the dates of July 5 and September 15, 2006; winners will be announced October 1, 2006; and all photos submitted (winning or not) will be made available at www.paceturf.org at the PACE Photo Gallery, a digital photo library that is open to the public free of charge.

Photos entered into the contest must illustrate a turf IPM topic, concept or practice. Gelernter and Stowell will judge photographs based on subject matter, their value as an educational or informational tool, and on good photography basics, such as composition, lighting, focus and clarity of image.

"Even if you are new to photography, enter this contest," Dr. Gelernter says. On the PACE website, Gelernter and Stowell have made free information available about how to take effective digital photographs.

Each photographer may submit only one digital or scanned photo in jpeg (.jpg) format by registering at the PACE website at www.paceturf.org and logging in to the PACE Photo Gallery no later than

September 15. Full contest instructions are also available at the PACE website.

Three winners will be selected. The first-prize winner will receive a Canon Powershot A700 camera or a \$300 gift certificate; second prize is a gift certificate for \$200, and third prize is a \$100 gift certificate, all from 47th Street Photo.

All photos submitted for the PACE IPM Photo Contest will be made available at www.paceturf.org in the PACE Photo Gallery and may be used by any interested person for non-profit educational purposes.

PACE Turfgrass Research Institute (PACE) is a membership organization that provides research, education and information services to the turf management community. Founded in 1993 by its research directors Wendy Gelernter, Ph.D. and Larry Stowell, Ph.D., the PACE mission is to generate and share independent and objective agronomic information among turf professionals so they may develop management programs that are effective, practical and scientifically sound. For more information, visit the PACE website at www.paceturf.org

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CAGCS 2006 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Tuesday, August 8	Great River Golf Course CAGCS Invitational	Sean Flynn Host Superintendent
Wednesday, August 23	URI 75th Annual Turf Field Day Kingston, RI	
Sunday, September 10	Lake Compounce	
Monday, September 25	Connecticut Golf Club Supt. / Asst. Tournament President's Cup & McLaughlin Trophy	Mark Fuller, CGCS Host Superintendent
Saturday, September 30	UCONN/Navy Game Rentschler Field	
Tuesday, October 3	Hop Meadow Country Club Scholarship & Research Tournament	Eric Holm, CGCS Host Superintendent
Tuesday October 10	Assistants Championship Black Hall Club	Phil Neaton Host Superintendent
Wednesday, November 1	Rock Ridge Country Club	Robert Welch Host Superintendent
Friday, December 8	CAGCS Christmas Party J. Timothy's Taverne	

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UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS HIRES TURFGRASS PATHOLOGIST

The Alumni Turf Group welcomes the announcement from University of Massachusetts' Dr. Peter Veneman, Professor and Head at the Department of Plant, Soil, and Insect Sciences, regarding the hiring of a turf pathologist, Dr. Geunhwa Jung.

Dr. Jung, presently at the University of Wisconsin, will join the Turf Program at UMass Amherst effective September 1, 2006. Dr. Jung received a B.S. degree in Horticulture from Chung-nam National University in South Korea. Subsequently he received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in breeding and genetics from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. He moved to Wisconsin in 1995 where he did post-doctoral work, and eventually was appointed as an Assistant Professor in Turf Pathology.

In addition to providing solutions to practical problems facing the turf industry, Dr. Jung studies the molecular basis of host-pathogen interactions, mainly resistance to fungal diseases using comparisons of turf grass genomes with other members of the Poaceae including rice, barley, and rye. His ultimate goal is to improve turfgrass cultivars by imparting resistance to important turfgrass diseases via classical and molecular breeding methods. Ultimately this will lead to a reduced reliance on pesticide applications, thereby reducing expenses and lowering environmental impacts while maintaining high



quality turfgrass. Dr. Jung has a strong record attracting extramural funding and intends to transfer several of his current grants to UMass.

"Dr. Jung brings tremendous energy as well as excellent qualifications to the program. Initiating contact with area Superintendents to set up trials, the day he accepted the position exemplifies the level of his determination and interest," said ATG President, Steve Curry

"Dr. Jung gave a sharp lecture during the interview process that made apparent his energy, intelligence and ability to work with superintendents conducting practical and useful research."

Dr. Veneman stated, "Dr. Jung has a very strong background in teaching and extension. Dr. Jung is a very enthusiastic teacher and communicator, and we expect that he will contribute significantly to our undergraduate and graduate instructional programs."

While the bulk of Dr. Jung's research and teaching activities will take place at the Joseph Troll Turf Research and Education Center in S. Deerfield, he is looking forward to working with the industry to solve practical problems through

complementary research at golf courses and ball fields.

Dr. Jung stated "I am very excited about this new position and great opportunities to work with the turf industry and turfgrass researchers at UMass."

UMASS EXTENSION

UMASS EXTENSION'S GREEN SCHOOL NOW ACCEPTING REGISTRATIONS

Green School is a comprehensive certificate training program for Green Industry professionals taught by UMass Extension Educators and Faculty. This course is designed for landscape, turf, and other horticultural practitioners wishing to gain an understanding of horticulture fundamentals and strategies and their relation to environmental quality. Green School attendees learn about sustainable approaches to turf and landscape management in managed environments. Green School's curriculum is based on research and information emphasizing environmental stewardship and integrated pest management (IPM). Participants will develop an understanding of how proper management practices impact natural resources such as soil and water. Participants learn how to make environmentally appropriate decisions related to turf and plant selection, plant maintenance, pest and nutrient management.

Choose 1 of 2 sections: Landscape Management or Turf Management. Green School begins on October 31, 2006 and runs for 12 sessions until December 12th. Classes will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Milford, MA (exit 19 off Rt. 495).

For more information and a registration form, go to: http://www.umassgreeninfo.org/programs/green_school.html.

Alternatively, call UMass Extension's Landscape, Nursery, and Urban Forestry Program at 413-545-0895 or greenschool@umassgreeninfo.org.



New Members

Dennis DeSanctis; Class Commercial Syngenta Crop Protection

Robert Dorsch, III; Class Commercial, Tom Irwin, Inc. Who has accepted a new position as Golf Course Superintendent at Richter Park Golf Club

Jeff Houde; Class Commercial Tom Irwin, Inc.

Peter Palmer; Class SM River Ridge Golf Course

Jim Santoro; Class Commercial Bayer Environmental Science

Shannon Slevin; Class SM Pine Orchard Yacht & Country Club

Vincent Sylvester; Class SM Pequot Golf Club

Condolences

Mary Owen, UMASS Extension Service on the passing of her father Kenneth B. Oates Sr. Donations may be made to a charity of one's own choice.

To Kevin, Gary, Tom DeVaux and family on the passing of their father Robert on Thursday, June 22.

Congratulations

To Jocelyn and Jason Booth on the birth of their daughter Grace Catherine. Baby Grace was born on Tuesday, May 22nd and weighted in at a healthy 7lbs 10 oz. Mom and baby are very healthy and dad is delirious.

To Christine and Chris Kipp on the birth of their third son Dylan Jeffery. He was born on Tuesday, June 6th at Bridgeport Hospital. The Kipp Family is doing well!

To area Golf Course Superintendent's who hosted major tournaments.

Joe Alonzi, CGCS, Westchester CC Barclays Classic

Tom DeGrandi, TPC @ River Highlands Buick Open

Eric Greytock, Winged Foot 2006 US Open

Peter Lund, CGCS, Rhode Island CC CVS Classic

Bob Reynolds, CGCS, Newport CC 2006 US Womens Open

Steven Willand, Inc. has announced that Brett Armstrong is now Regional Sales Mgr. for Eastern CT. and

Western, RI. George Corgan is now Regional Sales Mgr. for Westchester County, NY.

Get Well Wishes

Mark Pelkey, GCS Lyman Orchards Golf Course and Al LaPrise, sales representative Allens Seed Store, Inc. on their recent surgeries.

Retirees Bob Tosh and Sherwood Moore.

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THIRD ANNUAL JOSEPH TROLL TURF RESEARCH & EDUCATION FUNDRAISER OCTOBER 23, 2006

The Alumni Turf Group is pleased to sponsor the third annual Joseph Troll Turf Research & Education Fundraiser on October 23, 2006 at the Westchester Country Club in Rye, NY. Joseph Alonzi, CGCS will host the festivities. Entry forms, additional information for this event, and ATG information are available online at: <http://www.alumniturfgroup.com>. Alternatively, call Sharon Brownell at (508) 758-6474 to have materials mailed to you. Registration is limited to the first 248 applicants.

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GROSS:

1st	Flight A 75	Michael Dukette, Bayer Environmental Science
2nd	Flight B 84	Peter Tyrell, The Care of Trees
3rd	Flight C 89	Mark Fuller, Connecticut Golf Club
4th	Flight D 96	Bryan Barrington, The Golf Club at Oxford Greens

NET:

FLIGHT A

1st	67	Ward Weischet, New London Country Club
2nd	67	Eric Morrison, Shennecossett Golf Club
3rd	70	Thomas DeVaux, Hunter Golf Club
4th	70	Chris Mauro, Highfield Country Club

FLIGHT B

1st	67	Robert Goglia, Syngenta
2nd	73	Mark Osborn, Steven Willand Inc.
3rd	73	Wayne Urban, Farmingbury Hills CC
4th	75	Chris Kipp, Grassy Hill Country Club
5th	76	Michael Sullivan, E. Gaynor Brennan Municipal Golf Course

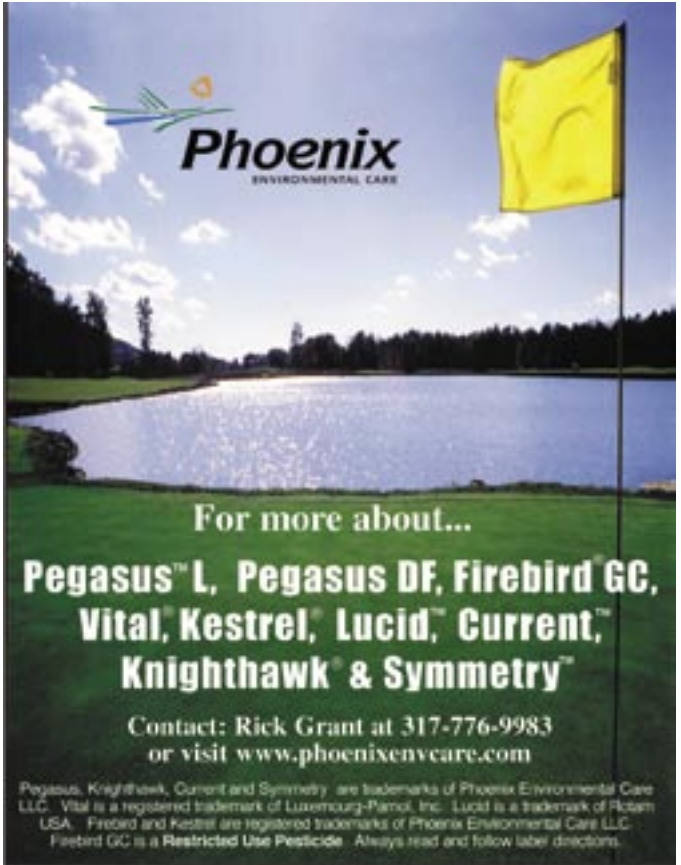
FLIGHT C

1st	68	Kevin D'Amico, Westwoods Golf Course
2nd	69	Joseph Malay, Hopbrook Golf Course
3rd	72	Peter Grace, H. Smith Richardson GC
4th	72	Steve Rackliffe, UConn/ Dept. of Plant Science
5th	72	Skip Deubel, Tuckahoe Turf Farms, Inc.

FLIGHT D

1st	68	Jim Weiland, Shorehaven Golf Club
2nd	72	Ray Beaudry, Atlantic Irrigation Specialists
3rd	75	Roger Storey
4th	76	Joseph Stahl, The Turf Connection
5th	77	Michael Streckfus, Rolling Greens Golf Club

- Closest to line #16: Mike Streckfus, Rolling Greens GC
- Long Drive #6: Eric Morrison, Shennecossett Golf Club
- Long Putt #7: Chris Mauro, Highfield CC - 16' 8"
- Long Putt #17: Tom DeVaux, Hunter Golf Club - 13' 10"
- Closest to the Pin #4: Dennis DeSanctis,
Syngenta Crop Protection - 2' 10"
- Closest to the Pin #12: Mark Mansur, Wintonbury Hills GC



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**DR. NATHANIEL MITKOWSKI,
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PLANT
PATHOLOGY URI - DEPARTMENT
OF PLANT SCIENCES**

OVER the course of the past decade, the disease known as Anthracnose has become a major concern for golf courses across the country. Increasingly, it is the focus of significant research for university turf programs. With so many personnel devoted to this problem, there is a wealth of information available regarding every aspect of the Anthracnose pathogen. Unfortunately, this large body of Anthracnose work has demonstrated that there is no “silver bullet” for controlling the disease. Managing Anthracnose is possible, but it requires the incorporation of multiple tactics and paying keen attention to the factors that exacerbate the disease.



Figure 1. *Poa annua* (Annual bluegrass) is generally much more susceptible to Anthracnose than creeping bentgrass. In the picture above, the disease has completely wiped out the *P. annua* and left the bentgrass untouched. Some strains of the pathogen are very aggressive and different golf courses can have one or more strain.

Anthracnose is caused by the pathogen *Colletotrichum graminicola* (recent research suggests it is actually *Colletotrichum cereale*, but the *C. graminicola* name is more widely used). Anthracnose is a unique disease because it has two separate stages to its lifecycle. Under hot dry conditions, it attacks leaf blades and causes a foliar blight. If left unchecked, it moves into crowns and kills plants as part of its basal rot stage. But under cool, damp conditions it can move into the basal rot stage without causing a foliar blight. The result is the same in either case, dead grass.

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Anthracnose is everywhere. It can be found on any golf course in the Northeast United States. However, it does not cause disease in every case. Weather has a lot to do with Anthracnose incidence. The summer of 2002 was extremely hot and dry and has been the most severe year for the disease in the past decade. But there are two ironclad rules for Anthracnose. Anthracnose is a disease of *Poa annua* and Anthracnose likes grass under stress. The disease can go to bentgrass, but this is relatively uncommon in the Northeast.

Keeping Anthracnose under control relies on three practices: preventative fungicides, curative fungicides and stress management. Aside from these three practices, removal of *Poa annua* is a sure-fire solution for Anthracnose, though rarely practical.

Preventative Fungicides: The most important aspect to minimizing Anthracnose damage is the timely and consistent application of preventative fungicides. The activity of the pathogen is regulated by temperature. In fact, it can be active as early as February if warm temperatures occur. While February is typically too early to make reliable fungicide applications, preventative fungicides should be applied as soon as air temperatures are regularly in the high 50's, generally by early April. Early application will prevent direct infection by the basal rot and foliar stage.



Figure 2. The foliar stage of Anthracnose is readily identified by the presence of black masses of spores (acervuli) on leaves. Black hairs (setae) surround each acervulus and can be seen with a hand lens.

However, typical "preventative" rates are often ineffective against Anthracnose. When attempting to prevent pathogen development, it is usually necessary to apply the highest legal rate of the chemical being used. In addition, a combination of systemic and contact fungicides should be used. On courses where the disease has a history of devastation, preventative fungicide applications are critical and an annual fungicide program should be established to minimize disease impact. Fungicide rotation is also extremely important with Anthracnose; the pathogen seems to be unusually adept at overcoming many of the currently available fungicide chemistries.

Curative Fungicides: Once the pathogen has become established, the use of curative fungicides becomes critical in saving as much grass as possible. For the most part, creeping bentgrass will remain unaffected. Most of the *Poa annua* that has a basal rot infection

will likely die, regardless of fungicide application. A small percentage will survive. But the real purpose of a curative application is to prevent new foliar infections and stop the pathogen from moving into the crown from the leaves.



Figure 3. The basal rot stage of the Anthracnose disease is the most severe stage. The roots of *P. annua* are aggressively attacked and plants die very quickly. Because very few roots remain, plants can't recover. Infected plants will often pull out of the ground easily and are blackened in appearance. Curative fungicide applications will stop new infections but cannot save plants that look like these.

In cases in which an aggressive case of basal rot Anthracnose has been identified, more than one fungicide will often be required to control the disease. Typically, we recommend applying two different systemic fungicides, at the highest labeled rates, followed by a contact fungicide such as chlorothalonil. Some courses that are perennially plagued by the disease will undertake this strategy preventatively, however, this can be prohibitively costly over the course of an entire season. The method of fungicide application is important. Most systemics move from the roots to the shoots. As a result, systemics should be lightly watered in to reach the crowns (a light syringing, one turn of the rotors or the use of > 3 gallons of water per 1000 ft² will suffice). Chlorothalonil should NOT be watered in and must therefore be applied as a second spray, once the first has dried or a day later. In areas where additional chlorothalonil regulations exist, it may not be feasible to use it in combination with multiple systemics.

Fungicide rotation is also important when making curative applications. It is never wise to use the same fungicide or combination of fungicides twice or more in a row. By alternating fungicide chemistries, fungicide resistance development can be dramatically slowed.

It is not the only strategy, nor is it the best strategy for every golf course, it is simply a sample of a set of possible options. The trade names Cleary's 3336 and Signature are used for the sake of clarity, but no claim is made as to their efficacy compared to other manufacturers products utilizing identical active ingredients. Before using any pesticide, it is the applicators responsibility to make sure it is registered for use in the applicator's state or locality and for the target pest. Applications should continue into September and possibly October, using the May suggestions in this model.

Stress Management: While pesticide applications can be used to manage Anthracnose, fungicides only treat the end result, they do not ultimately solve the problems that led to the disease. To permanently eliminate Anthracnose, *Poa annua* must be removed. Unfortunately, simple removal will not prevent this tenacious weed from re-colonizing putting greens. The conditions that favored *P. annua* must also be eliminated and include: excessive shade, compaction, low cutting height, poor drainage and possibly under-fertilization. Aside from additional foliar nitrogen and increasing the height of cut, many of the options require some degree of renovation and can be costly. But it is important to realize that golf courses age and evolve. And as traffic on greens increases and as standards of play increase, renovations are often necessary and money well spent.

Dr. Nathaniel Mitkowski can be reached at mitkowski@uri.edu or 401-874-5996. The URI Turf Disease Diagnostic Laboratory can be accessed online at www.uriturf.org. Disease samples are accepted all year long.

WATER QUALITY DATA FROM GOLF COURSES NEEDED

The Environmental Institute for Golf is funding a research project that will benefit us all, "A Critical Review of Water Quality Impacts by Golf Courses: Update and Trends." The USGA is cosponsoring this effort, which is a continuation of a previous national assessment published in Golf Course Management (November, 1997) and the Journal of Environmental Quality.

This project is intended to acquire as much data as possible from golf courses that are conducting surface and/or ground water monitoring projects. The intent of the study, conducted by Environmental & Turf Services, Inc., Wheaton, MD, with Dr. Stuart Cohen as principal investigator, is to publish a critical review of the quality of surface and ground water as affected by golf courses. Such data are very important to accurately assess the ecological implications of land use planning regarding the construction and maintenance of golf course facilities. This information can also have implications for pesticide registration decisions. Most important, the results of this study will give important feedback to superintendents who not only manage their courses, but who live in the environment. Target analytes are pesticides, pesticide metabolites, nitrate, and phosphorus.

We need your help. If your golf course is conducting surface and/or ground water monitoring projects or have in the past and you are willing to share the data, please contact Juleen Lam at:
Juleen Lam
Environmental & Turf Services, Inc.

11141 Georgia Avenue, Suite 208
Wheaton, MD 20902
Phone: (301) 933-4700
Fax: (301) 933-4701
JuleenLam@aol.com

We would like to have the water quality data as soon as possible but no later than September 30, 2006.

Data from individual golf courses will be held in confidence. Only aggregate data will be presented.

Our goal is to ensure that golf courses contribute to a healthy environment. Your assistance is very much appreciated.

UMASS UPDATE

ANNUAL BLUEGRASS WEEVIL

My "antennae" are picking up reports that some golf course superintendents in the Northeast are being encouraged to use Arena™ (chlothianidin), a relatively new product that is chemically related to Merit™ (imidacloprid) to control annual bluegrass weevils (ABW). Our field data from trials conducted earlier this year suggest that Arena is inconsistent at best against the annual bluegrass weevil. While we have not yet completed the statistical analysis, the numbers show that there was a 37% reduction in larval populations in an Arena plot that was treated in mid-April (and sampled in early June) compared to the untreated check, and a 78% reduction in populations in a plot that was treated in early May and sampled in early June. There are many questions that still need to be answered about this product on ABW - what

is the ideal timing? does it reduce populations consistently? will it work in the heat of summer? I tend toward being conservative, so until we have answers to these questions based on non-biased field trials, I would urge caution. Keep in mind that the product is chemically related to Merit™, which has proven to be very inconsistent against ABW over the years. Having said that, Arena™ looks very promising against the various white grubs, and appears to have a longer period during which it can be applied successfully. In addition, reports from some university colleagues indicate that it may be more effective against chinch bugs and a variety of other insects than is its cousin, Merit™. We are now in that period where you need to monitor areas where ABW have been active. Check some of our updates from last year for more details, but briefly: If most of the insects are in the adult stage, treat the affected areas with something that stays in the thatch (e.g., Dursban™ or a pyrethroid). If most of the insects are pupae, wait a week and then use Dursban™ or a pyrethroid. If most of the insects are larvae and have not begun to pupate, you may get some relief with trichlorfon (Dylox™). We have also had success in previous years with spinosad (Conserve™) but the results this year have been inconclusive. White grubs Just a reminder - we are now in the period of time when an application of imidacloprid (Merit™) should be very effective against most white grubs. The European chafer adults are flying now and laying eggs, and oriental beetles have been out and about in some areas for a week or two. So now is a good time - remember to wait until the soils dry out a little if you are in an area that has been inundated with rain, and then water in (with at least 0.1 inch).





Keeping you on course!








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