

THE GREEN SHEET



VOLUME XVII, PART 2, MAY/JUNE 2001

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION



SFWMD Official lays Down the Law. Left to Right: Bruce Adams of the SFWMD discusses the most pressing topic of the day -- WATER-- with Mike Bailey, Fort Lauderdale CC and Dr. Phil Busey of UF/IFAS at the USGA Regional Conference in West Palm Beach. See story on pages 4 and 5 of this Green Sheet.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 5 1st Annual Histiocytosis Tournament, Oak Tree CC

May 7 North Florida chapter meeting, Magnolia Point

May 15 Central Florida chapter meeting, Orange Co. Nat'l

May 16 PBGCSA chapter meeting, Broken Sound GC

May 18 FGCSA seminar, "How to Find and Hire the Best Employees", Tom Maloney, Cornell University. Naples Beach Hotel. 8:00 a.m.

May 19 Poa Tournament, Saturday.
- 20 G. C. Horn Tournament, Sunday. Naples Beach Hotel

May 22 Suncoast GCSA annual meeting/election of officers, Sara Bay CC

May 24 South Florida chapter meeting, Don Shula's Hotel

May 24 Treasure Coast GCSA Pro/Supt, Hobe Sound GC

June 2 PBGCSA Future of Golf Tournament, The Falls CC

June 4 North Florida chapter meeting, Pablo Creek

June 13 PBGCSA chapter meeting, Addison Reserve CC

June 19 Suncoast chapter meeting, Lemon Bay GC

June 29 South Florida chapter meeting, Card Sound GC

July 18 Treasure Coast Annual Meeting/Election of Officers, John's Island Club

July 19 North Florida chapter meeting, Ocean Hammock

Aug.5 Crowfoot Open, Grand Cypress GC

Aug 13-15 FTGA Conference & Show, U of F campus, Gainesville

Sept. 17 Treasure Coast GCSA Blue Pearl Tournament, The Medalist Club, Hobe Sound

President's Message by Cary Lewis, CGCS

By now those of us who oversee, are going through the transition process back to the base Bermudagrass surfaces. Many are just enjoying the fact that spring means we are about to get through another season, with our seasonal golfers heading back up north. Some are planning the summer projects or getting close to starting the never-ending job of renovating our properties.

As most would agree, as Golf Course Superintendents, we are expected to make continued improvements in the playing surfaces, overall property appeal, and operational efficiencies, while keeping control of the ever-increasing cost. Each year I've noticed that the expectations and demands on our performance increases, not necessarily in connection with our budgeted operational funds or available time.

How do we keep pace with this never-ending challenge? I'm convinced that in most of our hearts the daily challenges of our great business are to a great degree the driving force behind success. I once read that some degree of stress is healthy and is the internal force that drives man to achieve greater heights. On the other hand, stress

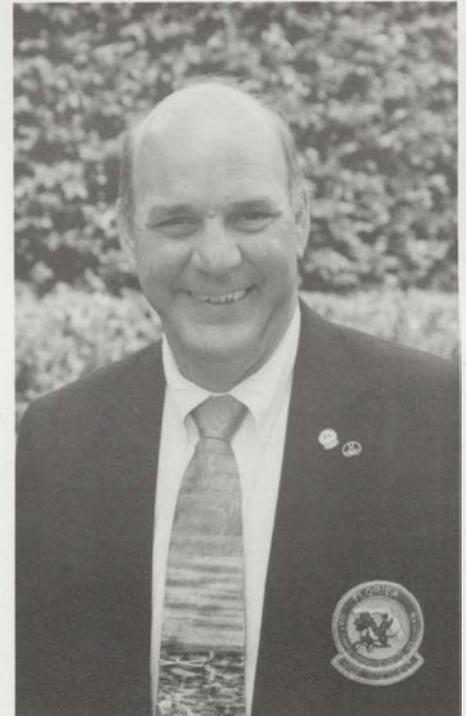
can and will in many cases be harmful to our health. The balance between positive stress (motivation) and excessive stress (anxiety) is one we must understand and control. The word balance is defined as an instrument for measuring the weight of a body, equilibrium, the remainder and/or mental or emotional stability.

I would like to suggest we think of balance as our ability to manage our time to best support our family, our health and our profession. To keep the emotions of our job in a state of equilibrium, by finding that balance of work to family.

Irrigation Items for Sale

1. 21 Toro OSMAC RDR's with a quantity of 40-16 Station Pedestals with hydraulic converters equipped with 24 mother boards and 93 - 8 station Triac cards.
2. Two 75 H.P. vertical turbine pumps and motors with one 25 H.P. Jockey and one 3/4 H.P. hydraulic supply pump station with spare pump and motor.
3. Miscellaneous parts for all above.

Contact Bill Jeffrey at Bocaire CC at 561-997-0408 for more information.



Cary Lewis, CGCS
2001 Poa Set for May 19th

The Everglades chapter will host the 2001 Poa Annuu Golf Classic weekend on May 18th- 20th at the Naples Beach Hotel.

This year's event begins with the FGCSA Board Meeting at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday morning followed by a dinner for all FGCSA board members.

The FGCSA sponsored seminar, "How to Find and Hire the Best Employees" by Tom Maloney, Cornell University, will be held on Friday morning from 8:00 a.m. to noon. This seminar focuses on employee recruitment including how to develop a pool of qualified applicants, recruitment methods and advertising. This program has been submitted to GCSAA for .35 CEU's which may be used toward initial application and renewal in the Certification Program.

The always popular Poa Annuu Luau will be held from 6:30 - 10:00 p.m. on the picturesque Watkins Lawn Friday night.

Shotgun start for the Poa Annuu Golf Classic is 8:30 a.m Saturday morning at the Beach Club Golf Course. The G. C. Horn Tournament will begin at 8.30 on Sunday. Call FGCSA office for registration forms.

THE GREEN SHEET

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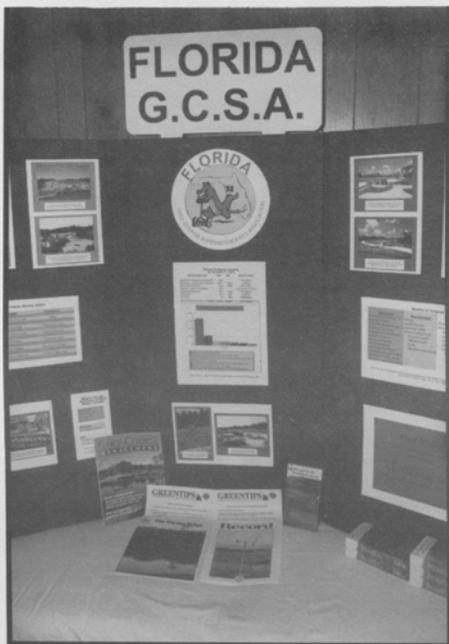
Deadline next issue: June 15.

What's Up D.O.C.?

by Joel Jackson

1. Government Relations

SWFWMD Water Conservation Summit - Stuart Bozeman, Cary Lewis, Alan Puckett, John VanVranken and I attended the SWFWMD Summit in Tampa from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm on April 5th. The FGCSA was an exhibitor. We had a table top display booth and some handouts concerning golf and the environment. Stu Bozeman is a member of SWFWMD's Water Conservation Task Force and spoke on golf course's stewardship of water resources through golf course design, irrigation technology, and support of turf research for BMP's and new turf varieties. The rest of us sat in on the various presentations and manned the booth during break periods. We made some new contacts including a county commissioner from Polk County and two members of the St. John's Water Management District and the Lake County Water Authority. We gave away our supply of FGCSA "Golf is Good for You and the Environment" videos, GCSAA Green Tip sheets on "Golf and The Environment" and "Golf Courses and Pesticides." We also gave away copies of the Winter 2001 Florida Green. The display board had a fact sheet on turfgrass acres showing golf



New FGCSA Display Makes Debut at SWFWMD Water Conservation Summit

courses as only the 5th largest user of turf in Florida and yet supplying 6 billion dollars to the economy. I had other turfgrass facts; ten photos depicting golf course designs showing extensive use of native plants and natural areas; and two photos showing turfgrass research at the University of Florida.

The majority of talk was about practical conservation matters and developing new water resources so everyone can live and prosper, but make no mistake, there were a vocal few who opposed turf in any form, including golf. Perhaps the most "damaging" was one of the keynote speakers, Amy Vickers, who told the lunchtime audience that we need to naturalize our home properties and do away with St. Augustine turfgrass. She advocated using only native plant material that will live on the rainfall. The next day in the Orlando paper there was an article about using Asiatic jasmine as a lawn cover to replace turfgrass. Once a year mowing, no irrigation and no pests!

Water Source Survey - I have been asked several times lately, "How many golf courses are on effluent water in Florida?" In order to find out, keep an eye out for a very short survey asking what is your irrigation water source. In the coming days, it will be critical to know how many courses are using effluent, ground, surface and RO water, so officials can better understand golf's true impact on water resources. When you get the survey, check off or fill in the information and email or fax it back ASAP. I might do a phone survey as well. Thanks.

Nemacur - I sent each chapter information on the Bayer Nemacur Ground Water Study and have asked those chapters in SWFWMD region to give me a list of courses willing to participate. The SWFWMD area was chosen by Bayer and agreed to by Florida EPA because the district has an extensive body of data on existing wells and golf course locations which has been superimposed over a soils map. One of the keys to the study is that it be performed on golf course on sandy "Florida-like soils." This study is REQUIRED by EPA in order to maintain the Nemacur label for use in Florida, so step up and volunteer your course as a test site.

Call me or your chapter External Vice President for more information. See the related story on Curfew in this issue.

2. Allied Associations:

FTGA Conference - The GCSAA is working with the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation on a pilot project to use GCSAA's extensive education network to bolster and improve educational opportunities and continuing education credit earning potential at their annual conference. Due to the presence of the GCSAA in Orlando every three years, the FTGA has asked GCSAA to do a similar program with the Florida Turfgrass Association to help the annual FTGA Conference improve educational opportunities for Florida Superintendents. They will make a beginning presence at the 2001 Conference and expand their effort in the coming years.

BMP Manual - The BMP Steering Committee met in March with each subcommittee reporting progress in their areas of: Nutrition, Pesticides, Water, and Training and Education. General tweaking of content items and information that should be included were discussed. It is agreed that the BMP Manual should be written as a set of general guidelines and information that give the reader an environmentally friendly way to manage turfgrass that will be effective, economical and efficient, but will not name specific products with rates, etc. It is being designed to make pesticide and fertilizer users aware of environmental concerns that are being addressed by local authorities and conservation groups. The manual will show these groups that our industry is alert and aware and addressing those concerns.

FGCSA BMP Chairman Geoff Coggan is looking at partnering with Dr. Bryan Unruh of UF/IFAS and Mike Thomas of Florida DEP to modify and include more environmental awareness writing in the upcoming revision of IFAS' BMP's for Florida Golf Courses. Our thinking is to avoid reinventing the wheel to produce a Golf Course BMP Manual that will serve the purpose of having a viable document for local authorities to refer to when discussing water quality, nitrate leaching, and other environmental concerns

Continuation of D.O.C. column....

3. Public Relations:

It is one of my goals for the FGCSA to put on a Media Day event in the near future. The concept is to pair golf and environmental media with superintendents on a golf course and play a round of golf. The superintendents will be able to discuss the real world of golf maintenance to the writers and reporters and answer questions in a "friendly" atmosphere. Picking the right time of year will be critical to highlight perhaps the March pro tour swing through Florida, or select a time of year when a major renovation is going on to really show what happens on a course.

Getting reporters and writers away from their desks is also a consideration, and we may need to do 2, 3, or 4 of these around the state in major media markets, which has the advantage of keeping the numbers down so the events are smaller in scale and may be easier to carry out. Be thinking of what you would want to share with the media, so we can do some talking about this venture. With the constant barrage of negative stories about golf courses and turfgrass in general, we need to give reporters and writers some facts from our side, so they can at least ask intelligent questions or question the information they hear from the opposition.

Mike Richards Memorial

The North Florida GCSA sponsored another successful Mike Richards Memorial Tournament at the Jacksonville G&CC on April 9th. Greg Tharp served as host superintendent.

This year the chapter honored three of their own pioneers in the turfgrass industry with the inaugural Alan MacCurrach Lifetime Achievement Award. The first recipients were John Hayden, Ed Dyer and Gary Ellison. Representatives of their families were invited to attend the award ceremony.

Over the past 8 years the NFGCSA has given out \$42,000 in scholarships. This year's recipients were Chris Durkee and Jason Waller of LCCC and Craig Banister of Abraham Baldwin College. Waller and Banister received the Alan MacCurrach \$1,500 scholarship while Durkee was awarded the \$3,000 Mike Richards scholarship.

Notes on the USGA Regional Conference

Credit: Turf Talk Digest
by Dr. Phil Busey

Bruce Adams made an unscheduled appearance yesterday to the US Golf Association Regional Conference in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. Bruce is the Water Conservation Officer of the South Florida Water Management District. He writes and manages Rule 40E-21.275, the Water Shortage Plan, which mandates water conservation phases during drought as required by Florida Statutes.

Bruce narrated the ongoing story of South Florida's worst drought crisis in 100 years, which began in 2000, and may extend until 2002. Some parts of Florida, such as the Tampa Bay area, have been under even more severe drought and water restrictions for several years.

Some of what Bruce said may be good news for Florida Golf Course Superintendents and other managers of large turf areas, who are trying to conserve water with the best available technology, but who are hampered by what he described as the "arbitrary days and hours" of water-use restrictions.

First some bad news. A hydrologic trigger" for possible Phase 3 water-use restrictions occurred on 4 April 2001. Lake Okeechobee, which is South Florida's water reservoir, had endured 80 continuous days below 11 feet of depth. This, in conjunction with pessimistic climate predictions, suggests that the SFWMD Governing Board is "very, very close" to adopting Phase 3 restrictions at their next meeting, 10 May 2001, although, Bruce said, they "don't want to go into Phase 3 lightly." Above-average rain for March had brought enough water to the conservation areas east of Lake Okeechobee, to allow water to be back-pumped into the lake.

The District is serious about enforcement. In fact on Wednesday April 10,

they cited and fined the Town of Davie Police Department, in Broward County, and the Lake Park Police Department in Palm Beach County received a \$1500 fine.

As currently written, Phase 3 would mean only 3 hours of irrigation once per week for the residential lawn, and 7 hours of irrigation once per week for large (over 5 acre) landscapes, and one weekend irrigation for fairways and roughs (either Saturday or Sunday) for the front nine and the back nine, respectively. Fortunately, greens irrigation would be only voluntarily reduced under Phase 3 (non-daylight hours), and tees would be allowed three irrigation events per week.

I see challenges of fairness and common sense in working within the conservation mandates. Not all turf facilities are built the same, and no two pumping systems are the same. Depending on the pumping system, simple math shows that it may be impossible to water nine fairways in a 7-hour period.

Most important, for what the District is trying to accomplish, existing Phase 1-2-3-4 rules do not place any incentive on actually saving water! They just say when you can or cannot irrigate. Free-market economists have known the plasticity of supply and demand, that is, when prices for things rise, people find imaginative ways to use less of a commodity.

The good news is that Bruce discussed the possibility of allowing the turf industry to get away from "arbitrary hours and days, if you're willing to be metered and monitored" and can deliver a certain percentage of water conservation. The challenge by Bruce Adams was explicit, if groups of water users can deliver water use reduction, "then you can write the rule." Any volunteers?

I asked Bruce, "How soon could this be implemented, even before this drought is over?" Bruce answered that this could be an industry-wide variance prior to rule making, based on efficiency standards worked out with the University of Florida-IFAS. He indicated that he is "extremely impressed by the sophistication and professionalism of golf course superintendents."

All that it takes now is for the turf industry to get together and to propose a plan based on "the best available technology."

There were numerous excellent questions asked of Bruce Adams, grants for reverse osmosis and retrofitting, enforcement of municipalities, storage of reuse water, and conservation incentives.

The biggest unanswered question involved sprigging of new turf, and renovations. Current Phase 2 restrictions allow only five minutes per irrigation zone daily for the first 30 days, while Phase 3 restrictions prohibit irrigation of new plantings. Bruce indicated that this may be revisited on April 16th with the advisory group, including Mike Bailey and others, as the order for Phase 3 restrictions was prepared for the next Governing Board meeting. With numerous golf courses and athletic fields under reconstruction, we need an answer soon.

The goal of SFWMD water conservation mandates is to achieve 15%, 30%, 45%, and 60% conservation of landscape and other water uses, for Phase 1, 2, 3, and 4 restrictions. So far, conservation efforts have not come close. The District has also been under attack from environmental groups, notably the Audubon society, for being too lax with industry. The responsibility of the District is clear, said Bruce, he is "sorry to say, but South Florida will turn brown before we contaminate the well fields" with saltwater.

In other news from the USGA Regional Conference, Cornell University's Dr. Frank Rossi talked about "The next golf environmental crisis: Complacency." Rossi made the point that he anticipates a backlash to the first 100 days of President Bush's environmental rollbacks. Rossi also indicated that he "doesn't know why we separate good environmental stewardship from good economic policy."

Political statements on rolling back environmental enforcement, e.g. arsenic, because of the recession, do not bode well for public attitudes. During the Reagan-Watt-Gorsuch era, environmental activism was way up, as it was again during the Quayle-Council for Economic Competitiveness era. So, don't be complacent!

(Editor's note) : Dr. Busey did a good job of summarizing Mr. Adams comments. I would add that Bruce was very open and honest about the reality of the situation with comments like: "Keep in mind 90% of the population doesn't play or care about golf when it comes to water use priorities" and "Let's face it human consumption, sanitation, fire fighting and food production will take priority over golf turf and lawns when the rubber meets the road."

Mike Bailey of the South Florida GCSA and Randy Bushway of the Palm Beach GCSA and others are working with Adams and the SFWMD to bring golf course industry concerns to the process of water restrictions.

New Turf Nematicide Makes Debut in Florida

Just as we have been fighting to keep Nematicur, our only synthetic nematicide, from being off labeled in Florida, Dow AgroSciences has received an Experimental Use Permit from the EPA to treat 5,000 acres of fairways only in Florida in 2001. Curfew is a soil fumigant. It is a liquid containing 94% 1,3 dchloropropene. This active ingredient has been used effectively in other soil fumigants for more than 30 years.

For environmental safety and and pest management efficiency, Curfew is slit injected using coulters and knives which place the material at least 5 inches below the soil surface through tubes located behind the knife. Presswheels then close the cut seams and seal the fumigant. The injection slit typically heals over and disappears in 10-14 days.

Considerations: Minimum application coverage requirement per course is 20 acres. The course must be closed for 24 hours following application. Due to start time of application, this may actually require the course to be closed up to two days for all practical purposes. The soil should be moist or damp prior to application and .25 to .5 inches of irrigation must follow the application. With water restriction guidelines in place, you can water-in the pesticide, but only while the applicator is on site. Those on 100% effluent irrigation, of course, are generally not under any restrictions.

While Curfew is specifically labeled for nematode management, research is being conducted on the possible collateral control effects on mole crickets and grubs.

Contact your area Golf Ventures representative, Steve Farrington of Dow AgroSciences (407-841-6892), or Ray Duffy of International Turf Applicators, Inc. (863-646-0259) for more information about Curfew applications.



Ray Duffy of Soil Fumigants, Inc. (next to tractor) explains new modifications to the slit injection equipment used to apply Curfew during a fairway injection demonstration at the Grand Cypress GC in Orlando.

14th Annual South Florida Exposition

This year's Expo was held on Thursday March 22nd at the UF Research & Education Center in Fort Lauderdale and had something for everyone.

The Expo, a major fundraising event for South Florida superintendents brings together all corners of our turf industry for a fun-filled educational event. The funds help support turfgrass research.

Two great turf professionals were featured speakers. Dr. Monica Elliott, IFAS turf pathologist, provided a seminar on the top ten problems in turf. Mrs. Lee Bloomcamp, Field Representative for Syngenta, gave a timely and entertaining presentation on the ever-merging turf industry and changes to expect in the new millenium from a regulatory perspective.

With south Florida nearing desert conditions, Mr. Bruce Adams, long-time official with the South Florida Water Management District, gave an in-depth overview of current and pending water restrictions. It should be noted that local newspapers provided simultaneous front-page gloom and doom and rainy prognostications during the week of the Expo. These dueling newspaper reports have usually been accurate predictors of the end of the dry season!

The day began with early morning turf tours highlighting ongoing research. After the tours, the over 400 participants interacted with turf industry sponsors and supporters. The Expo provides an excellent opportunity for "test drives" of the fine selection of equipment available for turfgrass management.

At lunch, Dr. Van Waddill was introduced as the new Senior Center Director of the Ft. Lauderdale Research and Education Center.

As the introductions concluded the air was thick with the aroma of delicious barbecue that became a bountiful picnic reality for all in attendance. For the third consecutive year, Chef Wiley McCall, sod farm owner and operator of Emerald Island Turf in



Suncoast Chapter President Tom Crawford (center) presented checks for \$2,500 to Don Benham (FTGA) and Joel Jackson (FGCSA) at the 2001 Suncoast Scramble held on March 20th at Misty Creek CC in Sarasota.

Punta Gorda, and his family and staff drove all the way over from southwest Florida with their own cookers and fresh food to provide another "to die for" barbecue with all the fixings. It is truly an Expo highlight to witness the preparation of the lunch as the event unfolds. In addition to the great treat, Wiley, by providing the lunch, contributes a great amount of financial support for our turf program. Wiley and family, thank you very

much for being a major sponsor of our Expo.

After lunch, the educational opportunities continued with featured presentations and industry workshops on irrigation, equipment troubleshooting, and sprayer calibration exercises. A special thanks to Dr. Vernon Vandiver, Aquatic Weeds Specialist, for leading the sprayer calibration workshop and to representatives from Rainbird, Kilpatrick Turf, NuCrane Machinery and Hector Turf for the other technical portions of the afternoon program.



Part of the crowd of 350 attendees to the 2001 Turf Expo at the Fort Lauderdale REC watch an aerifier demonstration on the turf plots. This year's event raised over \$30,000 to help pay for the maintenance of the research plots.

Photo by Steve Pearson.



The Florida Turfgrass Association Invites all
Golf Course Superintendents to . . .

Turfgrass Odyssey 2001

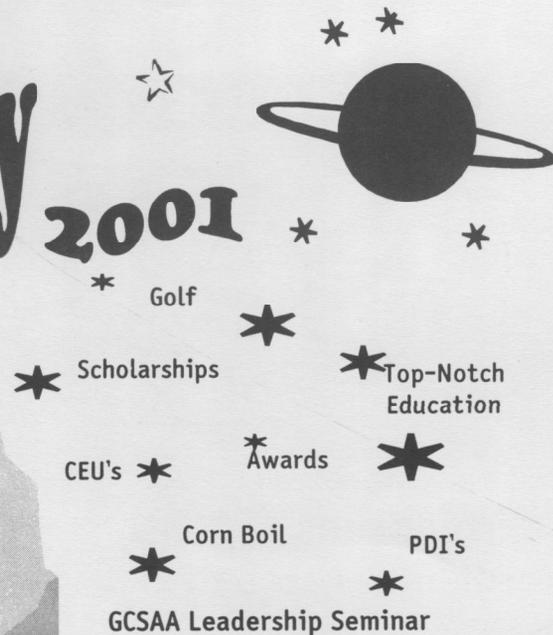
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Plants Soak Up Arsenic From Soil

Credit UF/IFAS Newslines, Spring 2001

Golf Course Architect Jan Beljan first called my attention to this news. Beljan is also a member of the Florida Turfgrass Association and is constantly looking at ways to minimize environmental impacts of golf course design and maintenance inputs.

Arsenic levels are waving red flags at environmental regulators and golf courses are areas of concern to them. We are awaiting final determination from a recent arsenic study done in Dade County last year.

This latest news from IFAS might be ap-

plicable to mitigating any problems from arsenic that might exist especially on older courses or at mix and load sites.

"In the Feb. 1 issue of the journal Nature, UF scientists reported discovering a fern that soaks up arsenic from contaminated soil. The first plant ever found to 'hyperaccumulate' arsenic - a carcinogenic heavy metal often used as an herbicide - the fern may prove useful in cleaning up thousands of sites contaminated by arsenic from industrial mining, agricultural or other operations..

"It has great potential for remediating

these contaminated soils," said Associate Prof. Lena Ma, lead researcher on the project.

Ma's research team found that the brake fern, *Pteris vittata*, not only soaks up arsenic but does so with staggering efficiency. They measured as much as 200 times higher in the fern than the concentrations in contaminated soils where it was growing.

Because the fern accumulates 90% of the arsenic in its fronds and stems, the strategy would be to grow the plant on toxic sites, then harvest the fronds and stems - it's above ground biomass - and transport them to a designated hazardous waste facility."



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