

# NORTHERN MICHIGAN TURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

SEP 08 REC'D  
*James B. Beard*  
FRANK HEMINGER, SECRETARY-TREAS.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th, 1981  
GRAND TRAVERSE VILLAGE  
ACME, MICHIGAN

1147 SANTO  
TRAVERSE CITY, MI. 49684

PHONE: 616-947-9274

The above day, date and location, is the information needed to know where we will have our next meeting. This place of intrigue, where we have seen much action, starting with a 9 hole golf course, that has changed, changed again, and now with the input of one of the worlds great golfers, Jack Nicklaus, has the curiosity of all of Northern Michigan aroused. We hope that you will make a special effort to be with us, for this special day at one of Michigan's new Hilton Hotel complex.

Mike Garvale is the superintendent of this fine layout and he invites you to play in a "4 ball scramble". So, if you would like to get a group together and participate, you must get a starting time between 10:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. by calling 616/938-1620. This is a direct line to the Pro Shop where Doug Grove is the golf professional. Starting times other than during this period will not be available, so, act as soon as you know who you will be playing with. The entrance for golf is on M-72, east of where it leaves M-31, at The Sand Trap. The Pro Shop is on the first floor of the building and looks out over the golf course. For those of you that would like a shower after golf, locker facilities are available at the same location. Reservations for golf carts are not necessary.

Our speaker for the evening is Mr. Tommy Sasser, Chief of the Jack Nicklaus Construction Group. He will have a slide presentation of the horrors and faults in golf course construction, plus many views of outstanding Nicklaus courses, that he has constructed. None of us can afford to miss this information, if we are honest with ourselves and the man that signs our check. This information cannot be found in magazines and books so we are fortunate in having this man who can also probably also give us, an idea of the Nicklaus future in our area.

Mr. Tim Lee is the General Manager of this complex. Mr. Gary M. Roderick, the Catering Manager, both in the main Hotel complex where our dinner will be served. The entrance to the Hotel is off M-31, north of where M-72 leaves, M-31. It is well marked and no one should have any problem finding it. Happy Hour will be in the same building and the Bay AB room is indicated as the location of our bar. A very special dinner is planned, however, like other meetings, we must know the exact count that will be there, by September 12th. This is one time that you cannot procrastinate, make up your mind and if it is "yes", then your charge will be \$12.00 including tax and tip for dinner. Otherwise you could be turned away, as we have notice that they are prepared to serve only 5% over our guarantee. The postcard or your telephone call to 616/352-4101, must be received by Saturday, Sept. 12th, noon. Dinner will be served at 6:30 P.M. sharp so please cooperate as quickly as possible. Thanks.

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Sept. 10th, Michigan State University, another date and location with details on another page of this letter. Please read.

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The Constitution By-Laws of this Association states that the annual meeting will be held in September and at this time, the election of Board of Director members, will take place. It also states that a Nominating Committee must be appointed to pick the candidates for Director with each to serve a term of three years. The Nominating Committee for this year are:

Tom Reed, Chairman  
Mike Garvale, Grand Traverse Village  
James Tollefson, A-Ga-Ming  
Bob Steinhurst, Jr., West Branch Country Club  
Gerald Maas CGCS, Maple Hill Golf Club  
M. Jos. Yoder CGCS, Cadillac Country Club

This Committee have offered the following persons for nomination and your selection at this coming meeting:

Harold Birtles, McGuires Golf Complex  
Robert McElheny, Antrim Dells Golf Club  
Tuck Tate, Frankfort Golf Club  
M. Jos. Yoder, Cadillac Country Club

In addition to those nominated by the Committee, nominations can be made from the floor at the annual meeting. There will however be made up in advance, ballots listing the above names to hasten the secret ballot and aid the tellers in computing those elected. Directors elected at this time will meet with the remaining directors, to elect the officers of the Association at the October meeting. Directors whose terms that are expiring are Jos. Burda, Tuck Tate and Jos. Yoder. Directors having one more year to serve are Fred Bond, Dave Longfield and Leon Powell. Those having two more years to serve are Frank Heminger, Claude Marcus and Erich Sleder.

Only Class "A", "B" and "E" members may vote providing their 1981 dues have been paid. If you have not paid your dues, please get it in the mail to our Secretary-Treas. Frank Heminger. It can also be paid at the next meeting prior to election.

Mr. Jos. Burda is not up for reelection because of the time needed at his club as General Manager-Superintendent. We would like to thank him for serving these many years and for the many things that he has contributed to the success of our Association. He is still active on two committees and we appreciate his input.

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We are looking for invitations for meeting locations in 1982. We have several offers at the moment however need additional locations so will you please check with your people and bring definite information as to the day of the week and the month most suitable. Also if there is a second choice, please give this also.

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We are always open for suggestions as to how we might improve upon, our meetings. Perhaps you might have a suggestion for a different style meeting, time of meeting, any change which would bring better attendance would be welcome. A note to the Board of Directors would be given consideration.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY and  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COOPERATING

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DEPARTMENT OF CROP AND SOIL SCIENCES

EAST LANSING • MICHIGAN • 48824

Michigan State University  
and the  
Michigan Turfgrass Foundation

are pleased to announce the Dedication of the Robert W. Hancock Turfgrass Research Center and the Michigan Turfgrass Field Day scheduled for Thursday, September 10, 1981 on the Michigan State University campus. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. with the formal dedication to start promptly at 9:30 a.m. At 10:30 the Field Day activities will begin with tours of the new building and stops at various points on the new research plots.

Topics to be discussed at the Field Day are modeling the environment of annual bluegrass for prediction of disease; growth regulators; management of closely mowed turfs and weedgrass encroachment; evaluating new grass varieties and for Michigan (showing new seedings); modifying soils for each turf management; and low energy management programs for turfs. Several new turf bulletins will be on display.

After lunch there are two options available. For those who would like to interact with the turf faculty, they may come back to the Hancock Building. There will be a special session with Dr. Joe Vargas on turf diseases on home lawns with emphasis on more recent problems. Drs. Kaufmann, Payne and Rieke will also be available for discussions regarding specific problems.

Secondly, for those who wish to play golf, a block of times has been reserved from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Forest Akers West Golf Course. If you plan to play, you must make a firm reservation before September 3 by calling (517) 355-1637. We have arranged for you to play at the alumni rate (\$8.25 for 18 holes). Carts are available (\$13) on a reservation basis only. Why not arrange for your foursome and call now?

Please join us as we dedicate this fine new research facility. This will allow us to do a better job of serving the needs of the turf industry in Michigan for many years to come. We look forward to working with you.

Parking is arranged for the Commuter Lot at the northwest corner of Farm Lane and Mt. Hope Roads. We look forward to seeing you at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 10. If you would like further information, please contact me at the above address or call (517) 355-0266.

Sincerely,

PER

Paul E. Rieke  
Extension Specialist-Turf

PER/rfb





# Selective Postemergent Controls for Poa Annua and Enhancement of Desirable Turf<sup>1</sup>

By Dr. Roy L. Goss

Extension Agronomist,  
Western Washington Research and Extension Center,  
Washington State University, Puyallup, WA.

There are multitudes of excuses for high populations of annual bluegrass in our turf, but this weedy grass is not necessary and we should not complacently accept it as fate. Before exploring methods of postemergence control, let us gear our thinking to some of the reasons why it is so dominant on a significant portion of our turfgrass facilities.

1. **Overirrigation.** The majority of golf course superintendents apply excessive water. Annual bluegrass proliferates under conditions of excess moisture. Bentgrasses, fescues and ryegrasses perform better with good drainage and some moisture stress. As we all know, annual bluegrass will not withstand much stress from moisture, heat or cold. Most of us are not willing to extensively sample the soil to determine whether irrigation can be delayed a day or more. It is easier to irrigate. And, of course, some use the excuse that greens become too firm although there is no sign of stress. If you use this excuse, you are admitting your own shortcomings and not addressing the main problem. Many acres of turfgrasses are overwatered simply to catch a few dry spots that will not be rewet through normal watering practices. Continually moist surfaces provide an optimum environment for germination of annual bluegrass as well.
2. **Excessive fertilizer.** Applications of nitrogen and phosphorus are the two main offending elements. Annual bluegrass can withstand a wide range of nitrogen nutrition, but flourishes under high nitrogen fertility. Adequate quality can be maintained with the other desirable turfgrasses with lesser amounts of nitrogen. High nitrogen predisposes desirable turfgrasses to heat, cold and drought stress and can also cause a decrease in the

root system. Excessive phosphorus is of absolutely no value to the desirable turfgrasses although it will enhance seed production of annual bluegrass while there are no seed being produced by desirable turfgrasses. Great quantities of seed produced by annual bluegrass insure its re-establishment.

3. **Improper timing of aerification and verticutting.** When these mechanical practices are carried out at the time of optimum germination of *Poa annua* (during late summer and early fall chiefly) we are assured of excellent germination and establishment of annual bluegrass.
4. **Loss of turf to pests.** With our northern cool season grasses, desirable turfgrass loss due to diseases is probably more significant than all other pest causes. If we cannot adequately protect our turfgrasses through fungicidal applications then we should be prepared to overseed these areas with desirable grasses early in the season to prevent annual bluegrass from dominating.
5. **Loss of turf from puddled and compacted surfaces and traffic.** We can prevent this type of problem on putting greens by building them properly with sand, increasing drainage activity, or initiating and maintaining a sand topdressing program. Traffic control is another matter and must be dealt with in each situation.
6. **Loss of turf from various stress factors.** Hydrophobic soils on putting greens (particularly sands) can result in the loss of all grasses. Aerification and the judicious use of soil surfactants will help to eliminate this problem and prevent overirrigation to the major areas. Heat stress can be partially corrected through light syringing and desiccation losses can be mini-

mized by employing protective measures that we already know.

## SELECTIVE POSTEMERGENT CONTROL OF ANNUAL BLUEGRASS

A number of selective postemergent and also preemergent chemicals have been tested at Washington State University's research station at Puyallup, Washington over a large number of years. From the period of 1975 through 1979 extensive investigations were made with endothall turf herbicide as the disodium salt. Tom Cook, currently of Oregon State University, was the project leader on the initial investigations. Endothall was tested at various rates on all of the common cool season genera and was found to be most effective on all except the fine leaved fescues. It is extremely toxic to the fine leaved fescues at all but the lowest rates which were not adequate to give good annual bluegrass control. Therefore, we do not recommend the use of endothall turf herbicide on the fine leaved fescues. Investigations with the various bentgrasses indicated that the velvet bentgrasses were not tolerant to endothall, and therefore we do not recommend use on the velvet bentgrasses.

The labelled rates of endothall as early as 1975 even with repeat applications at two week intervals did not give adequate control of annual bluegrass while continued use caused excessive discoloration and thinning of desirable turfgrasses. It was subsequently found that a single application of higher concentrations resulted in a better kill of annual bluegrass with only minor color loss of the desirable grasses. In general, our applied rates resulted in a color loss of the desirable grasses about 2 points on a scale of 1 to 9. This small loss of color is little price to pay for effective annual bluegrass control.

It is very important to achieve

GREENMASTER

complete wetting of the turfgrass plants when applying endothall. The more thorough the cover the better the kill in a single application to annual bluegrass. Our work was accomplished with water and herbicide rates of approximately 100 gallons per acre. Although smaller volumes under most circumstances will control the weed, higher volumes gave a more consistent kill.

#### **TIMING AND APPLICATION RATES OF ENDOTHALL**

**Kentucky Bluegrass.** Applications were most effective when applied between early-June and mid-September when turfgrass plants were not under moisture nor heat stress. Avoid applications if daytime temperatures normally exceed about 85°F. The best suggested guideline for applications on Kentucky bluegrass and turf-type perennial ryegrass when overseeding is not necessary is as follows:

**Nitrogen.** Apply 1 lb available N per 1000 sq ft the middle of May.

**Bensulide.** Apply 10 lb of active ingredient per acre at the time of fertilization or within one week.

**Endothall.** Apply 2.5 lb per acre in late May or early June.

Repeat nitrogen application 10 days to two weeks after endothall application to stimulate new growth and recovery from endothall.

It is not advisable to make a repeat application of endothall for at least 8 weeks following the first application. The system that worked good at Puyallup was to apply all treatments the same as listed above beginning in early August. For most areas, the program would allow adequate time for recovery and fill in of turfgrasses before reduced growth rates in fall.

**Creeping and Colonial Bentgrasses.** Applications are most effective between late April and mid-June and again during early to mid-September provided environmental stresses do not prevail. Summer applications are acceptable during mild periods when temperatures are below 80°F and moisture stress is not a factor. Endothall should not be applied when frost is likely to occur as excess discoloration and injury to desirable grasses may occur. A suggested program for endothall applications to colonial and creeping bentgrass turf can be described as follows:

**Nitrogen.** Apply about 1 lb of available nitrogen per 1000 sq ft between mid-April and the 1st of May.

**Bensulide.** Apply 10 lb active ingredient per acre one week after the

nitrogen application.

**Endothall.** Apply 1 to 1.25 lb active ingredient per acre approximately one week after the bensulide application.

Repeat the nitrogen application within 10 days to 2 weeks following the endothall treatment.

Fairway bentgrasses can be treated in the same manner for the putting greens described above but the rate of endothall should be increased to approximately 1.75 to 2.0 lb active ingredient per acre. A repeat application may be made on either putting greens or bentgrass fairways 8 weeks after the initial treatment provided that environmental stresses are not a factor.

#### **USE OF ENDOTHALL WITHOUT PREEMERGENCE HERBICIDES**

Endothall has virtually no soil activity and only a very short foliar residual activity. After the death of mature annual bluegrass plants the seed which has previously been shed readily germinate and reestablish their areas.

It may be too dangerous to apply preemergence herbicides in conjunction with endothall where turfgrass stands are dominated by *Poa annua*. Fill in rate of desirable grasses may be too slow and could result in large bare areas for extended periods of time. An alternative to the use of preemergence herbicides at least in the initial one to two years we suggest the following program:

1. Apply nitrogen and endothall in the manner described previously.
2. Immediately overseed with slicer-seeder and broadcast applications preceded by spiking, aerification, etc.
3. Topdress to maintain smooth, uniform conditions on putting greens and delete this operation on larger turfgrass areas.
4. Raise the mowing height on putting greens to a height of 5/16 inch. We all know this is an objectionable height but with light, frequent sand topdressing the putting greens can be played even during the period of reestablishment.
5. Keep the surface moist at all times to insure rapid and uniform germination of the applied seed.
6. Within a period of 4-6 weeks gradually reduce mowing height in small increments until the desired putting green height is achieved while continuing the light, frequent sand topdressings.

It is possible to make two such treatments in a single year although

one treatment will probably give significant results and can be repeated in subsequent years as desired. In the second year if it is determined that an adequate population of bentgrass has been achieved on the putting green than I would strongly recommend the use of bensulide preceding the endothall treatment and do not practice subsequent overseeding. It has been found that endothall applications are approximately 60-80% effective in the removal of annual bluegrass and therefore additional applications are necessary. When the annual bluegrass population has been reduced to very low levels repeated applications can be made at the discretion of the superintendent.

#### **OVERSEEDING METHODS FOLLOWING ENDOTHALL OR ENDOTHALL/BENSULIDE TREATMENTS**

Investigations were made by Dr. John Roberts (currently at the University of New Hampshire) and R.L. Goss at Washington State University's research station at Puyallup during 1978 and 1979 on reestablishment of bentgrass turf on putting greens following endothall or endothall/bensulide applications. It was found that when endothall was used alone or when applied one week following the application of bensulide there was a significant control of annual bluegrass in a mixed population of Highland bentgrass and *Poa annua*. Approximately 80-80% of the initial annual bluegrass population was destroyed following the endothall treatments.

The most effective overseeding technique involved two passes with a spike air cultivator followed by a Rogers seeder and a subsequent mowing height of 5/16 inch when endothall was applied at 1 lb active ingredient per acre. When bensulide was applied preceding the endothall application the best germination and establishment of overseeded bentgrass occurred when the area was aerified and seed was placed with a drop seeder. Rogers (slicer-seeder) seeding following bensulide/endothall application resulted in thinner stands of bentgrass but were yet a significant means of establishment of bentgrass through bensulide.

#### **CONCLUSIONS**

In conclusion we might reiterate that good maintenance practices of proper water control, adequate but controlled fertilization, good pest management, and judicious timing

*Continued on page 6*



continued from page 5

of all applications will materially assist in **Poa annua** control. The use of reasonable levels of sulfur (3.5 lb per 1000 sq ft or more per year) and reduction of phosphate to perhaps 1/2 and not exceeding 1 lb  $P_2O_5$  phosphorus per 1000 sq ft per year will give bentgrasses and advantage over annual bluegrass. Bluegrasses can be treated in much the same manner as the bentgrasses with the exception that high sulfur levels may not be necessary above the actual nutritional requirements.

I believe we have clearly demonstrated that endothall is a viable postemergent control chemical for annual bluegrass and if used with discretion along with good cultural and fertility programs, we can go a long way toward controlling and possibly eliminating annual bluegrass in desirable turfgrass areas.

<sup>1</sup>Presented at the 32nd Annual Canadian Turfgrass Conference and Show, Vancouver, British Columbia, March 1-4, 1981.

## RHONE-POULENC

# 28-day label to 26019 fungicide

Rhone-Poulenc Chemical Co.'s Agrochemical Division has announced that Chipco 26019 fungicide has been registered by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to control turf diseases on lawns for up to 28 days.

The up-to-28 days registration is for preventive control of the important spring and summer turf

diseases: dollar spot (including benomyl-resistant strains), brown patch and *Helminthosporium* leaf spot and melting out.

With Chipco 26019, the lawn care businessman now has the means to include disease control in his lawn care program, the company said. The fungicide's long-lasting control fits well with the lawn care businessman's schedule and the effective control should not require callbacks.

For more information, contact: Rhone Poulenc Chemical Co., Agrochemical Div., P.O. Box 125, Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852.

In the reading class the teacher read from a book, "Can the leopard change his spots?" Then the teacher said, "What do you think, class? Can a leopard change his spots?"

All the children agreed that he could not—all except little Willie.

"So you think a leopard can change his spots," said the teacher. "Can you tell me why you think so?"

Willie looked a little sheepish, but he replied, "I think—if the leopard gets tired in one spot, he can get up and go to another."

*The Kleinknecht Encyclopedia*

What can a person do when he discovers that somebody doesn't like him? Especially somebody by whom he would like very much to be liked? The first thing to do is to recover from the shock that anybody can dislike you, and start wondering why. Then resist the normal impulse to dislike him back. Remember that he has as much right to dislike you as he has to like you; try not to blame him. And there's a secret weapon you can use to correct the situation. The weapon is admiration! Use your wits to find as many things to admire about the other fellow as you can, that you can admire sincerely. Like him harder than he dislikes you! It isn't what you say to him that will do the trick; it is your attitude toward him. Your attitude will be more eloquent than your words. And sooner or later that person will be saying about you, "You know, I didn't like that guy at all, at first."

*The Little Gazette*

*What a waileth it if we become so engrossed in the pursuit of business or of money for its own sake, after we have earned a competency, if this pursuit unfits us for the enjoyment of the real, deep, satisfying things of life, if it blinds our eyes, warps our souls and numbs our better senses and sensibilities? In our feverish anxiety to overcrowd our life, are we not sometimes apt to forget how to live? The be-all and end-all of life should not be to get rich, but to enrich the world.*

B.C. FORBES

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GCSAA is reviewing information in the membership directory prior to publishing the 1982 edition. If you for any reason, do not like the way your name is listed or you have a change of address or new club affiliation, please contact headquarters immediately. The new directory goes to print October 1.

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October 6th, 1981, will be our next meeting at Green Hills Golf Club, Pinconning, so please mark your calendar and be with us.

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Get that postcard in the mail immediately or phone your reservation 616/352-4101 listing the members of your foursome for Sept. 16th, NOW