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Tee to Green

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Manipulation of *Poa Annua* with Plant Growth Regulators

SERIALS

APR 22 1987

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by Scott E. Niven

Property Manager

The Stanwich Club

If use of plant growth regulators (PGR's) is part of your fairway maintenance program, now is the time to make plans for this spring's applications. The following information is a brief update depicting three growth regulators and how they might be used on fairway turf.

If you have abundant amounts of *Poa annua* and are content to live with it, use of Embark PGR (mefluidide) will control its obnoxious seedheads and as a result of increased root growth, improve its summer survival potential. On the other hand, if you have declared war on *Poa annua*, you can still use Embark for its playability and aesthetic benefits and also to decrease the dispersion of poa seed into surrounding areas and the soil. Two other PGR's which have proven to be useful in gradually eliminating *Poa annua*, but do not control its seedheads, are Elanco's Cutless (flurprimidol-still under EUP label) and O.M. Scott's new TGR (paclobutrazol).

These three growth regulators are each effective in managing *Poa annua* in the way they were designed. However, an objectionable side effect is that they all have the potential to cause significant yellowing on treated fairways for a 2-4 week period. During the past four years I have concentrated on developing a program for use of these chemicals which would eliminate or at least keep this discoloration to a minimum. If you plan to use any of these PGR's, I would highly recommend that you first experiment on a limited basis

prior to treating all of your fairways. Notification to your green chairman and or golfing membership is also advised.

Timing is very important when applying these products, but perhaps even more so, is to apply PGR's evenly and at the proper rate. Your ability to make an accurate spray application without overlaps and misses will be put to the strictest test ever. Mistakes in application cannot be corrected and the turf will not grow out of any derogatory effects for at least three weeks.

I've spent countless hours in pursuit of a spray boom and nozzle that would be dependable, easy to maintain and provide an even spray pattern while allowing for small variances in boom height. My dream finally came true when I discovered a company known as Chem Farm who is producing a nozzle and boom kit with the kind of accuracy and dependability I was looking for. Until now this equipment was not available for golf course use (farm industry only). If you are interested in upgrading your present spray equipment, please give me a call, I'd be happy to refer you to Chem Farm.

The general effects and brief details of application for these products are as follows:

EMBARK (mefluidide)

This PGR is very effective in controlling *Poa annua* seedheads. It has also been shown to encourage leafspot, consequently

a couple of timely applications of fungicides is extremely important.

Timing: after full green-up and when seeds first appear on south facing slopes (April 15-25).

Rate: 4-8 oz/A (6 oz/A seems optimum).

Application Precautions:

1. use top running spray apparatus — avoid misses and overlaps.
2. spray with at least 25 gal. H₂O/A.
3. apply leafspot fungicide 3 days prior to application and 2 weeks after.
4. do not spray K. Bluegrass roughs.
5. do not irrigate turf for 2 days following application.

Benefits:

1. lack of seeds improves aesthetic appeal of fairways.
2. improved lie of golf ball.
3. reduces dispersion of poa seed to surrounding areas.
4. improves summer survival potential of *Poa annua*.
5. decreases mowing requirements for 3-4 weeks.

CUTLESS (flurprimidol) & SCOTT'S TGR (Paclobutrazol) —

The chemistry and effects on turfgrass of these two products is very similar, therefore recommendations for their use will also be nearly identical. The only significant difference is that the TGR is formulated on a fertilizer granule which

(continued on page 3)



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John Reid Memorial Award

From the Editors

The John Reid Award is a lifetime achievement award. It is presented annually to a local resident who has demonstrated through a lifetime, a knowledge of and commitment to the game of golf and the science of golf course management.

Last year's recipient was Guido Cribari. The following letter was dated last fall, and we apologize to the membership and Mr. Cribari for not printing it sooner.

Dear MGCSA

"Gratitude is one of the least articulate of the emotions, especially when it is deep." — Felix Frankfurter.

Dear Felix obviously hit it smack on the head. How else can I explain my chagrin, embarrassment, et cetera for not acknowledging sooner the MGCSA's presentation of the coveted John Reid Memorial Award to this humble servant.

It is truly the award of my lifetime. It occupies the No. 1 position on my mantel as well as in my heart. I display it prominently, and continually. Simply put, it is an honor I shall cherish forever.

Obviously then, I shall be everlastingly grateful to the officers and members of the MetGCSA for selecting me as the first recipient of this distinguished award. And I'd sincerely appreciate your making every single member of The Association aware of my gratitude, and appreciation.

And while I treasure the award, I value their friendship even more, and trust they will continue to keep me in mind in the years ahead as they forge en mass in making the MGCSA one of the more influential and most respected associations in Metropolitan golf.

My sincere thanks,

Thine,

Guido Cribari,
Executive Sports Editor
(Retired)

NOTE:

The selection committee, chaired by Peter Rappoccio, is in the process of selecting this year's recipient. The award will again be presented at the MetGCSA Invitational to be held at the Westchester Country Club in June.

Poa Annua (continued from page 1) provides .6 to .9 lbs N/1000 sq. ft. depending on the rate you choose to use.

These products will gradually reduce *Poa annua* percentages by exerting a marked growth reduction on poa plants. During that time (8-11 weeks) perennial turfs (bentgrass, K. Bluegrass etc.) will have a competitive edge and encroach upon the *Poa annua* areas. The most critical factor in using Cutless or TGR is to choose a rate which will provide growth regulating effects without causing excessive discoloration. To make this judgement, it is also important that you derive a fairly accurate estimate of your relative percentages of *Poa annua* and bent grasses. I have tried many different timings and rates of application with this type of growth regulator and had much success in reducing *Poa annua* populations. However, we are still experimenting with new schemes in hopes of discovering a way to use these products without any noticeable discoloration of the turf, more on that later.

The following rates and dates of application should give you good results with minimal yellowing:

Timing: (2 applications) after spring green-up (April 15) up to June 1 and again between August 15 and October 1.

Rates: Less than 60% bentgrass — TGR-light rate (2 lbs/1000 sq. ft. product).

Cutless-.75 to 1 lb. product/Acre. More than 60% bentgrass — TGR-heavy rate (3 lbs/1000 sq. ft. of product). Cutless-1 to 1.5 lbs. product/Acre.

Caution: The heavier rates of either product will speed up the elimination of *Poa annua* somewhat, but be prepared for more discoloration. The best approach seems to be use of light rates for a gradual reduction.

Application Precautions:

1. use top running spray apparatus — avoid misses and overlaps.
2. spray with at least 25 gal. H₂O/acre.
3. water in thoroughly.
4. if using Embark, wait for turf to grow out of Embark effects.
5. don't try to mix with Embark (disasterous results at any rates).
6. apply at least 10-14 days after overseeding of bentgrasses.
7. avoid excessive drying out of turf.
8. avoid application during temperatures above 90° F.

Benefits:

1. reduction in *Poa annua*.
2. reduction in mowing requirements and clippings (saves gasoline and labor).
3. reduction in water use, little wilting (saves H₂O).
4. improved color and vigor of perennial grasses.

5. some broadleaf and crabgrass weed control.

6. reduction in thatch build up.

Use of PGR's, annual overseeding and lightweight mowing with clipping removal will guarantee a fairly rapid conversion from *Poa annua* fairways to bentgrass. PGR's can be an integral part of this process and do many good things for your turf, but only if they are applied properly. I can't stress enough the importance of using a dependable, accurate spray system.

If you plan to implement a program using PGR's, please don't hesitate to give me a call if I can provide information to help you out in any way. ■

Address For Success



One of the most neglected aspects of the golf swing is the address position. The golfer must set up in an athletic position with the majority of the weight on the balls of the feet. This active feeling is the same in other sports such as waiting for a tennis serve or a ground ball in softball.

The arms should hang from the upper body in a *ape-like* position with rounded shoulders. This eliminates tension in hands, arms and entire upper body. A functional golf swing cannot be achieved without the proper address position.

by Mike Summa
P.G.A. Profssional
The Apawamis Club

Coming Events

APRIL		
6-7	GCSAA Regional Seminar Environmental and Water Issues in the Northeast	Red Jacket Inn Bass River, Mass.
14	CAGCS Meeting	New Haven Golf Club
16	GCSANJ Meeting	Sands Great Bay C.C.
23	LIGCSA Meeting	Indian Hills, C.C.
23	MetGCSA Meeting	Knollwood C.C. Elmsford, N.Y.
MAY		
12	MetGCSA Meeting Manager-Supt. Tournament	Fenway Golf Club Scarsdale, NY
14	LIGCSA Meeting	Mill River C.C.
21	GCSANJ	Rumsen C.C.

GCSAA Director's Comments

It is with a great deal of appreciation that I thank each and every member of MGCSA for their support of my candidacy for Director of GCSAA. Such an endeavor would be impossible without support and victory when achieved, provides a much more complete sense of accomplishment knowing of the many people who can share in the success. I look forward to the challenges ahead as a member of GCSAA's Board and am confident the ongoing progress towards the goals of continued education, greater recognition of the role of the golf course Superintendent, and greater professional identity will be achieved.

I have been named to chair the Education and Certification Committees and would welcome ideas or suggestions regarding the overall educational efforts of GCSAA, the annual conference, and the Certification program. The ultimate success of all such programs relies to a very large extent on how well such programs meet the needs of the members. Thus to be successful requires input from the membership, so please, do not hesitate in commenting as

often as possible.

With sincere thanks,

Steve Cadenelli

MetGCSA News

We are actively searching for an individual to fill the position as our Executive Director. Prerequisites include the ability to carry out or direct all clerical activities inherent in running the business of the Association (namely billings, correspondence to members, etc.), a familiarity with the golf industry, and have the ability to represent us in a way which will promote the professional image of the golf course superintendent throughout the metropolitan area. This person must be willing to attend all MetGCSA Board of Directors and monthly meetings and spend roughly twenty hours per week tending to Association affairs.

If you know of anyone who meets these qualifications and might be interested in the position, please contact Scott Niven at 203-869-1812. ■

JAMES

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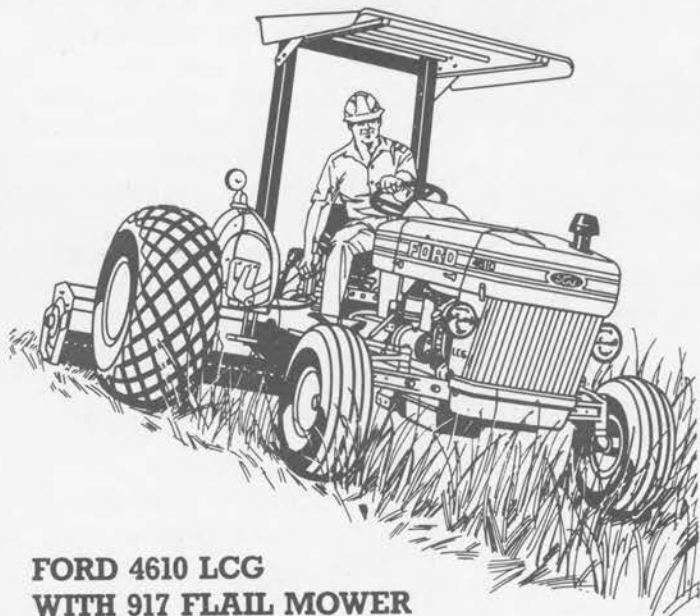
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Compatibility Is Important When Mixing Pesticides

At a recent regional grounds management short course in Savannah, Dr. Ed Brown, Extension Plant Pathologist at the University of Georgia, discussed the hazards of mixing several different pesticides in one spray tank. Combining several different materials in one tank can result in a chemical reaction between the materials that may inactivate them or cause a chemical breakdown. The label is your best source of information telling you what can and cannot be mixed, said Dr. Brown. When there is any doubt whether two materials can be mixed he recommends measuring the specified amount of each material for a quart of water into a quart jar of water and shaking them up. If a white precipitate forms on the surface or if there is a definite separation of the two materials after shaking, they are not compatible and should not be mixed. Even if the pesticides are compatible, the mixture should be tested on a few leaves of several different plants for phytotoxicity and possible injury to the foliage before it is sprayed freely throughout the landscape. Trimec, for instance, is not chemically compatible with

Daconil and Karathane is not compatible with Sevin.

When mixing pesticides, Dr. Brown provided the following rules:

- Never mix two emulsifiable concentrates together in the same tank. Petroleum-based materials may undergo a chemical reaction and become phytotoxic to plants when mixed.
- Use only one soluble material, such as an emulsifiable concentrate, when mixing any insoluble material.
- Always fill the spray tank half full with water before adding pesticides. With the tank agitating add materials in the following order: add wettable powders first (pre-mix them in a bucket to avoid clumping), then add flowables, then soluble powders, then surfactants and emulsifiable concentrates last.
- Soluble fertilizers can be mixed with pesticides but do not exceed rate of 1 oz of fertilizer product per gallon of tank spray mix.
- Always pre-mix wettable powders in a bucket before adding them to the spray

tank to avoid clumping.

- Always read the label for mixing instructions before combining any pesticides.

Finally, Dr. Brown advised that it is very important to know the pH level of the water being used to mix pesticides. Benlate fungicide, for instance, loses 50% of its chemical activity within an hour of mixing at pH 7.0. At pH 5.6, Benlate requires more than 30 hours to lose 50% of its activity. ■

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According to EPA policy tank mixes are ruled consistent with the label and recommendable if: 1) the label specifies such uses; 2) there is a state registration for such uses, or 3) such uses are recommended by state agencies or are common agricultural practice.

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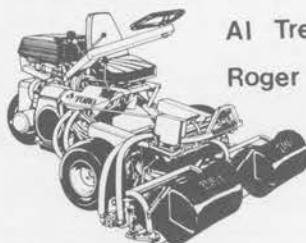


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MetGCSA Meeting

The site for this month's meeting is Knollwood Country Club in Elmsford, New York. Our host superintendent will be Tim Moore.

Tim Moore has had a life-long affinity with the game of golf. A frequent player, he took a job as a groundsman to be closer to the golf course, and he eventually worked his way through the ranks. Tim was the Assistant at Beekman C.C., and Superintendent at Mahopac C.C. for 8 years before coming to Knollwood in 1984.

A practical and diverse education has helped Tim along the way. He studied Parks & Recreation (Alfred State College), Business (Duchess Community College), and finally Turfgrass Management at U. Mass. As well as the MGCSA, Tim is also a member of the National, Hudson Valley GCSA, and NYSTA.

Working with different people, and the diversity of the job requirements on a day-to-day basis are a few of the reasons Tim enjoys his work so much. He's rarely bored with the golf course and Mother Nature.

Organization is the single most important quality to being a good Superintendent, in Tim's opinion. "If you can plan and set up your priorities, then it's easier to achieve your goals." Not surprising then, that the one improvement Tim is most pleased with is the development and implementation of a 7-year Master Plan at Knollwood. Now in its third year, the plan helps determine equipment replacement, necessary tree pruning and planting, and foresee long-range course design changes, among other things.

Outside of work, Tim enjoys golf and skiing. He and his wife Beth, daughter Meredith (age 7), and son Brian (age 5) live in Hopewell Junction, NY.

— Mary Medonis
Assistant Superintendent
Westchester C.C.

The speaker at the April meeting will be a representative of the insurance firm, The American International Group. The topic will be "Pollution and Pesticide Liability Insurance."

Welcome To New Members

The Met GCSA Board of Directors welcomes the following new members:

George Pierpoint III
Class A

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Ardsley-on-Hudson, NY

Peter Burnham
Class A

Richter Park G.C.
Danbury, CT

Jeffrey Gibson
Class B

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Brian Rusnak
Class B

Old Oaks C.C.
Purchase, NY

Jim Lawler
Associate

Marriott Seaview C.C.
Absecon, NJ

Congratulations to the following members who have recently been re-classified:

John Carlone
Class A

Middle Bay C.C.
Oceanside, NY

David Kerr
Class A

Ridgewood C.C.
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New Evidence In 2,4-D Issue

New evidence exists that the conclusions reached in a widely publicized epidemiology study that links herbicides, especially 2,4-D, to cancer may be incorrect, according to an article in the December, 1986 issue of *Agrichemical Age*. The EPA used the National Cancer Institute and University of Kansas study to warn of a possible special review of 2,4-D, perhaps as the first step toward product cancellation.

According to *Agrichemical Age*, it was able to obtain a copy of a Harvard School of Public Health review of the study. The magazine claims that the EPA has tried to suppress this review, even though the agency commissioned it.

The widely reported epidemiology study said that farmers exposed to herbicides for more than 20 days each year had six times the risk of developing non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) compared to non-farmers. Among those who mixed or applied the herbicides themselves, the risk was eight times greater, the study claimed.

The key points made in the Harvard School of Public Health's review were:

- The weight of evidence does not support the conclusion that there is an association between exposure to 2,4-D and NHL.

- In a high proportion of subjects (50 percent of cases of soft-tissue sarcoma and NHL and their controls), the exposure information was obtained from relatives and others since the subjects themselves were dead. Surrogate-supported information on occupation would be reasonably accurate, but surrogate's knowledge of what specific herbicides were used and on how many days of the year is questionable.

- Taken as a whole, the weight of evidence indicates that an association between 2,4-D and NHL remains a hypothesis that is still to be tested. Speculation as to whether 2,4-D causes NHL is premature until the evidence is clear that there is an association between them. ■

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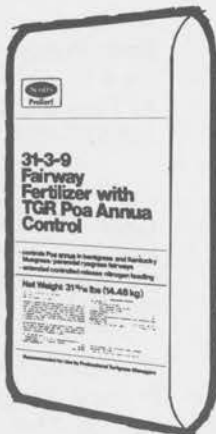
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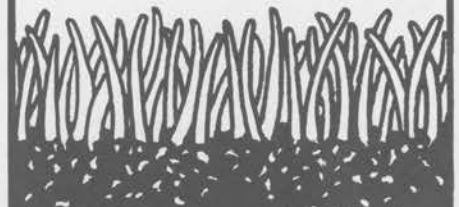
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