How to stop the grass growing from under your feet

Longhand account.
Trinexapac-ethyl is the active ingredient in Shortcut that works by redirecting plant growth. It specifically targets the gibberellic acid site responsible for cell elongation in grass. Not only does Shortcut inhibit vertical growth but actually diverts plant growth downward into the root system to produce increased food reserves and lateral stem development. This in turn produces a thicker, healthier sward that better equips your turf to withstand temperature extremes, moisture loss, traffic and wear and even helps in the management of Poa annua. American research has also established that Shortcut can enhance the performance of a fungicide when jointly applied and has no adverse effect on seedling development.

Shortcut version.
A unique turf management tool that can reduce mowing frequency and grass clippings by half, improves turf colour and helps manage annual meadow grass.

Scotts UK Professional, Paper Mill Lane, Bramford, Ipswich, Suffolk IP8 4BZ. Tel 01473 830492 Fax 01473 830386
Always read the label. Use pesticides safely. Shortcut contains trinexapac-ethyl. © Trade marks of The Scotts Company or its affiliates.
The future's bright, the future's Orange

The new orange coloured Greenkeeper Membership form is now in circulation. It includes the 2002 membership subscription prices, details regarding sending in a passport photograph of yourself. If you need a form, please contact BIGGA reception on 01347 833800 or via reception@bigga.co.uk, and they will be happy to send you some forms out.

Any current greenkeeper member who is due to renew their membership from 30 March 2002 will automatically receive a copy of the new membership application in their renewal pack. Don't throw it away, pass it on to a colleague and encourage them to join BIGGA, don't forget to put your name and membership number on the reverse - Section 6 Membership Introduction. You could win one of our all-in-one' clock/calculator/calendar and alarm.

Help increase membership of your Association by introducing a colleague. They could soon be benefiting from the many section, regional and national educational courses available and at subsidised prices, the legal helpline, personal accident insurance, naming but a few of the many benefits and services available to greenkeepers members of BIGGA.

Just introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA and your name will be placed into a draw to win a fantastic BIGGA Clock/calculator/calendar and alarm. Our congratulations go to March's winner, Bruce Cruickshank of Rosturghie Hotel & GC.

A BIGGA welcome...

Scottish Region
Shawn Anderson, Central
Neil Barnett, Central
Phil Barry, West
Craig Bonie, East
Matthew Brewster, Central
Duncan Cameron, East
Alastair Connell, Ayrshire
William Craig, North
David Emmett, West
John Henderson, Central
Robert Hepburn, Central
Nicholas Horfield, Central
Keith McFarlane, Central
David Merson, Central
Gordon Maxwell, West
Calm Mcphail, Central
Nabila Moatad, Central
Michael Petrie, Central
Robert Phillips, West
Andrew Pickard, West
Peter Robertson, West
Nasir Shah, Ayrshire
John Watton, Central
Andy Wilson, Central
Gordon Wood, East
Gareth Wright, East
Northern Region
John Astor, N Wales
Jenine Bayne, N Wales
John Dale, Cleveland
Rogan Douglas, Cleveland
Andrew Drummond, N West
Alain Forzett, Northern
Nicholas Harris, Northern
William Holden, N West
Michael Knobbein, Cleveland
Mark Lancefield, N West
Ben Young, N West
Dympy O'Neill, N Wales
Mark Pyatt, N Wales
Richard Shei, N West
Peter Williams, N West
Midlands Region
Edward Brown, BRMO
Terry Chesson, Midland
Sterling Clovear, Midland
Bennett Darlison, East Midlands
Darren Evans, Midlands
Sarah Gray, Mid Angle
Mark Holman, Mid Angle
Martin Hopkins, E Midlands
Matthew Hunted MIS, Mid Angle
Neil Laurence, Midlands
Michael Luff, Midlands
Craig Mayjag, BRMO
Alan Meade, Midlands
Philip Nixon, Midlands
Peter Sherron, Midlands
Arthur Shearon, Midland
Leigh Shaw, Midlands
Mark Seweryn, BRMO
Steven Thompson, Midland
Craig Watt, W Midlands
Neil Whit, E of England
South East Region
William Backshall, Surrey
Daniel Brown, Surrey
Mark Cardwell, London
Paul Enfield, Essex
Timothy Howett, Surrey
Robert Mills, London
Richard Robinson, Surrey
Bradley Sin, London
Gary Smith, Surrey
Andrew Taylor, Surrey
David Thayre, Surrey
Steven Vaughe, Surrey
W West & W Wales Region
Tim Bailey, W Coventry
Matthew Colbris, Dev C/Val
Craig Duval, W West
Mark Gray, W Coast
John Griffiths, W Wales
Steven Hold, Dev C/E Valley
Daniel Harding, Dev C & Wall
Peter King, SW Coast
Anthony Moore, Dev C & Wall
George Pitts, SW Coast
John Powell, W West
Simon Pratt, Dev C & Wall
Alain Pyne, SW Coast
Colin Roper, Dev C & Wall
John Scott, Dev C & Wall
Andrew Steele, SW Coast
Andrew Taylor, SW Coast
Northern Ireland
Frank Airworth
Greg Ferguson
International Members
Anthom Pennington, Dianne
Siewa Johnson, Denmark
Paul Hollderson, Ireland
Gunter Jaeger, Denmark
Pedro Luninga, Italy
Jon Nollett, Switzerland
Matthew Ronnie, USA
Scott Williams, USA
Silver Key Go Members
Sympom Professional Products
Victoria Latonos
Joseph Mase
Austen Sutton
Mark Zize
Associate Members
Andrew Allan, North
Edward Airworth, N West
Francois Allong, Northern
Peter Ainsworth, N East
Peter Ainsworth, N East
Paul Taylor, Northern
Alan White, Northern
Edith Buttel, EBMW
Glen Buttel, Midland
Chris Faulkner, BRMO
Matthew Tutt, E, Midlands
Phillip Wilkinson, E of England
Paul Gregg, London
Graham Kingdom, E Anglia
Christopher Macken, Kent
Stephen Wilson, E Anglia
Bernard Wall, SW Coast
Student Members
Nicholas Cossen, N West
Dale Ford, N West
Edward Groen, Northern
Stephen Adams, Midland
Jonathan Taylor, Midland
Paul Coffill, Kent
Paul Deny, London
Matthew Selman, E Anglia
Adrian Curtis, S Coast
Elizabeth Crisp, Rep of Ireland
Jose Manuel Barbancho Ruiz, Spain

March's Monthly Membership Draw Winner
Craig Bayne, East
Shaun Anderson, Central
Scottish Region
Phil Barclay, West
John Henderson, Central
Andy Drummond, N West
Colin McKay, Central
David Eardley, West
Alastair Storie, Ayrshire
David Manson, Central
Robbie Murdoch, Central
Roger Douglas, Cleveland
Northern Region
Peter Robertson, West
Nicholas Hawes, Northern
Mark Poynton, N Wales
Peter Williams, N West
Stanley Cleaver, Midland
Arthur Sproson, Midland
Edward Brown, BB&O
Craig Watt, E Midland
Steven Thompson, Midland
Craig Majkut, BB&O
Darren Evans, Midland
Michael Luff, Midland
Martin Hopkins, East Midlands
Neil Lawrence, Midland
Neil Whit, East Midlands

International welcome

BIGGA has almost 300 international members situated throughout the world in as many as 31 different countries. This month we would like to welcome our members from the bordering countries of France and Spain.

France
David Abercrombie, Alaise Golf Club
Richard Barnes, Kikuoka Country Club
Gary Byth, Melia Sancti Petri Golf
Guillaume Cadic, Golf National
Yves Kerambrun, Rain Bird France
Daniel Lederlin, Rain Bird Europe S.A.R.L.
Stephan Okuola, Golf De Joyenval
Katrin Pelanchon, Rain Bird Europe S.A.R.L.
Lena Will, Golf De Coiroux

Spain
Jose Manuel Barbancho Ruiz, Student
Gary Byth, Melia Sancti Petri Golf
Vincent Coll Pons, Golf Son Saura S.A.
Enrique Diaz Cortal, Sociedad Higica De Golf
Roy Machray, Marriott Son Antem
Stephen McMahon, Club De Campo Joven Nunz, Marriott Son Antem
Jaime Ortiz Patino, Valderrama Golf Club
Pete Stenlund, Golf De Andrae

If you've got an email account why not send an email to the membership department, where we can place you into our exclusive members email address book. We can then keep you up to date with membership news and events as they happen. Send an email to membership@bigga.co.uk or tracey@bigga.co.uk

You've got m@il!

The column this month is given over to an infamous trip to the BTME in Harrogate and the obstacles to be overcome to get there. Gordon Child takes up the story...

"Arctic Expedition"

On the clear frosty morning of January 21st, our coach moved promptly at 9.00am to begin our "journey into the unknown". All seemed well at the first pick-up point - Exeter Golf and Country Club - and with half our party on board we proceeded to the M5.

Flashings lights soon revealed that our boot door had flown open and a few miles and a few more flashing lights later we also discovered the loss of an excessive amount of water. It was decided to proceed to junction 24 for our lone ranger (waiting in a lay-by) and we just made it! Then the coach stubbornly refused to move and after some pondering it was decided to withdraw from the M5 at junction 23 and communicate the problem to those waiting 'up the line'.

After a 150 minute delay a second coach was arranged and we continued our great adventure. A few miles further and it became painfully obvious that no heating was included in the package deal. Temperatures were falling and there was danger of hypothermia, so no one was allowed to sleep. Great initiative was shown by the Board of Management member who turned his cap inside out and proceeded to keep the windshield defroster on for the driver.

Finally arriving at our destination - some three hours later - those able-bodied members of the group still capable unloaded the coach, while others tried to free themselves from the refrigerator containers.

The final day proved no less exciting with a warmer journey home anticipated. Saying our farewells we prepared to board the M62. Once again it was not to be, for our coach seemed to prefer Harrogate and after two hours delay a new coach was boarded - leaving the first vehicle to rest in peace. The coach proved to be the best decision made all week and a warm and comfortable journey was achieved at last, even prompting an outburst of song. Despite the trials and tribulations, everyone wished to take up the challenge next year.

Please note the April edition of Greenkeeper International will be the final issue of a title we have produced for the past five years, and it will be the last time you will receive a copy through the post. A time-honoured look back through the pages of Greenkeeper International from a decade ago.
WIN A SUPERB GOLFING BREAK

Here's your chance to win a superb break at one of the finest hotel chains in the country. It is a Golf Break for two at one of the De Vere Golf Hotels and consists of two nights bed, breakfast and table d'hôte dinner for two adults sharing a standard twin/double room, plus one round of golf for two persons. It may be taken any time before June 30, 2002, subject to availability and excluding Bank Holiday periods and The Brabazon Course at The De Vere Belfry.

To whom did Jack Nicklaus lose in the famous head-to-head Open Championship at Turnberry in 1977?

a. Gary Player
b. Tom Watson
c. Bob Charles

t. Tony Jacklin won The Open Championship in which year? Was it...

a. 1971
b. 1967
c. 1969

t. Which year did Bobby Jones complete the Grand Slam of US Open Championship, US Amateur, Open Championship and British Amateur?

a. 1926
b. 1927
c. 1933

The closing date for entries to this competition will be Friday, March 22, 2002. You can send your answers on a postcard to De Vere Competition, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aine York Y061 1UF; or by fax on 01347 833901 and by email to reception@bigga.co.uk. Remember to put your name and address on your entry.

The winner will be selected by draw from those correct entries received by the above date and notified thereafter. BIGGA staff and non-members are not eligible to enter, and the successful entrant must be a fully paid up member.
Government legislation, likely to become law in the near future, will see the end of unlimited abstraction licences. How will this affect you?

**Losing the right to IRRIGATE**

Abstraction licenses for all bore holes are soon likely to be issued on a renewable basis rather than indefinitely while those applying for licences or licence renewals will be required to present a case justifying their need for such a licence.

This was one of the main topics which came out of a recent UK Irrigation Association Seminar held in The London Club, under the title “Losing the right to irrigate”.

Information on the proposed new Government legislation was given to the assembled irrigators, by Gwyn Williams, Water Resources Regulation Policy Manager for the Environment Agency.

Gwyn explained that following the droughts of the 1990s the Government had reviewed the arrangements for controlling abstraction of water and the publication of “Taking Water Responsibly” in March 99.

Changes for the licensing system including the introduction of regional Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) where local officers will assess the water needs of the area together with the availability of water and produce a plan to ensure that the two are not too far apart.

“We wish to move away from the rights of abstractors to the responsibilities of abstractors,” said Gwyn, who urged delegates to become involved in the CAMS process wherever possible.

While explaining that abstraction licences would become renewable he did stress that it was not something about which to be overly concerned.

“The normal renewable period will be 12 years but six years notice will be given should a licence not be renewed for environmental reasons while there will be a reasonable assumption that licences would be renewed provided certain conditions are satisfied,” he explained.

He urged irrigators to examine their abstraction needs carefully so that a strong case could be built to take to the CAMS officer.

Earlier Nigel Hepworth, Regional Water Resource Planner for the Environment Agency in the Southern Region, had highlighted the extent of the problem in general terms and specifically in his area, and he admitted that that there was over licensing of water at the moment.

He showed a map which, in simple terms, identified that there was available water in the north of the country all year round; that some areas had problems in the summer and that some including the Kent area, had year round problems, with over licensing or over abstraction.

An action plan has been put in place to improve this situation over the next 15 years using CAMS.

Later Dr Jerry Knox, a Research Scientist at the Institute of Water and Environment at Cranfield University, described the work he was doing to develop a framework for assessing reasonable need.

The methodology developed involves taking into account spatial variations in soil type, land use, typical irrigation practices and local agroclimate. The result produces a relatively simple yet scientific based and rational approach for allocating water between irrigators.
"Because the methodology is transparent to applicants as well as the Environment Agency staff the needs can be assessed and agreed at an early stage in any application," said Jerry, who sometimed told the framework had been drawn up with agriculture in mind but that it would also be introduced to the sports turf, and golf, industries as well.

He was keen to begin discussions with the golf industry so that the necessary criteria could be put in place for any calculations.

The bulk of the audience comprised those involved in agriculture but there were also several delegates representing golf, including Paul Todd, Superintendent of The London Club, as well as others from irrigation companies, consultancies and colleges.

He explained that the IOG had been working with the Football Association for the last 18 months and the Lawn Tennis Association for the past 12 and that more consideration was being given to the reason stadiums are built in the first place - the pitch. In the past, the pitch was the last thing to be considered when a new stadium was built.

He also recalled how groundskeepers were sometimes told by the football team manager to flood the pitch to negate a visiting team's strengths or force a postponement to allow injured players additional time to recover.

He admitted that often amounts of irrigation were decided by how much had been given in the past rather than any more objective approach.

He told delegates that technology was now available to map sports pitches and race tracks to show the different make ups of the soil structure which could be within them so that different regimes may be undertaken of specific areas to ultimately provide better continuity of surface.

"With so many different types of soil on some race courses the 'going' is going to be different depending upon the area inspected," said David, who also made a pertinent point when it came to the public's desire to look after the environment.

"A bottle bank or a car wash. Where's the queue?" he quizzed.

Michael Martin, of York and Martin, highlighted the need for appropriate sprinkler selection, spacing and positioning together with the need for good pipe systems, pumping plants and control systems.

He also cautioned against the use of weather stations other than their ability to record data.

Summing up the day Keith Weatherhead, Senior Lecturer, at the Institute of Water and Environment at Cranfield University, said that water was a valuable resource for serious irrigators and that it was going to become more valuable.

"Water is scare and is going to become scarcer as the climate continues to change and irrigation needs increase but we know that water could be used more effectively."

He said that we would have to take every opportunity to get more water through winter collection; filling up the reservoirs in times of flood using powerful pumps and, as The London Club does, rain water harvesting.

He also said we had to guard against "wet year apathy", accept that water shortage would continue to be a problem and urged people to work in groups and participate in the consultation programmes to ensure the best possible use of the available water.

The Seminar was organised by the UKIA. Anyone seeking more information about the Association should contact Melvyn Kay, UKIA Executive Secretary, 5 Lea Road, Ampthill, Bedford. MK45 9PR. Tel: 01525 635127 Email: m.kay@ukia.org
Mention Cornish Golf and St Enodoc will be at the top of the list - well Stuart Dymond, the Head Greenkeeper, thinks so, and probably so do the members of this most scenic of links courses.

The mammoth Himalayas bunker receives its facelift

Historically this James Braid designed course remains little changed from those halcyon days of gutty balls, hickory shafts and plus-fours. A game in those days that was played by the gentlefolk of Rock. How proud James Braid would have been to know that his 6th hole on the beautiful Church Course would become its most renowned. The towering 90 foot bunker fondly known as the Himalayas has thwarted many a golfer who has tried in vain and at huge cost to pride and their golf score, to take liberties with this colossus. A hole to be attacked by the very best and the strongest who only use their head.

Over many years golfers have been seen tramping up its face to retrieve their ball in resignation and despair. Sadly however over the last few years the ravages of golfers and many heavy feet, along with the our 'lazy' winds that whip up a sand storm at the drop of a baseball hat, have eventually changed the face of this wonderful hazard. To such an extent that without drastic action St Enodoc was in danger of losing their treasured landmark.

It was decided that it had now gone beyond temporary measures already carried out and something more permanent had to be done. Structural engineers were appointed to look at the project and their plans came back at huge costs and a daunting plan. This major task was achieved by placing and staking railway sleepers under the bank to form a platform to build the banks. This is were the muscle power and hard work came in. Stuart and his team of hardy greenkeepers toiled painstakingly to heave by hand these sleepers in place creating the shape that was desired. Then another artist in the form of John Oliver Plant Hire, with John himself performing almost balletic skills with this huge piece of machinery, sometimes in the most precarious of positions which were enough to send shivers down the back of the most hardened greenkeepers. John managed miraculously and skilfully to place the earth and turf above these sleepers burying them out of sight. The whole surrounding area was laid by hand with indigenous turf cut from the course. Here again Stuart's Team came to the fore with hard hand breaking work to lay and net it all down with 400 square metres of turf.

How long did this take one month two weeks not on your life when Stuart's gang get going there's no stopping them. One week: saw the job pretty complete!

The proof of the pudding they say is in the eating or viewing as the case may be. NO GOLFERS ALLOWED just for a little while anyway.

How long did this take one month two weeks not on your life when Stuart's Team came to the fore with hard hand breaking work to lay and net it all down with 400 square metres of turf.

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E-mail: info@trenchers.co.uk • Web site: www.trenchers.co.uk
Andy Sadler describes the stringent procedures that should be implemented to ensure greenkeepers receive the best quality seed mixtures possible

This article is based on a paper presented by the author, Andy Sadler, Production Manager & Crop Inspector with Barenbrug UK, at the Turf Management Conference, organised by Barenbrug UK in Portadown, Northern Ireland, in February, to update turf professionals on breakthroughs arising out of the company's ongoing research programme.

A turf manager might have all the skilled labour, specialist equipment and modern turf chemicals imaginable, but if the sward he starts off with is not of high enough quality he could well be fighting a losing battle. The grass seed used is the component, and the importance of choosing a product with the highest quality cannot be underestimated.

A dedicated seed house will recognise this, and will have introduced stringent quality controls to ensure that the seed the turf manager sows is trustworthy and reliable. But first, let's look at the rules and regulations governing this vital area.

The production, certification and marketing of seed are governed by The Fodder Plant Seeds Regulations 1993. Basically, this places the seed producer under an obligation to ensure varietal purity, freedom from noxious weeds, the satisfaction of a minimum quality standard, and uniformity of marketing. Obviously, a quality-conscious company has to select competent growers who use suitable fields, and must implement controls throughout all aspects of the production process, such as monitoring the growing crop, checking the harvesting, drying and cleaning of seed, and determining its purity and germination level. Only if the required standards are met can a Certificate of Purity and Germination be issued.

The production process: the production process begins when seed is mixed at the formulation of the final mixtures. For example, we have for several years had a policy standard that is considerably in excess of the minimum standards: indeed, 90% of the seed we produce has a purity level in excess of 99%.

The minimum criteria governing the issue of a Test Certificate have been laid down by the EEC, but in the UK there is a higher standard called the Higher Voluntary Standard (HVS). Both the EEC and HVS standards require a minimum germination level of 80% in a seed sample of perennial rye grass, but minimum purity and weed levels are higher for HVS at 98% than for EEC at 96%.

However, some breeders go even further and recognise the demands made of modern sports and amenity turf, and realise that grounds professionals require an assured supply of seed of a consistently high standard. For example, we have for several years operated a policy standard that is higher than the HVS. This is appreciated in particular by managers responsible for high quality turf, such as golf greens, bowling greens and turf nurseries, who need the assurance of higher quality if the risk of problems — and subsequent loss of revenue — is to be minimised.

A dedicated seed house will recognise this, and will have introduced stringent quality controls to ensure that the seed the turf manager sows is trustworthy and reliable.

We have incorporated Product Quality into our overall quality management system (QMS), so that the monitoring and results can be rigorously implemented and checked in a thoroughly consistent manner. Our quality control policy aims to achieve a germination level of at least 90%, and a purity level considerably in excess of the minimum standards: indeed, 90% of the seed we produce has a purity level in excess of 99%.

So how is this achieved? We operate a policy of 'zero zero' testing, designed to ensure that quality is maintained at two key stages of the production process: the production and cleaning of the original seed, and the formulation of the final mixtures. In the first stage, grass is grown for seed production by approved growers, who are carefully chosen for their ability to produce yields of high quality and quantity. Samples are taken of the cleaned seed and are tested at a laboratory licensed by DEFRA. If the sample passes these analyses, then the seed can be marketed. Obviously, a seed producer under an obligation to carry a green, official mixture label from DEFRA, describing the varieties and mixture details. The information printed on the label is mandatory, and refers to the identity of the seed species used in the mixture, the variety names, their percentage by weight, the month and year of production and other basic details.

In summary, all those involved in the challenging task of creating a top quality playing surface need as much information as possible, and they appreciate the need for the highest quality standards throughout. If greenkeepers and groundsmen can confidently select seed that meets or exceeds these criteria, then they will have the best chance of success. And so will the players who perform on the results of their efforts!
GREENS MM 9

- Overseeding greens
- Very tolerant of close mowing
- Improves the quality of the playing surface by establishing vigorous new plants
- Range of varieties enhances all year round performance of the greens
- 100% Browntop Bent

GREENS MM 11

- Traditional 80:20 greens mixture
- Tolerant of close mowing
- High shoot density
- Good playing quality
- 80% Chewings 20% Browntop Bent

GREENS & TEES MM 10

- Variation of the traditional 80:20 mixture
- Tolerant to close mowing
- Dense close knit turf
- Top rated cultivars
- Good wear characteristics
- Good disease resistance
- 30% Chewings 50% Slender Creeping Red Fescue 20% Browntop Bent

British Seed Houses is setting the standard for amenity turfgrass seed quality. For amenity perennial ryegrass we’re 80% self-sufficient in UK seed production - more than any other competitor - so more of our turfgrass seed meets the strenuous UK higher voluntary seed certification standards.

From specialist sportsground, golf and landscaping mixtures to proven individual turfgrass cultivars from IGER, you just know that your Grade A seed has passed the most stringent quality parameters in the industry.

Grade A seed mixtures will stand the closest scrutiny