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Using Adjuvants In Your Plant Protection Program

Here's how adjuvants can improve the performance and coverage of your plant protection product applications.

Using adjuvants in your turf management program can help you improve plant protection product performance. They can even make the difference between peak and poor performance. The starting point is to find the right adjuvant for the job. The most commonly used adjuvants for turf are: wetting agents; spreader/stickers; spreader/activators; sticking agents, and buffering and compatibility agents.

Wetting Agents

If you’ve been making thorough herbicide, fungicide and insecticide applications but still aren’t getting the control you expect, your plant protection product may not be penetrating plant tissue surfaces. This reduces control and leaves spray residue susceptible to wash-off. The wetting agent Riverside® Silkin™ helps sprays penetrate plant tissue quicker for improved overall performance.

The wetting agent Riverside Silkin and spreader/activator Riverside Activate Plus™ reduce surface tension of spray so that it forms “flatter” droplets, improving coverage and absorption.

Spreader/Stickers

Good control in some areas and poor control in others could mean drift and wash-off are taking their toll on spray performance. During application, spray droplet size varies, reducing adhesion and causing spray to miss the target. To improve coverage and adhesion, use the spreader/sticker Riverside Complex™. It adjusts droplet size for better performance, even under adverse conditions. By reducing surface tension in the spray droplet and keeping the spray mixture suspended, Complex can dramatically improve the efficiency of herbicides, fungicides and insecticides.

Spreader/Activators

Droplet size varies during applications, making retention and distribution more difficult. Spreader/activators work in much the same way wetting agents do. They deliver more uniform droplet distribution, quicker wetting and increased spray retention on leaf and stem surfaces when used with herbicides, fungicides and insecticides.

The spreader/activator Riverside Activate Plus improves performance and efficiency by moving the spray into plant tissue more quickly. By speeding up penetration, you get increased pest control.

Sticking Agents

Contact herbicides, and non-systemic fungicides and insecticides can sometimes be washed away by rain, irrigation or even dew. Plant protection product sprays are also affected by drift. The sticking agent Riverside Plex® helps plant protection products penetrate the vegetation canopy and stick to plant tissue. That also helps control drift. Using...
Sement

Plex will help you make applications that will last longer, even in wet conditions. Both maintain droplet size near 400 microns, ideal for the best application.

### Approximate Actual Size

- **<250 Microns**
- **250-400 Microns**
- **>400 Microns**

Spray droplets under 250 microns are susceptible to drift and poor coverage. Using Riverside Plex or the spreader/sticker Riverside Complex to control droplet size effectively controls drift and improves coverage.

### Buffering and Compatibility Agents

If you're not getting the control you want but have followed label directions to the letter, it could be a pH problem in your tank mix. The buffering agent Riverside Combine® will help you correct the pH level for maximum performance from your spray mixture. If you're unsure of your pH level, use a pH test kit or, if you don't have one, contact your Terra representative.

### Combine® pH use chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Desired pH</th>
<th>Starting pH</th>
<th>Oz/100 gal. water</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>9 8 7 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2 0 0 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>4 0 0 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>16 12 8 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A chart like this one makes it easy to adjust pH level for optimum results. For example, if your desired pH is 7 and your starting pH is 9, you would need to mix 4 ounces of Combine per 100 gallons of water to get the proper pH.

In addition to buffering, Combine also works as a compatibility agent. The compatibility agent Combine should be used when: more than one plant protection product is included in a tank mix; when tank mixing different formulations like wettable powders and liquids; or when applying micronutrients or plant protection products with fertilizer. Also, Combine improves spray mix stability and dispersion.

To see if a compatibility agent will help your tank mix, try the jar test. Fill two quart jars each with a pint of water or carrier. Use the same source and temperature as you would in your actual tank mix. Mark one jar “with” and one “without.” Add 1/4 teaspoon of Riverside Combine to the jar marked “with” and shake it gently for 5-10 seconds. Add the plant protection product(s) to both jars in the proper volume and sequence according to the label directions. Shake gently before adding each new product. Wait 5-10 minutes. Check both jars. If no gels, sludge, flakes or other irregularities are present, the mix is compatible.

If the jar marked “with” is compatible and the jar marked “without” isn’t, a compatibility agent should be added to your tank mix. If the jar marked “with” isn’t compatible, the tank mix shouldn’t be used.

Wait 30 minutes. If the mixture separates but readily mixes again, the tank mix can be used with proper agitation.

### Adjuvants Pay Off

Overall, adjuvants can help you protect the investment you make in plant protection products by making them more effective. Whether you’re using wetting agents, spreader/stickers, spreader/activators, sticking agents, buffering and compatibility agents or all five, they can help you overcome some of the common problems faced by turf professionals.

Adjuvants help you get the most out of your program and protect your plant protection product investment at the same time. Riverside adjuvants make the difference between a good job and a great job. Use them with your spray applications to maximize performance.

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Allan MacCurrrach
1939-1997

BY JIM SHINE
Retired
North Florida GCSA

Allan MacCurrrach passed away on January 14, 1997 while on a business trip for the PGA Tour in Palm Springs, California. Allan had been the senior agronomist for the PGA Tour for more than 22 years and was responsible for the fine golf course conditions that the tour players presently play on throughout the United States and Canada.

Allan was born in Ipswich, Mass., on March 29, 1939 and grew up in Hamilton, Mass. He earned his AS degree in 1962 from Stockbridge School of Agriculture/University of Massachusetts in Amherst after having earned his AB from Burdette College in Boston in 1959.

He started his career as golf course superintendent at Valley Country Club in West Warwick, R.I. He then worked as superintendent at Chevy Chase Country Club in Chevy Chase, Md., before joining the PGA Tour as its first agronomist.

Allan was internationally recognized for his expertise in the turf management field. As a member of the GCSAA, he was one of the first in his field to earn the title of Certified Golf Course Superintendent. In 1994 he was honored by the GCSAA as the recipient of their distinguished service award.

Every superintendent who has hosted, is hosting or will host a PGA Tour event in the future will mourn the loss of a friend and champion.

Allan is survived by his wife, Carol; daughter, Jennifer; son, Allan III; and two grandchildren.

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Steve Kuhn: Friend and Teacher

BY BOB KLITZ, CGCS
and ED MILLER
Golf Course Superintendent
Williams Island C.C.

In July 1996 Steve Kuhn, golf course superintendent at High Ridge Country Club in Boynton Beach, was presented with the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association President’s Award from the South Florida Chapter.

Steve had worked as a superintendent for 18 years in South Florida prior to accepting his current position in Palm Beach County. During his tenure in South Florida Steve was a friend, teacher, and, supporter of many superintendents in the three-county chapter.

Steve’s interest in golf started in Welch, W.Va., where his parents operated a golf course. Joe Kuhn, Steve’s father, was the golf professional and golf course superintendent while Steve’s mother, Mary, operated the pro shop.

Although Steve was exposed to golf since the day he was born, his father never pushed him to make golf his career choice.

Steve’s first friends at the club were the caddies. Steve’s mother was constantly encouraging Steve to play golf with the members’ children instead of playing poker with the caddies or looking for golf balls.

The easy-going, regular-guy personality that was evident in Steve’s youth accurately portrays Steve’s easily approachable and always accessible management style.

After high school Steve attended the University of Florida in Gainesville.

Only 30 hours short of a degree in mechanical engineering at the University of Florida, the thought of having a career that kept him cooped up indoors over a drawing board and under the glare of fluorescent lights began to wear on the young man.

His love of the outdoors, the beauty of the trees and mountains and flowers were indelibly embedded in every part of his being.

“‘This is for me,’” Steve thought. “‘It’s what I want to do for the rest of my life!’” And it’s what he has done. Steve changed his major, won a Florida Turf Grass Association scholarship and went on to graduate with a degree in Ornamental Horticulture.

One of the lifelong motivators for Steve has been a never-forgotten remark by Florida turf legend, Dr. Granny Horn, who said, “I want to know more about bermudagrass than anyone who has ever lived.”

It remains a guiding factor in Steve’s constant quest to improve the quality of the golf course, and is prevalent in any discussion he has about turf.

Right after college, with no working mentor to guide him, he became the golf course superintendent of the Killlearn Country Club in Tallahassee and hosted the Tallahassee Open in 1971. In 1975, Steve was appointed superintendent of the California Country Club in North Miami Beach. He spent almost eight years there before moving on to two prestigious, member-owned clubs - Westview Country Club in 1983 and Woodmont in 1986.

With a solid reputation in every phase of golf course maintenance and management, Steve was then appointed the head superintendent at the Doral Resort, with its four golf courses, including the famed Williams Island C.C.
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“Blue Monster.”

While working at Doral, Steve prepared for nine PGA Tour tournaments.

**Hurricane Andrew**

His most vivid memories at Doral were recovering from the disaster of Hurricane Andrew in the summer of 1992. Steve and his crew had three months to get ready for the winter season. Andrew had uprooted over 3,000 trees.

In addition to tons of debris removal, 55 tractor trailer loads of sod were required to cover all of the damaged areas. During this massive cleanup effort, the routine maintenance practices still had to be performed - weed and insect control, aerification, overseeding, and planting 120,000 annuals.

It is a tribute to Steve’s resourcefulness and planning that all this was accomplished in time for the opening of Doral’s winter season.

Steve’s professional affiliations include service on the board of directors of the South Florida GCSA and the Florida Turfgrass Association, and membership in the FGCSA, GCSAA and Palm Beach GCSA.

He is the consummate professional - always learning, always sharing - always teaching! He takes great pride in motivating individuals to become excited about working in the golf course industry and serving their associations.

Former assistants currently working as superintendents include Ed Miller at William’s Island C.C. (current president of the SFGCSA); Gilly MacGregor at Westview C.C. (director of SFGCSA); Eric Knudson at Ocean Reef Club (joining SFGCSA board in 1997); and Eric Von Hafen at John’s Island Country Club West.

In his early years in the field, fishing and outdoor sports consumed every non-working moment, but during the Doral years, he was obsessed with the great responsibilities of caring for one of the world’s best-known golf resorts and had little real time for himself.

Now at High Ridge Country Club in Palm Beach, Steve has had the chance to spend more time with his wife Faith and children, Lauren and Stephen. “It’s never too late for that,” says Steve.

In the spring of 1996 the SFGCSA Board of Directors met to discuss possible candidates for the President’s Award nomination.

When Steve’s name was mentioned the reaction of the board members was overwhelming.

Steve has viewed our golf courses, listened to our successes and tragedies on the telephone, played golf on our courses, and discussed strategies at chapter meetings with almost every member of our board.

When Steve was presented with this award at our annual meeting, several superintendents thanked him publicly for his support. Congratulations, Steve, and thanks again from all of the members of the SFGCSA.

---

**Steve’s Personal Philosophy**

- Spend the majority of your time on the golf course. High visibility is important to crew and membership.
- Be a key figure in training of personnel.
- Personally use all equipment on a regular basis, not just the fairway mower.
- Be competitive. Look at everyone else, then at yourself. Make improvements. Do not settle for being average.
- This is a “service” industry. “Serve” the members. The members are your boss. “Serve” your crew by providing them with the tools and equipment they need to succeed and excel. Treat everyone with respect.
- Have goals. At the beginning of each year set goals for yourself and your operation. At the end of each year evaluate your progress, then go out and make the next year even better.

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