shade will not be a problem. He leaves as many snags in place as possible, but removes any that might be a safety problem. When he has to remove a snag, he uses the cut-up tree to create brush-pile habitats and food sources in out-of-play areas.

The club is a member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program and Estes has help in making the program an active part of club life. "One of our members, Mr. Buddy Pollock, has been a tremendous resource for our program. Mr. Pollock personally tends our feeding stations and installs and monitors our nest boxes," he said.

I asked Estes if he was working on making San Jose a certified sanctuary. "We haven't formalized the process yet, but we are doing so many of the requirements it's time for us to document them and get on with the program. I am sending Teresa Xander, our landscape supervisor to the ACSP workshop in Orlando to give her a hands-on orientation in the process to help us get started."

Getting San Jose certified would just be one more accomplishment in a career that has led Estes from Florida to Texas and back. He probably has one of the most diverse resumes I've come across in my years of profiling superintendents. This diversity of experience is a boon to San Jose as he has done everything from municipal course operations on a shoestring budget to preparing high-profile courses for television coverage of professional events.

He credits much of his on-course and career success to former PGA Tour agronomist Alan Maccurach. Estes said, "In my opinion American golf is where it is today because of Alan's influence. In the age of televised golf Alan was at the heart of the grooming programs and standards that were set. Those conditions set the mark that others sought to achieve on a regular basis. What I learned was that a well-conditioned golf course came about by following a sound, year-round program and did not result from
a mad dash to glory in the last few weeks before an event. Undoubtedly, the high standards depicted at tournament sites have raised golfers’ expectations but it has also raised our stature in the game.

“I came to know Alan during my tenure at The Tournament Players Club during construction as a student at Lake City and as an assistant superintendent after graduation. It seems we developed a mutual respect as he was instrumental in my landing several key jobs that gave me the opportunity to work at high-profile clubs like Onion Creek in Austin, Tex. and TPC at Prestancia in Sarasota and prepare those courses for the Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf and the LPGA Chrysler Cup respectively.

“My introduction and inspiration into golf came from my dad and my grandfather. My grandfather worked at Big Sandy GC in north Georgia after retiring from the farm and fencing business. My dad taught me the game when I was six years old and he dreamed of going to Lake City Community College for the golf course operations program. He never got to go, so I did.”

It seems that family and close knit relationships are essential to Estes’ personal and professional values and success. They make a good fit with San Jose’s traditional Old Florida family lifestyle.
Howard's Turf Pride® with RONSTAR® Brand Herbicide Solves Weed Control Problems Without Harming Turf Roots

Most herbicides can't distinguish a bad root from a good one. RONSTAR® Can!

Howard's Turf Pride® with RONSTAR® brand herbicide is the premium product for pre-emergence broadleaf and grassy weed control. RONSTAR® provides season-long protection without harming turf root development. Weed seedlings aren't so lucky. RONSTAR® is quick to target and destroy undesirable germinating weed shoots like DNA-resistant goosegrass, crabgrass and Poa annua. Use Howard’s Turf Pride® with RONSTAR® to kill weeds without affecting new turf sprigs. Help turf recover with RONSTAR® for quick and long lasting results.

Order Howard’s Turf Pride® with RONSTAR® by the bag or let us spread it directly on your tees and fairways. Call 1-800-899-3141 or 407-855-1841

Groveland • Immokalee • Orlando • Quincy

RONSTAR® is a registered trademark of Rhône-Poulenc.

Howard fertilizer & chemical company, inc.

www.howardfertilizer.com
Professionalism - Stop Hiding!

By Robert LaChance

Despite seventy-five years of the national golf course superintendents association’s efforts, when you mention a professional at your golf facility, there is still only one - the golf pro. GCSAA in recent years has tried to address this issue, and after a failed effort at educating the public is now focusing on educating us, its members. Maybe if we can somehow certify that we have the required education, time on the job, and attend more educational programs continually, we will be viewed as professionals along with our golf-merchandising brothers. Realistically I doubt it.

The goal of providing education to its members in the many diverse areas of our profession is admirable. Continual education in a profession changing as rapidly as ours is a requirement just for holding on to your job. That is my point. These things do not make us professionals or make others view us as professionals. An education and a commitment to continuing education are prerequisites for our jobs. Like the prerequisites in college, you have to take the classes, do the work, and pass the exams in order to prepare for your more advanced classes. Frequently, the prerequisite classes do not even count toward your degree.

Our on-the-job performance is what sets us apart as professionals, and if we want to change our image to that of professionals, we need to change how our performance is perceived by the public, our members or golfers, our staff, our golf professionals, general managers and everyone else we interact with in the performance of our duties as golf course superintendents. After all, when we say we want to be viewed as professionals, we are actually asking for our due respect.

Respect, the adage goes, is earned. Your position or education or certification, do not guarantee respect. You earn respect by how others perceive you while you perform the duties of your job and in how you interact with others while you perform that job. You earn respect by being perceived as deserving respect.

Now this bothers quite a few people, and rightly so I would say. In a world that seems to be more about perception than reality, image than performance, perception is hardly truth. Nevertheless, the reality is that if we want to be perceived as knowledgeable, resourceful, and dedicated; we are going to have to project that image. We can no longer hide in our own little world, and expect others to recognize our achievements. We need to get out and show people what we do - and how we do it. That means we need to interact with more than our own staff, the golf pro’s staff, and maybe the accounting staff. We need to get out more!

We need to be perceived as being available to more than our own staff, the golf pro’s staff, and attend even more educational programs continually, we will be viewed as professionals along with our golf-merchandising brothers. Realistically I doubt it.

The goal of providing education to its members in the many diverse areas of our profession is admirable. Continual education in a profession changing as rapidly as ours is a requirement just for holding on to your job. That is my point. These things do not make us professionals or make others view us as professionals. An education and a commitment to continuing education are prerequisites for our jobs. Like the prerequisites in college, you have to take the classes, do the work, and pass the exams in order to prepare for your more advanced classes. Frequently, the prerequisite classes do not even count toward your degree.

Our on-the-job performance is what sets us apart as professionals, and if we want to change our image to that of professionals, we need to change how our performance is perceived by the public, our members or golfers, our staff, our golf professionals, general managers and everyone else we interact with in the performance of our duties as golf course superintendents. After all, when we say we want to be viewed as professionals, we are actually asking for our due respect.

Respect, the adage goes, is earned. Your position or education or certification, do not guarantee respect. You earn respect by how others perceive you while you perform the duties of your job and in how you interact with others while you perform that job. You earn respect by being perceived as deserving respect.

Now this bothers quite a few people, and rightly so I would say. In a world that seems to be more about perception than reality, image than performance, perception is hardly truth. Nevertheless, the reality is that if we want to be perceived as knowledgeable, resourceful, and dedicated; we are going to have to project that image. We can no longer hide in our own little world, and expect others to recognize our achievements. We need to get out and show people what we do - and how we do it. That means we need to interact with more than our own staff, the golf pro’s staff, and maybe the accounting staff. We need to get out more!

We need to be perceived as being available to more than our own staff, the golf pro’s staff, and attend even more educational programs continually, we will be viewed as professionals along with our golf-merchandising brothers. Realistically I doubt it.

The goal of providing education to its members in the many diverse areas of our profession is admirable. Continual education in a profession changing as rapidly as ours is a requirement just for holding on to your job. That is my point. These things do not make us professionals or make others view us as professionals. An education and a commitment to continuing education are prerequisites for our jobs. Like the prerequisites in college, you have to take the classes, do the work, and pass the exams in order to prepare for your more advanced classes. Frequently, the prerequisite classes do not even count toward your degree.

Our on-the-job performance is what sets us apart as professionals, and if we want to change our image to that of professionals, we need to change how our performance is perceived by the public, our members or golfers, our staff, our golf professionals, general managers and everyone else we interact with in the performance of our duties as golf course superintendents. After all, when we say we want to be viewed as professionals, we are actually asking for our due respect.

Respect, the adage goes, is earned. Your position or education or certification, do not guarantee respect. You earn respect by how others perceive you while you perform the duties of your job and in how you interact with others while you perform that job. You earn respect by being perceived as deserving respect.

Now this bothers quite a few people, and rightly so I would say. In a world that seems to be more about perception than reality, image than performance, perception is hardly truth. Nevertheless, the reality is that if we want to be perceived as knowledgeable, resourceful, and dedicated; we are going to have to project that image. We can no longer hide in our own little world, and expect others to recognize our achievements. We need to get out and show people what we do - and how we do it. That means we need to interact with more than our own staff, the golf pro’s staff, and maybe the accounting staff. We need to get out more!

We need to be perceived as being available to more than our own staff, the golf pro’s staff, and attend even more educational programs continually, we will be viewed as professionals along with our golf-merchandising brothers. Realistically I doubt it.

The goal of providing education to its members in the many diverse areas of our profession is admirable. Continual education in a profession changing as rapidly as ours is a requirement just for holding on to your job. That is my point. These things do not make us professionals or make others view us as professionals. An education and a commitment to continuing education are prerequisites for our jobs. Like the prerequisites in college, you have to take the classes, do the work, and pass the exams in order to prepare for your more advanced classes. Frequently, the prerequisite classes do not even count toward your degree.

Our on-the-job performance is what sets us apart as professionals, and if we want to change our image to that of professionals, we need to change how our performance is perceived by the public, our members or golfers, our staff, our golf professionals, general managers and everyone else we interact with in the performance of our duties as golf course superintendents. After all, when we say we want to be viewed as professionals, we are actually asking for our due respect.

Respect, the adage goes, is earned. Your position or education or certification, do not guarantee respect. You earn respect by how others perceive you while you perform the duties of your job and in how you interact with others while you perform that job. You earn respect by being perceived as deserving respect.

Now this bothers quite a few people, and rightly so I would say. In a world that seems to be more about perception than reality, image than performance, perception is hardly truth. Nevertheless, the reality is that if we want to be perceived as knowledgeable, resourceful, and dedicated; we are going to have to project that image. We can no longer hide in our own little world, and expect others to recognize our achievements. We need to get out and show people what we do - and how we do it. That means we need to interact with more than our own staff, the golf pro’s staff, and maybe the accounting staff. We need to get out more!
TIFSPORT

12 Reasons Why It’s the New Certified Bermudagrass Standard For Golf Course Fairways, Roughs and Tees

If you’re involved with the installation or day-to-day care and maintenance of golf course fairways, tees, roughs and practice ranges, you’ll really appreciate how certified TifSport compares to Tifway and the other popular bermudagrass varieties in use today. Be sure to ask for TifSport by name. It makes a dense, luxurious dark green turf.

Closer Mowing Heights
After three-times-per-week mowings at 1/4", research conducted in Tifton, GA shows that TifSport can tolerate closer mowing heights than Tifway and Midiron. Sod density was excellent.

Upright Leaf Blade Orientation
TifSport’s leaf blade orientation and stiffness is being touted by many golf course superintendents. They feel TifSport gives a better ball lie in cut fairways and roughs.

Impressive Leaf Texture
TifSport has a similar leaf texture to Tifway, and a finer leaf texture than most other grasses used on fairways and tees. This also helps promote good footing on athletic fields.

Superior Turf Density
TifSport has a greater density than Tifway—about a 1-point difference on a 10-point scale. And it’s about 3 points better than common bermudagrass.

Good Lateral Growth
TifSport is more aggressive than genetically pure Tifway, especially during the cool weather months. This may account for TifSport’s rapid grow-in and repair time.

Superior Sod Strength
TifSport has superior sod strength. This translates into improved playing conditions and resistance to divot injury in football, golf and baseball.

Excellent Traffic Tolerance
TifSport’s density, sod strength, and good lateral growth rate give it a high ranking for traffic tolerance. Athletic field managers and golf course superintendents are reporting outstanding re-growth from normal wear and tear.

Dark Green Color
TifSport has a dark emerald green color versus the somewhat lighter green of Tifway and Quikstand.

Drought Tough
TifSport developer Wayne Hanna has data from a 2-year study showing that TifSport has good drought tolerance. It not only stays green longer but it also recovers faster.

Cold Tolerant
TifSport has expanded the northern limits for warm season bermudagrasses, and has remained very consistent over multiple winters in Oklahoma.

Varietal Purity
In many cases common bermuda is being sold as Tifway 419, but TifSport’s on-going purity is carefully controlled by a rigorous set of rules and guidelines.

Vigorous Roof System

To Order Your Certified TifSport Bermudagrass Sod or Sprigs, Contact One of These Licensed TifSport Growers

Diamond Turf, LLC  Woodstock GA 770-928-1779  Super Sod  Fort Valley GA 800-535-1320
South Florida Grassing  Hobe Sound FL  772-546-3482  Super Sod  Orangeburg SC 800-255-0928
North Georgia Turf, Inc.  Whitesburg GA 800-273-8608  Pike Creek Turf, Inc.  Adel GA 800-232-7453
Turfgrass America  Camilla GA 800-336-1371

WINTER 2003  25
Controlling Insects and Nematodes - Products and Programs

By Joel Jackson, CGCS

General Trends

Insect damage on turf is not a major concern in today’s management programs. This is primarily due to the advances in product technology and more thorough monitoring of threshold levels.

Routine spraying of insecticides is rare and applications for worm control are more of a last resort than an automatic preventive.

The products of choice for worm control tend to be the old standbys, with Orthene and its acephate clones leading the way. The pyrethroids are used sparingly if at all. Most are waiting for more peer feedback on successes.

Thanks to Chipco Choice, mole crickets are not the turf devastator they once were. While you still have to pay attention to infestation pressure, most people are more concerned with where, when and how often to apply the product to stretch the budget dollars.

Grub damage is problematic and some cover their bases by alternating Merit with Chipco Choice. Known areas are treated with Merit, but most do not feel they have any significant grub problems.

Nematodes remain a constant threat to weaken turf especially during stressful conditions. Many saw good results from Curflew applications during the recent drought. As Nemacur fades away, we await Dr. Crow’s results of testing on alternative products.

Specific comments on products, programs and pests

Susan Leisure, Dow AgroSciences: “One of our new products for worm control that works both on turf and ornamentals is Conserve, an environmentally friendly product. The active ingredient is spinosad and is naturally occurring. The product works by contact and ingestion and has a 14-day residual. Some superintendents are using it in rotation with their regular products. Mach 2 is a pyrethroid product that works to control grubs and surface feeders.”

Joe Conoly, Bayer Environmental Crop Sciences: “Sevin sales are up for worm control, and of course many folks use the Merit program and time their applications to control grubs as well as the hatch of mole cricket nymphs.” I asked Joe about the use of Chipco Choice in relation to its cost and coarse budgets. Conoly said, “Acreages are up for the year. We are finding medium and lower budget courses can’t afford not to use Choice to get a handle on their mole-cricket problems and stay competitive. Top Choice gives courses the opportunity to custom apply to only specific areas of concern so they can manage their budget dollars accordingly.”

Dick Naccarato, Naples Beach Club: “Costs of materials are a big factor for us. I use Top Choice to treat the perennial trouble spots. The crickets always seem to come back to the same spots each year due to soil type, moisture, whatever. I prefer the bagged material so I don’t have to take a chance on turf damage by the slit injection equipment. I have also tried Talstar sparged on fertilizer. The products are getting better and more effective and so the insect pressure and damage are less. We have learned to manage the pest and the pesticide much better to avoid a lot of repeat applications.”

Jim Schilling, Bonita Bay East: “Frankly, I just don’t have a really big insect problem. One reason may be the rock layer just a few inches down. It’s not a bug-friendly environment. We did slit inject Choice over the entire course and where we either missed or didn’t treat, we got hammered. I followed up on those areas with a bait called Snare and applied some Top Choice. I had mixed results with 20 acres of Curflew treatment. Again the rock so close to the surface may have been a problem. Our worm problems are small. We monitor the damage and selectively treat as needed. Usually we grow out of the problem before we need to spray. When we do spray we tend to use Orthene.”

Ken Arsenault, Golf Club of Jacksonville: “I’ve seen more worm problems this year than ever. Maybe it was the wet summer; they sure came out after every rain and usually on the same spots on the same greens. We tend to monitor damage first to see if it is widespread and causing a real problem. When they were as active as they were this year, we generally had to spray all greens if the damage was exceeding our threshold tolerances. We rely on acephate to control any worm outbreaks. I’d like to see more product evaluations on the new products. Right now I rely on what I know works. I learn from my peers and my mentors. The grapevine and word of mouth tell me what’s working.

As far as mole crickets go, we are into our third year since our last Chipco Choice application, and we think we have been lucky to get that much good control out of the product. Next year we treat again. We have used Merit for some problem areas not covered by the Choice.”

Bill Alford, Golden Eagle C.C.: “I don’t have a lot of insect problems. If worms pose a problem I’ll chase them with Orthene, Sevin and Talstar. The mole crickets we have don’t like the heavy clay soils, which we do have a lot of. Where they are active on fairways and tee tops, we have applied Chipco Choice. We treated two years in a row and the third year we just monitored for hot spots and treated as needed with Top Choice. In the roughs where the slit injection isn’t practical (tree roots, slopes etc) we have used the new slow release, coated Orthene product called Precise.”

Alan Puckett, The Club at Eaglebrooke: “My biggest insect problem when I got here was that mole crickets were out of control. We used Chipco Choice to get them under control and the course cleaned up well. We treated the fairways the last two years and next year we will skip them and do the roughs. We’ll use Top Choice on the slopes. I want to learn more about the new coated Orthene product, Precise, and see how it might fit into our program.

“Worms aren’t a big problem. If we see the signs that they are active, we monitor them closely and, if looks like we need to spray, we hold off until the end of the week so we don’t have any fire drills over the weekend when the course is busiest. We use a combination of Orthene and Durban usually. I have tried some DeltaGard, but I really haven’t messed around with the new products that much. One thing we do when we spray is to make sure we start and stop the spraying into the collar since the worms will inhabit the tall grass around the green.”

“Nematodes are my next concern. I have used Nemacur on three of our fairways for chronically weak areas that don’t outgrow the damage. Next year I think I’m going to have to treat the greens. The pressure is building and they aren’t reacting as well to cultural practices. I am going to use some Neotec, which Steve Ciardullo has been successful with over at Mountain Lake. We’ve got to find something that works on ‘todes with Nemacur phasing out.”
TWENTY YEARS
AND STRONGER
THAN EVER.

RegalStar® has been the muscle behind turf management herbicide programs for over two decades now, with no sign that its ready to give up its top spot to any younger, weaker newcomers. RegalStar was born for this, created with a dual mode of action that, in twenty years, has never seen its equal. It eats broadleaf weeds, grasses and single herbicides for lunch. It doesn’t blink at weather. And it’s stubborn enough to stick around all season long on one application. Get RegalStar today. Go kick some weed butt tomorrow.
Toro® Groundsmaster® 3500-D and Reelmaster® 3100-D: Two innovative trim mowers with the Sidewinder™ cutting system. The reeds on the 3100-D and the ground-following rotary decks on the 3500-D move side to side for superior trimming.

Toro® Multi Pro® 1200 and 1250 sprayers: Featuring the innovative Spray Pro® control system that directly links flow rate to ground speed ensuring precise application rate.

Who to better understand a perfectionist than a perfectionist.

At Toro we know when it comes to your course, no detail is too small. That’s why pros like you are And keep it looking great year after year. To us, it’s the perfect relationship. For more information, contact your
Toro® Workman® 1100 and 2100 vehicles: With the most capacity and power in their class, these vehicles get more done. They also feature rattle-free plastic beds for a quieter ride.

Toro® 800S Series sprinkler: Put the water just where you want it. Precision control is made possible with predictable head rotation and uniform nozzle distribution.

Toro® Greensmaster® Flex 21: The greens mower that flexes with the contour of greens to virtually eliminate scalping.

the best source for new ideas on ways to make it look great. Toro distributor at 1-800-803-8676 or visit us at TORO.com.
Frost in Florida?

YOU BET! AND YOU’D BETTER BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN FROST DAMAGE TO YOUR GOLFERS.

Editor’s Note: It’s that time of year. Here is some general information on the potential for turf damage when the course is having a frosty morning and comments by fellow superintendents on how they handle the necessary delays at their courses. This information can be accessed at www.gcsaa.org.

How can a footprint be a killer?

When it’s a footprint made on a putting surface that’s covered with frost. It’s hard to believe that simply walking across a golf green covered with frost can cause so much damage, but the proof will be there in a few days as the turfgrass dies and leaves a trail of brown footprints. That’s why most courses will delay starting times until the frost has melted. And it’s also why golfers who appreciate a quality putting surface will be patient during frost delays.

Why does frost cause problems?

Greens are fragile. The putting surface, or green, is an extremely fragile environment that must be managed carefully and professionally. Remember that every green is a collection of millions of individual grass plants, each of which is a delicate living thing. Obviously, Mother Nature never meant for these plants to be maintained at 3/16 or even 1/8 of an inch for prolonged periods. This stress makes greens constantly vulnerable to attacks from insects, disease, heat, drought, cold - and frost.

Frost is essentially frozen dew. It can form when the temperature (or wind chill) is near or below the freezing point. The ice crystals that form on the outside of the plant can also harden or even freeze the cell structure of the plant. When frosted, the normally resilient plant cells become brittle and are easily crushed. When the cell membranes are damaged, the plant loses its ability to function normally. It’s not much different from cracking an egg. Once the shell is broken, you can’t put it back together.

The proof is in the prints

Although you won’t see any immediate damage if you walk on frosted turf, the proof will emerge within 48 to 72 hours as the leaves die and turn brown. And, since just one foursome can leave several hundred footprints on each green, the damage can be very extensive.

Thanks for understanding

The damage isn’t just unsightly - putting quality will also be reduced until repairs are made. Those repairs are expensive and, in some cases, the green may have to be kept out of play for days or weeks until the new turfgrass is established. A short delay while the frost melts can preserve the quality of the greens, prevent needless repairs and may even save you a few strokes the next time you play.

Super Tips - Avoiding a frosty reception

Frost delays may be among the most contentious issues a superintendent will encounter during late winter and early spring. Temporarily closing the course until frost subsides can prevent unnecessary damage to turf, but it can also anger golfers eager to tee it up and club professionals angry.