IS YOUR TURF READY FOR ITS CLOSE-UP?

GET SUPERIOR NEMATODE CONTROL.
USE CURFEW® SOIL FUMIGANT.

Contact Your Local Dow AgroSciences Representative Today!

Jennifer Monko (N. FL)  
(919) 606.0997  
jcmonko@dow.com

Maureen Clark (W. FL)  
(813) 855.1676  
mclark@dow.com

Kevin Sheaffer (E. FL)  
(407) 314.1049  
kasheaffer@dow.com

www.DowProvesIt.com
can be very informative and is a great
tool to communicate your ideas to your
club owner, members or manager. When
making this choice, keep in mind that
multiple wildflower varieties may be very
beneficial to the planting success, much
like overseeding blends that have become
popular for our winter course turf needs.

**Planting Locations**
Mass plantings are the best approach
in most course settings. Successful
implementation will provide for good
presentation, reduced maintenance,
sufficient sunlight and will not interfere
with the playability of the course. Take the
time to determine where locations offer
maximum exposure to your golfers, which
is often the teeing area or alongside cart
paths.

Turf areas around the tees can sometimes
be removed to facilitate planting. In most
cases, this maintained turf is never played
from, and a planting bed instead of turf
may reduce your maintenance inputs for
the area. Flowering plants need sunshine
so pay close attention to what your
seasonal sun conditions will be in your
desired planting area. Remember, Florida
golf is at its peak season when the sun is
lowest in the sky.

Lastly, review your proposed planting
areas with your golf professional.
These areas may be marked as an ESA
(Environmentally Sensitive Area), but
that should be determined by your course
professional or appropriate committee.
It will be best to protect these areas, and
marking in this way can be very effective.

**Timing of Planting**
Choose the time when you want the
flowers to be their best and determine
your timing of planting based on that.
If you choose a mix of several varieties
of wildflowers, different varieties will
germinate, grow and flower at different
times and can make your planting very
interesting as they fully establish.

Typically, the window for planting in
South Florida is mid to late October, for
more moderate temperatures while the
plants are young, giving great presentation
by Jan. 1. Planting different beds at
different times can provide for varied
colors and size throughout the course
if desired. Gaillardia (Blanket Flower)
should be included in all plantings so
this heat-loving plant can establish as the
winter season wraps up and will provide
color and function during the summer
months.

Once you have committed to trying your
hand at installing wildflower beds here are
some tips on what worked for us:

**Wildflower Planting Procedures**
- Preparation and planting of wildflower
areas is not difficult and can be easily
accomplished with existing personnel
and equipment. To improve seed-to-soil
contact and provide a soft soil for new
plant roots, rototilling is recommended
at a depth of 4 inches. Prior to rototilling,
any weeds on the surface should be
sprayed out, or in the case of replacing
a turf area, the turf should be removed
with a deep cut from a sod cutter. This
process is repeated year after year in
the same planting areas. If problematic
weeds continue to emerge and establish
amongst your flowers, utilizing Basamid
soil fumigant can be very effective and

---

**WinField Solutions**

**Solutions To Help You Win**

**ONLY WINFIELD SOLUTIONS®
can offer:**

- An industry-leading portfolio that includes
  herbicides, insecticides, fungicides,
  adjuvants, micro nutrients and grass seed

Paul Fox 727-423-9280 pfox@landolakes.com
Bill Lund 239-340-4712 wtlund@aol.com
Gary Cotton 941-737-9722 gcotton@landolakes.com
Mike Bailey 772-216-7917 mrbailey@landolakes.com
Chad Burkett 772-260-8660 cbburkett@landolakes.com
Doug Raynor 239-707-9281 jdraynor@landolakes.com
Ken Gagne 407-256-6710 kgagne@landolakes.com
Ron Leathers 813-917-1849 rleathers@landolakes.com
Tim Wheatley 321-508-1169 twheatley@landolakes.com

---

**Westscapes Golf Construction**

**Green, Tee and Bunker Renovations**

- Bridge and Retaining Walls
- Drainage
- Laser Levelling
- Finish Grading
- Grassing
- Irrigation

Phone (727) 430-2298  Fax (727) 570-9921
www.westscapesgolf.com
In some cases hand planting may be the best way to apply and conserve expensive seed mixes. Photo by Kyle Sweet.

Using this Gulf Coast Caribbean seed mix provides a variety of germination rates to keep the bed colorful over a longer time period. Photo by Kyle Sweet.

See how equipment and agronomics can work together.

Only John Deere Golf offers both a full selection of golf maintenance equipment and soft goods from top name brands. Plus advice on how to pick the best of each for your course. Call us today.

Equipment Sales:
Beard Equipment
Ocala: 800-848-8563

Showturf of South Florida
Boynton Beach: 561-732-8905

Agronomic Sales:
Jacksonville: Mike Evans, 904-237-5988
Jacksonville/Ocala: Jason Wilkerson, 904-449-0723
Orlando: Hal Richburg, SOW, 321-303-3098
Tampa/Ocala: Craig Reinhardt 813-299-2724
Palm Beach/Vero: Mark Seigfreid, 561-719-3281
Southwest FL: Erich Slider, 239-707-1035
FL Panhandle: Jerome Nickols, 251-747-7610
Sarasota: David Sobotka, 941-737-4126
Naples/Ft. Meyers: Tom Davenport, SOW, 239-253-1017

Think Ahead.
SPREADRITE, INC.
CUSTOM SPREADING
FERTILIZER • DOLOMITE • GYPSUM
ARAGONITE • HYCAL LIME
FAIRWAY TOP DRESSING
LAMAR SAPP
ART SAPP
6001 S.W. 19th STREET
PLANTATION, FL 33317
MOBILE:
772-201-4000 (ID 158-81-10962)
954-444-0820

Tom Burrows, Consulting
Agronomist/Turfgrass Specialist
Independent Consulting using
“Brookside Laboratory”

Greens Reconstruction
♦ Soil Physical Analysis
♦ USGA Approved Testing
♦ Analytical Service
♦ Recommendations
♦ Specifications for Contractor Bidding

Soil Testing
♦ Greens, tees, Fairways
♦ Analytical Report and Soil
  Fertility Recommendations

Water Testing
♦ Report & Recommendations

In the business 40 years
Jensen Beach, Florida
772-692-1221  cell: 772-215-1819

Country Club Services, INC.
Golf Course Renovation & Construction

• EXCAVATION AND GRADING
• DRAINAGE
• GREENS CONSTRUCTION
• LASER GRADING
• BUNKER CONSTRUCTION
• ATHLETIC FIELD CONSTRUCTION
• GRASSING SERVICES
• EQUESTRIAN CENTERS

William H. Wright, CGCS
President

Robert Farina
Vice-President

749 NE 70th Street • Boca Raton, FL 33487
(561) 756-0068
Fax (561) 994-6861
countryclubsvcs@aol.com

Dry Fertilizer
Bulk Liquid Fertilizer

PLAY GOLF

GREEN-WAY
Quality Turf Products
We Specialize in Keeping you GREEN

MANGA PLEX PLUS • ULTRA - GREEN • BIO-PLEX
10008 N.W. 53rd Street • Sunrise, Florida 33351
can nearly eliminate persistent weeds that compete with the wildflower establishment.

- In some cases it may be beneficial to incorporate a muck soil or compost into the planting area. Much of Florida has barren sandy soils that do not support moisture holding or have a high CEC. Starter fertilization is not typically needed for wildflowers. If there is a known high/low pH issue that needed correction for turf growth, that same correction would be needed prior to seeding.

- Seeding rates vary among varieties and your supplier can help you by providing recommended rates. In the golf course setting it may be necessary to increase the suggested rate for quicker coverage, but be careful not to plant too heavily as this will cause crowding out and decrease the plants’ opportunity to grow to maturity and exhibit full flowering. Measure out the planting area, weigh out the needed seed for the area based on your rate, then bag and label the seed with the area it is intended for. This will help with controlling your rates and budget for your planting, as most seed varieties are several dollars/pound.

- Some seed can be spread with a rotary spreader or a belly spreader, but in many cases it is done by hand. When applying by hand, preparation with pre-measuring and weighing is very important so seed is not wasted and is applied as needed.

- Like any other new plant, wildflower seedlings require additional watering to be established. Small irrigation heads and specialized zones can be installed to water the areas, or existing irrigation heads may need to be adjusted to cover properly. Once the wildflowers are established, irrigation will not be needed. Florida winters can be unpredictable, so if you have a big investment in wildflowers, be aware of plants drying out to the point of damage and be ready to water if needed.

**Management of Wildflower areas**

Management of wildflower areas should not have to be excessive, but don’t mistake reduced maintenance for no maintenance. Maintenance items include pulling of weeds, trimming along planting edges, occasional water if too dry, interseeding back in to the area as needed, and dead-heading of spent flowers.

With no pre-emergent herbicide in place before planting, you can count on some weeds amongst your plantings. Many use the approach of pulling the weeds as the weeds become larger than the plants. Sometimes spot spraying may be needed, but typically avoided and pulled by hand.

As the plants mature they can easily intrude on adjacent turf edges and cart paths. Routine pulling of plants and trimming may be needed to protect the plants from being mowed and impeding on pathways. Bordering all planting edges with a pre-emergent herbicide and mulching is an effective way to reduce this maintenance.

Always have some seed on hand that is a quick germinator. A splash of seed in a bare area or area where plants are damaged can quickly grow in and provide cover. Tall spent flowers can be unsightly and can cause the need to dead-head to keep a
good presentation. If multiple varieties are used in the planting, this won’t be as critical, but discussion with your supplier on the life span and size of the flower choices can be very important to reduce this maintenance need.

**Seeding Costs and Maintenance Input Reduction**

Wildflower seed cost can vary greatly. Typically, a standard prepared blend of wildflower varieties will cost approximately $25 per pound. These standard mixes are normally available year round with ample supplies. A custom mix could cost significantly more and availability may be limited. Overall, the cost of wildflowers is much less than planting annual bedding flowers.

At a planting rate of 2 pounds per 1000 square feet, which is a generous rate for blended seed mixes, it would cost $500 to establish a 10,000 square-foot area by seed. By comparison, annual bedding plants at a cost of 69 cents each, planted on 12-inch centers would cost $6,900 for the same 10,000 square-foot area. Annual bedding plants provide somewhat instant gratification, but the same colorful effect can be achieved with wildflowers at a significantly less price.

In addition to the initial cost of seed, wildflowers will require little to no fertilizer inputs or fungicide applications. These reduced inputs will save material and labor costs, which can add up to a large amount during the course of the seasonal months and beyond. Wildflowers can provide dramatic color presentations on the golf course while at the same time benefit important pollinators that are important to us all. If desired, wildflower plantings can replace high maintenance turf areas and can be a successful substitute for the use of annual bedding flowers. With proper planning, planting and management, you can create a new feature on your course year after year that you can be proud of.

Wildflower beds provide food and habitat for pollinators which are critical for plant life. Photo by Kyle Sweet.

---

**Independent Turf Partners**

Supplying the Golf Course and Professional Landscape Industries across Florida and the Southeast Region Since 2005

For more information or to locate your closest ITP Rep, please call 1-800-ITP-TURF

We proudly offer a wide range of quality turf products including:

- Tifway
- TifSport
- Tifdwarf
- TifEagle
- MiniVerde
- Celebration
- Meyer Zoysia
- Zoro Zoysia
- Centipede Seed/Sod
- SeaIsle I
- SeaIsle 2000
- SeaIsle Supreme
- SeaDwarf
- Platinum TE

Pike Creek Turf, Inc.
427 Pike Creek Turf Circle, Adel, GA 31620
1-800-232-7453
www.pikecreekturf.com
Take the Sting Out of Fire Ant Control.

The new choice for quality and value from Quali-Pro, Fipronil 0.0143G Broadcast insecticide cuts the costs of fire ant and mole cricket control without cutting any corners. Featuring the latest formulation technology, Fipronil Broadcast is powered by the active ingredient found in TopChoice® insecticide. Get the same surefire, long-lasting control plus the value you’ve come to expect from Quali-Pro.

To learn more, call Vera Gasparini at 407-920-2463 or visit quali-pro.com.

©2011 Quali-Pro. Quali-Pro is a registered trademark of MARA. TopChoice is a registered trademark of Bayer. Always read and follow label directions.
As I am writing this piece, I remember what I was doing at this time exactly 10 years ago. I was the superintendent at Sailfish Point in Stuart. I had just returned to my office from checking the golf course. My mechanic told me a plane had hit the World Trade Center so we popped into the break room and watched what unfolded in horror and silence. I prayed for those impacted by this then and I continue to pray for those who are still impacted by this event today.

As days and weeks passed after Sept. 11, 2001, I remember thinking how important it is not to let opportunities pass you by and take advantage when you have the chance to do something meaningful. By no means am I trying to equate speaking out on topics that impact our industry with the sacrifices of those who serve in our military, or police and fire departments. But we have made the decision to work in the golf industry, and there are opportunities to lead our profession when we have struggles or need individuals to speak up.

In my travels and interactions with the various chapters around the state, my focus has been the three GCSAA Action Alert Messages. We have been prompting our members to speak out on the issues regarding the NPDES Legislative Fix, Protection of the H2B Visa Program, and the inclusion of golf facilities in Natural Disaster Relief Funding. Your willingness to fill out the Action Alert Comments online has been well documented and has made an impact at all levels.

Recently we sent out a call to action with the idea of meeting with Senator Bill Nelson’s staff at his eight district offices around the state. The request for volunteers was met by numerous individuals willing to participate. Chava McKeel, GCSAA Advocacy Department, prepared three great, one-page speaking-point documents to be used in these sessions. This outreach effort received a great boost when Erin Boyd Wilder, FTGA Board member and representative for Sod Solutions, was able to organize a meeting with Senator Nelson’s chief of staff, Pete Mitchell, in Tallahassee. Mark Kann, FGCSA president, Joel Jackson, FGCSA executive director, Erin, and I met with Mr. Mitchell and were allowed a solid hour of interaction to express our thoughts on all three issues. We left after a very positive session with Mr. Mitchell with the belief that our messages will get in front of Senator Nelson.

Again, I realize these are not earth-shattering events, but within the industry where we all make a living, it is important to take the time to have our voices heard. It is often easy to get into a bunker mentality and just focus on the 18-36 holes for which we are responsible. If we remain silent and let others dictate policy with misinformation, there is a very real threat that you will wake up one morning, head to work, and have none of the tools currently at your disposal. After reading this, look around your facility and think about the number of items in your arsenal that could come under attack. There are many. Then boot up your computer and look to see if GCSAA has any new Action Alerts running and take a few minutes to help protect the way you do your job.

Silence is not always golden.

Until next time, I remain,

Ralph K. Dain Jr.
GCSAA Field Staff, Regional Representative Florida Region
Phone 785-424-4306
Email rdain@gcsaa.org
Cut your grass, not your budget, with Harrell’s EOP!

Save on all your turf needs with Harrell’s Early Order Program!

Since 1941 Harrell’s has been your partners for success providing performance-based solutions for your turf needs. We produce top-quality, custom blended fertilizers, specialty liquids, and wetting agents for the golf course, sports turf, landscape management, and horticulture industries.

With Harrell’s you can count on more than just early order savings. You can expect the highest quality products, answers to all your questions, and the latest technology.

For more information about this year’s Early Order Program contact your local sales representative.

Harrell’s Early Order Program Begins October 1, 2011
On Friday, July 8, 2011, the space shuttle Endeavor blasted off on the final mission for any current American space vehicle.

Many of us have witnessed 50 years of space exploration and technological advances spearheaded by the United States.

On the one hand it is an end of an era, on the other it begins a new era of perhaps even more far-reaching unmanned exploration thanks to advances in remote guidance technology. And there likely will be a more cooperative atmosphere of joint multinational manned trips to the space station.

The economic crash of 2008 saw the end of a decades-old golf-course-building boom, due to the failure of the associated real estate markets and bank closings. But just as the space industry is morphing into a new configuration, so will the golf industry.

We have seen the multi-association cooperative known as “We Are Golf” emerge as a group that speaks of the benefits and contributions of golf to the nation’s economy and social and recreational benefits to people seeking ways to enjoy the outdoors and a little friendly competition.

Next February we will join our allied Florida Golf Associations in a Florida Golf Day in Tallahassee to promote our industry and educate people about the issues.

Golf courses across the country are shedding their stuffy, rigid rules of golf’s approach to the game and introducing multiple forward tee options so people can actually score and enjoy the game. Programs like “Get Golf Ready” and “Play Golf America” are gaining traction and courses are allocating times for beginners, juniors and seniors to enjoy the club’s course and amenities without feeling like a burden or hindrance to the more skilled players.

Isn’t it in the best interest of a club and the industry to foster these changes and accommodations to grow the game? Like the space industry, we cannot afford to keep flying the old business models. We need to come up with some new ideas and programs to make golf viable and desirable.

Most golfers want a nice-looking golf course, but they must also change their perceptions about having it “perfect all the time.” Turf perfection is not a requirement to play golf. Reasonably smooth and consistent is a fair compromise for 95 percent of the play. Professional tournament venues and ultra-high-end clubs that can afford it are welcome to raise their grooming levels for special events.

However, the reality for all of golf — including the PGA Tour and the exclusive clubs — is that the growing pressure on our natural resources politically and agronomically will mandate conservation of these resources and will require some concessions on turf density and sometimes density in the roughs on a course.

We are talking mainly about water availability and quality. More and more moisture-sensing devices and methods to manage our water use on golf courses are emerging, along with ways to calculate and plot distressed areas that can be spot-watered just like we learned to spot-treat with pesticides.

Yes, we are the end of an era in which many of us grew up, but we are also at the beginning of a new one which might be different, but I think will be no less exciting. It will be another new frontier to travel.