Case makes his case for inventive algae cure

BY MARK LESLIE

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Algae. It’s been a dreaded foe for the golf course superintendent... until now. Superintendent Jeff Case of Quail Ridge Golf Course has devised a cure for algae that USGA Green Section Mid-Continental Region Director Jim Moore termed “simple but ingenious.”

And relatively cheap. Under $500, Case guesses. Spotting wet ground and associated algae, Case will spike or aerify the area, then bring in his secret weapon: a fan built into a frame that can be inverted and aimed directly at the ground, drying out the algae in little time.

Case suggested this process:

• Obtain a 36-inch-square, direct-drive shop fan ($300 to $400).
• Build a frame (about $100 in materials) for it so that, when inverted, the fan is 36 to 40 inches off the ground.
• Place it on wide pneumatic tires to prevent rutting.
• Add a hitch so it can be hauled behind a vehicle. It should be light enough to easily maneuver by hand.

The fan, Case said, is “a really good tool to physically dry out the algae and give the turf more opportunity to fill in. It’s portable. If you have more than one area that is infected with algae, you just move from hole to hole. In some instances we put a generator in the back of the cart.”

Lewis, super

Continued from previous page

In your business you have two types of crabs that are a fact of life. New ACCLAIM EXTRA Herbicide provides excellent control of the crabgrass escape type. Even more concentrated than the original Acclaim, ACCLAIM EXTRA is 14% stronger. So that lower rates give you the same dependable spot treatment control without damaging your existing turf. Plus, ACCLAIM EXTRA also lets you reseed fescue and ryegrass immediately after the spray dries* It can also still be used on bluegrass, ryegrass, zoysiagrass, fine fescue, tall fescue — even bentgrass fairways and tees. And ACCLAIM EXTRA controls crabgrass escapes from the 1-leaf stage right up to just before seed head formation.

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*Wait 3 weeks for bluegrass, zoysiagrass, bentgrass.