GOVERNOR APPOINTS CLARK
GREEN VALLEY, Ariz. — Mark K. Clark, head superintendent of Green Valley Country Club here, has been appointed by Arizona Gov. Fife Symington to the Structural Pest Control Commission. Clark is the first person from the “green industry” to hold such a position. His appointment is for three years, and will require monthly meetings, which involve travel and a great deal of case study for each meeting. It is a voluntary position.

PHILLY GCS ELECT GUSTAITIS
PHILADELPHIA — The Philadelphia Association of Golf Course Superintendents has elected Anthony Gustaitis president. Gustaitis, of the Steel Club here, succeeds Robert J. Woods, who has completed his term. Anthony Gustaitis, 38, is general manager of the Philadelphia Country Club. He began his career as an assistant superintendent at the Philadelphia Cricket Club and later went on to become the golf course superintendent at the Oxford Valley Country Club in Bensalem, Pa. Gustaitis will serve a one-year term as president of the association.

PAIUTE RESORT HIRES LOPEZ
LAS VEGAS — William “Willie” Lopez is the new superintendent here at the Las Vegas Paiute Golf Resort, according to Ross Hake, director of facilities and grounds. Filling the vacancy left by Jim Sprankle, who has assumed a similar position in Indonesia, Lopez is a native of Las Vegas. He is a graduate of the University of Nevada-Reno, where he studied golf course management. Lopez has been superintendent at several golf courses in the Las Vegas area, including the Paiute Golf Resort. He is a member of the American Society of Golf Course Superintendents and the Nevada Golf Association. His appointment is effective immediately.

PENN STATE RESEARCH GETS $130K
STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — The Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council has allocated $130,000 to the Pennsylvania State University (PSU) for turfgrass research. The funds will be used to support research projects at PSU, which is one of the nation’s leading institutions for turfgrass research and education. The allocation, which is part of the council’s stated mission to support turfgrass research, will be used to fund research projects that focus on improving turfgrass quality, managing pests and diseases, and enhancing turfgrass production. The council’s mission is to promote the growth and use of turfgrass in Pennsylvania and to support the turfgrass industry through education, research, and technology transfer.
I'm only thinking about it when I get the pest, my options are narrow... But if I'm thinking about options when I'm putting the site in, choosing my root zone grass and micro-environment, adapting that situation for good grass-growing techniques, I have a lot of options."

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Growing techniques, I have a lot of options when I'm putting the site in, only thinking about it when I get the pest. “I think that is a problem of terminology. Everything you do sets the plant up to be more, less or not injured by that pest.”

Mowing, watering, fertilization and other practices, he said, “can have a huge impact on our pest management because it may help us avoid a pest problem.” Rossi passed on these IPM-related comments:

• Remove trees.
• Under high-stress situations, and to avoid problems like pythium root rot, override the safety switch on the Hydroject machine, poking a hole through the soil profile and blowing a wider hole. The force of the water pushes the turf down instead of lifting it up. "If you're moving water through the soil profile," he said, "you might solve a disease problem. This is IPM and it has nothing to do with waiting for the pest to appear."

But if I'm thinking about options, IPM know-how becomes critical. "When you have a higher cut means less summer injury. Rossi said. "Any opportunity you have — whether it's vertical mowing, rolling or choosing upright bentgrasses — if you're under high-speed requirements... you really have to think about this."

Focus fertility on late-season. It is important to apply fertilizer when it is used for storing food, or improving the root system. Do not fertilize in the spring until after peak top growth has occurred. Nitrogen applied too early in the season promotes top growth at the expense of root growth and can make plants more susceptible to snow mold and winter injury."

Hand-water. "I don't care how good your irrigation system is, an important part of IPM related to the turf type is, an important part of IPM, particularly from a disease perspective, is hand-watering," he said. "Not putting on the water for 5 minutes everywhere when you've got a high spot that may need more water, or a low spot that needs less water. We generally don't have disease problems where things are dry..."

I'd rather spend my time and give my crew the responsibilities of good hand-watering rather than riding the sprayer spot-spraying."

Passive overseeding of poa annua. At heavy seeding, core aerate and then fertilize. Allow the poa to send out seedheads. After the plant dies, cut the clumps are not left on the ground and overseed itself.

Preventive fungicides are important to fight poa annua's prevalent root pathogen problems. Use light, frequent irrigation — 1/10th of an inch every day. Also, collect clippings during the growing season so that clumps are not left on the ground to accumulate heat, since annual bluegrass is very heat-intolerant.

Keep track of growing degree days to know the thermal units, or heat load, the plants are responding to instead of managing... Continue on next page
NTEP reports. In other words, they expect a bag of seed they buy to be genetically identical to the seed used in tests.

Some method of cultivar identification is needed to ensure that managers get the cultivar they have selected. In the past, few methods were available for the identification of turfgrass cultivars. Most morphological attributes are affected by the environment. Many characteristics are not apparent until plants have reached a maturity. This makes cultivar identification based on seed lots difficult.

Recently, however, molecular methods have shown promise in identifying cultivars. We have been successful in using random amplified polymorphic DNA (RAPD) techniques for the identification of creeping bentgrass and perennial ryegrass cultivars.

IPM know-how

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IPM know-how

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GCN: What has your work on the use of creeping bentgrass blends shown?
KD: The use of blends, two or more cultivars of the same turfgrass species planted together, is a common practice on golf courses to broaden the genetic basis of the turfgrass species. Lately, the concept of blending creeping bentgrass cultivars has increased in popularity.

TD: The use of blends, two or more cultivars of the same turfgrass species planted together, is a common practice on golf courses to broaden the genetic basis of the turfgrass species. Lately, the concept of blending creeping bentgrass cultivars has increased in popularity.

The purpose of our work was to evaluate the performance of a blend as affected by disease pressure to see if blending was a significant benefit to turfgrass managers. We established plots of 50:50 blend of Penncross and Crenshaw creeping bentgrasses. Dollar spot was allowed to develop to various levels within the blends. After two years, disease did not have an effect on the composition of the blend, but one cultivar predominated, possibly due to its aggressiveness. These results suggest that turf managers should consult the regional NTEP studies prior to selecting cultivars.

GCN: What has your work shown on the effect of temporal shade on bentgrass?
KD: Shade is generally believed to be detrimental to turfgrass growth. Creeping bentgrass is a relatively shade-tolerant species, but declines rapidly when exposed to low-light conditions and short mowing heights.

A few researchers believe creeping bentgrass exposed to morning shade declines more rapidly than plants exposed to afternoon shade. We're testing this hypothesis. An understanding of shade and its temporal effects provides a basis for effective decisions concerning tree removal and adjustments in management practices.

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