Pendulum® herbicide consistently controls crabgrass better than other preemergent herbicides. What more can we say? How about Pendulum controls a broader spectrum of weeds than any other preemergent—more than 40 grassy and broadleaf weeds, such as oxalis and spurge, in all. It also controls costs, to offer you greater value. Plus, Pendulum comes in granular and liquid formulations, and BASF pendimethalin is available on fertilizer from Scotts and Helena, for maximum application flexibility. With Pendulum, there’s just so much more to talk about than crabgrass.
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BASF
Welcome to Golf in the Year 2025
Artificial turf courses and no bunkers. 8,000-yard layouts that take eight hours to play. The Tiger Tour.
By Geoff Shackelford

Pass the Salt
Florida courses discover that reverse-osmosis plants are fine for irrigation — and economical, too.
By Larry Aylward
Planning to overhaul your irrigation system? We asked the experts to provide their opinions on how to go about it.

About the cover
Illustrator Rob Schuster of Fort Thomas, Ky., recreated this early 1960s irrigation head from an ad that appeared in an old Golfdom. If you have a head that looks like this, it's definitely time for an upgrade.

Flat on Your Back
Back pain and injuries are common in the industry, and you may be at risk for them. Here's how you can avoid them.
Part 3 of Living Well series.
By Robin Sutteil

Black Monday
It began as a typical day, but whatever could go wrong did go wrong. It was one of the longest days of my life, but I'm here to tell you that I survived.
By Dale Morrison
AerWay® offers low cost, low maintenance, long lasting options for all your turf aeration needs!

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Events

SEMINARS & CONFERENCES

NOVEMBER
15 GCSAA Seminar: Weed Control
Albuquerque, N.M.
www.gcsaa.org

18-21 Carolinas GCSA’s 36th Annual Conference and Show
Myrtle Beach, S.C.
www.cgcsa.org

18 GCSAA Seminar: Integrated Environmental Management
Westchester, N.Y.
www.gcsaa.org

19 GCSAA Seminar: Turfgrass Traffic Stress — Physiology and Management
Providence, R.I.
www.gcsaa.org

19 GCSAA Seminar: Turfgrass Stress Management
St. Louis
www.gcsaa.org

20 GCSAA Seminar: Irrigation Scheduling Techniques
Providence, R.I.
www.gcsaa.org

21 GCSAA Seminar: Golf Course Safety, Security and Risk Management
Bolton, Mass.
www.gcsaa.org

21 GCSAA Seminar: The Microbiology of Turfgrass Soils
Centerville, Ohio
www.gcsaa.org

22 Eastern North Carolina Turfgrass Association’s Business Meeting and Golf Tournament
Rocky Mount, N.C.
www.cgcsa.org

DECEMBER
2-4 Texas Turfgrass Institute & Trade Show
San Antonio
www.texasturf.com

2 GCSAA Seminar: Strategic Planning for Golf Course Operations
Albuquerque, N.M.
www.gcsaa.org

3 GCSAA Seminar: Golf Course Safety, Security and Risk Management
Albuquerque, N.M.
www.gcsaa.org

3 GCSAA Seminar: Maximizing Turfgrass Disease Control
Williamsburg, Va.
www.gcsaa.org

4-6 Rocky Mountain Regional Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show
Denver
www.rmrtaa.org

4 GCSAA Seminar: Golf Course Drainage – Application and Design
Williamsburg, Va.
www.gcsaa.org

4 GCSAA Seminar: Managing Turfgrass Root Systems
Albany, N.Y.
www.gcsaa.org

4 GCSAA Seminar: Management of Localized Dry Spots and Water Repellent Soils
Albany, N.Y.
www.gcsaa.org

5 GCSAA Seminar: Communication Skills to Get You to the Top and Keep You There
Phoenix
www.cactusandpine.com

7 Central California GCSA’s Annual Christmas Event
Pismo, Calif.
www.cgcsa.org/cgcsa

9-12 Ohio Turfgrass Conference and Show
Columbus, Ohio
www.ohioturfgrass.org

9 GCSAA Seminar: Bermudagrass greens Management
Slidell, La.
www.gcsaa.org

9 GCSAA Seminar: Developing a High-Performance, People-Oriented Golf Course Management Staff
Atlantic City, N.J.
www.gcsaa.org

9-10 GCSAA Seminar: Spanish for the Golf Course Superintendent
Rockford, Ill.
www.gcsaa.org

10 GCSAA Seminar: Lake and Aquatic Plan Management
Ames, Iowa
www.icwaturfgrass.org

10-12 New Jersey Turfgrass Expo 2002
Atlantic City, N.J.
www.njturfgrass.org

10 GCSAA Seminar: Golf Course Drainage – Application and Design Strategies for the Turfgrass System
Annapolis, Md.
www.gcsaa.org

10 GCSAA Seminar: Lake and Aquatic Plant Management
Ames, Iowa
www.gcsaa.org

10 GCSAA Seminar: Management Strategies for the Turfgrass System
Fond du Lac, Wisc.
www.gcsaa.org

11 Turfgrass and Landscape Institute
Buena Park, Calif.
www.turfgrasscouncil.org

11 Intermountain GCSA’s Monthly Meeting
St. George, Utah
www.igcsa.org

11 Turfgrass and Landscape Institute
Buena Park, Calif.
www.turfgrasscouncil.org

11 GCSAA Seminar: The Microbiology of Turfgrass Soils
Fond du Lac, Wisc.
www.gcsaa.org

11 GCSAA Seminar: Understanding Biostimulants
Oklahoma City
www.gcsaa.org

19 GCSAA Seminar: Management Strategies for the Turfgrass Systems
New Brunswick, N.J.
www.gcsaa.org

JANUARY 2003
6 GCSAA Seminar: Advanced Weed Management
St. Louis
www.gcsaa.org

6 GCSAA Seminar: Maximizing Turfgrass Disease Control
Indianapolis
www.gcsaa.org

7 GCSAA Seminar: Managing Turfgrass Root Systems
Pleasanton, Calif.
www.gcsaa.org

8 GCSAA Seminar: Fundamentals of Turfgrass Management I
Pleasanton, Calif.
www.gcsaa.org

Let us know about your events. Send information to Frank Andorka at 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, 44130. Fax information to 440-891-2675 or e-mail to fandorka@advanstar.com.

www.golfdom.com Golfdom 7
The other day, as I desperately searched the cupboard for something remotely healthy to feed my two young sons for lunch, I came across a can of my old childhood favorite, alphabet soup. I cracked it open, dumped it into a bowl and was just about to stick it in the microwave when I noticed something odd: The soup's letters seemed to be forming into recognizable words. Gradually, the letters came to a halt and there they were, the acronyms of three of the industry's most important but least understood organizations: RISE, ITODA and ASIC. Clearly, this was a sign from the Soup Gods that I should try to help you better understand these key groups.

RISE is alphabet soup for Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment, the national association that represents the interests of pesticide manufacturers and users, like you. RISE has a pretty simple message for environmental activists, concerned citizens and others who view pesticides as a problem: It's the pests that are the problem. This summer's West Nile virus outbreak illustrates that as vividly as any pest-borne health threat we've experienced in recent times.

RISE lobbies and communicates on the federal level, but it also is active on the state and local battlegrounds where the real war over your use of pesticides and combination products is fought. Unfortunately, many superintendents tend to ignore the threat of products being withdrawn or cancelled, thinking the manufacturers will just come along with something new. That is rapidly becoming a myth as consolidation, R&D costs and the downturn in the ag market — which traditionally drove secondary-use products into turf — have narrowed the new product pipeline dramatically.

To help RISE in its battle to keep current products on the market, superintendents must make the organization aware when local problems flare up, and use its resources and information. Finally, when you're asked by RISE, write and speak out in support of your right to responsibly use products that are unfairly threatened by overzealous attempts to "protect" the public.

ITODA is alphabet soup for the Independent Turf & Ornamental Distributors Association, the organization for local and regional businesses that — along with national suppliers — support your agronomic needs with products and services. Distributors are sometimes viewed as a nuisance ("Those #$%@! salespeople!"), but ask yourself where you'd be without that local rep who delivers a case of fungicide at 5 a.m. because you're facing a pythium outbreak. Or how about the distributors who underwrite a lot of the costs of chapter meetings and activities? ITODA members and their national distributor counterparts are the backbone of the industry, and you should recognize them and show them your appreciation through your customer loyalty.

Finally, ASIC is alphabet soup for the American Society of Irrigation Consultants, the organization of experts who design, plan, fix and otherwise show mastery of one of your most expensive capital investments. Why should you get in touch with ASIC when you're considering a new system or a revamp? I've lost count of the number of times superintendents have told me that good irrigation consulting will pay for itself over and over by avoiding common design and installation problems. As great as today's irrigation systems are, they're also extremely complex, and the advice and experience of an expert is a small price to pay.

Now that I have pleased the Soup Gods by heeding their message and helping shed light on these organizations, I have but one thing to add: I'm sticking to chicken noodle from now on.

Pat Jones is the publisher/editorial director of Golfdom. He can be reached at 440-891-3126 or pjones@advanstar.com
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CIRCLE NO. 106
I
t's November, and I couldn't be happier with cloudy skies, cool rain and daytime highs in the low 40s. No, my last name isn't Munster. I just still need to cool off from the sweltering weather that accompanied the Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Days held at turf farms in central New Jersey late last summer. The sun beat down on those days, with temperatures around 100 degrees. I was feeling the heat, all right. I felt like a wilted strand of *Poa annua*.

But I learned a lot, and I thought I'd share what I heard from the Rutgers' turf experts with you. Here goes:

### Vantage velvet

Several Rutgers University/Cook College turf researchers were raving about velvet bentgrass during the golf and fine turf segment of the program. How do Rutgers' researchers love velvet bentgrass in the Northeast? Let them count the ways.

- has more of a vibrant green color than other bentgrass varieties;
- is more competitive against weeds;
- is more dollar-spot resistant than creeping bentgrass and more brown-patch resistant than colonial bentgrass;
- performs well during drought;
- holds up well under heavy traffic; and
- has dense growth and fine leaf texture.

Karen Plumley, who helps operates the school's two-year turfgrass management program, said several velvet varieties performed well in the 1998 National Turfgrass Evaluation Program bentgrass study. She cited SR 7200, which has been commercially available for several years, and Vesper 2001, an experimental variety that recently became available. "We've been working with velvets for about eight years, and we believe they have many advantages over creeping bentgrass," she says.

Plumley scanned the many varieties of turf comprising the bentgrass test plot on the farm. She said the velvet varieties are the perennial favorites of visitors throughout the year.

"If I told you to stand on your favorite plot, you would without a doubt be standing on one of the velvet bentgrass plots," she says.

OK, velvet bentgrasses aren't perfect. "They do get a disease called copper spot, which looks like dollar spot, but it's not," Plumley said.

They also can get root pythium in the fall if they're not treated with a fungicide.

Velvets haven't performed well in Southern and Midwestern states, which could be attributed to a high soil pH.

"Velvets don't like high pH," said William Meyer, a Rutgers/Cook College pathology professor. "That may be the reason they're not performing as well across the country as they are here."

Minor problems aside, Rutgers researchers are intrigued by velvet bentgrass.

"It's amazing how bright the velvets look," said Steve Hart, an extension specialist at Rutgers/Cook College. "I don't understand why they've never been popular grasses here. I think it's a matter of not having the information on how to manage them properly."

### About those well-kept greens . . .

Bruce Clarke, director of the school's Center for Turf Science, warned superintendents who are core aerifying, topdressing, verticutting and double-cutting their greens that they're risking an outbreak of anthracnose basal stem rot and — yikes — he says "you're really going to have a hard time getting it under control."

"The key is — and this is sacrilegious but I'll say it anyway — you need to raise the height of cut slightly," Clarke says. "You also need to pump up your nitrogen levels."

### You've come a long way, baby

The first turf-type ryegrasses were produced and released in the 1960s. One of the earliest landmark varieties developed by Rutgers

Continued on page 12