Talking Herbicides

Question: Do you think most superintendents want reduced-risk herbicides from an environmental standpoint? Why or why not?

Editor’s note: In September, October and November, Golfdom features a three-part question-and-answer series on herbicide technology. In each segment, representatives from the industry’s vast number of chemical companies will be asked one question in regard to herbicide technology. The representatives’ answers will be listed along with their photos.

Russ Mitchell, Product and Marketing Director, Quali-Pro • I would think everyone wants to use the most efficacious product that is very safe for the environment. That’s a complex topic, though. Herbicides that had issues with ground water are being phased out. We can argue, that when properly used, some of these products didn’t have an issue. But when you combine certain soil types, the best applicator couldn’t help but have some issues with some of the old chemistries and certain conditions. Today’s modern herbicides have been thoroughly tested for these types of issues and many new labels have precautions and setbacks from water to ensure that no contaminations occur.

Todd Bunnell, Turf and Ornamental Research Manager/Golf Market Manager, SePRO • All superintendents want to be better stewards of their golf courses and the environment, so any tools they can use to minimize active ingredient load, reduce frequency of applications, etc., while maintaining the same level of weed control will be desired.

Continued on page 32
Talking Herbicides

Continued from page 31

Nancy Schwartz, Marketing Manager of Turf and Ornamentals, DuPont Professional Products • Absolutely. Superintendents want to be good stewards of the environment and are actively making a difference by creating more natural habitats for wildlife, conserving water, and by choosing chemistries that are environmentally favorable and have lower application rates.

Kyle Miller, Senior Technical Specialist, BASF Turf & Ornamentals • I think most superintendents would like to incorporate as many reduced-risk and environmentally friendly products as possible. However, they’re concerned with maintaining turf quality at a certain level, so it’s important that those products meet their expectations from a performance standpoint. Otherwise, these products may see limited use in many situations.

Scott Cole, Golf Market Manager, Syngenta • The focus on reduced-risk herbicides will likely remain one of the main drivers in pesticide development for the golf industry for many years to come. Developing products that receive the Reduced Risk classification is important, but a product has to be efficacious and deliver good value if it’s to be relevant to the superintendent.
“Products that are safe to the applicators and don’t have any off-target effects are almost becoming mandatory.”

— MATT BRADLEY

Adam Manwarren, Product Manager of Turf & Ornamental, FMC Professional Solutions • Yes, superintendents are true stewards of the environment, and will continue to want reduced-risk products. This can mean the environmental profile of the product as well as overall turf safety, flexibility of use, and even how the products are packaged (i.e., less plastic, less cardboard, etc.).

Doug Houseworth, Technical Service Manager, Arysta LifeScience North America • One-hundred percent of superintendents will say yes. However, when it comes to paying more, getting less control and having to deal with less user-friendly application techniques, they’ll have a different answer. The majority of superintendents want performance at a reasonable price with flexible application conditions, and they take the position that if the EPA has approved a product for use as directed, it poses no unreasonable risk to applicators, other persons, the environment or animals.

Matt Bradley, Herbicide Marketing Manager, Bayer Environmental Science • Products that are safe to the applicators and don’t have any off-target effects are almost becoming mandatory when bringing a new product to market. This can be done by introducing new active ingredients that use less active ingredient per acre or by simply changing formulations of current products that have less of an environmental and worker exposure impact.

Continued on page 34
Talking Herbicides

Continued from page 33

Owen Towne, President, Phoenix Environmental Care  •  The primary reason for using herbicides is for weed control. Performance being equal, most superintendents would choose the environmentally friendly product. Of course, the devil is in the details. Is a low-rate, persistent herbicide more environmentally friendly than a high-rate, short-lived product? And what’s considered environmentally friendly in one ecosystem may be viewed as a toxic product in another ecosystem. For example, a herbicide that’s viewed as environmentally friendly in Arizona may be viewed as posing unacceptable risk in Florida due to fish toxicity or mobility in water. The inconvenient truth, however, is that superintendents need to decide what product provides the combination of performance, value and environmental safety that they want for their golf courses.

Mark Urbanowski, Portfolio Marketing Leader of Turf and Ornamental, Dow Agrosciences  •  Everyone needs to remember that the currently registered products are, in general, not damaging to the environment, thus the registration of 200-plus studies by EPA to be able to sell. With that said, both manufacturers and superintendents will continue to seek out products that reduce any potential risks.

Jason Fausey, Regional Field Development Manager, Valent Professional Products  •  Yes, all superintendents have an interest in reduced-risk pesticides and products that provide a smaller load on the environment. While the overall interest in reduced-risk herbicides tends to be less than other pesticides — especially insecticides, which generally have a higher risk associated with them — these types of products are top of mind for many superintendents.

The innovative Turfco TriWave™ 60-Inch Overseeder delivers better germination and quicker establishment with less turf disruption.  

- UNC study showed 30% greater germination rates versus traditional methods
- Patented floating heads follow the ground contour for consistent seed depth
- Patented WaveBlade™ technology creates optimum slit width for improved seed-to-soil contact without turf disruption
- Patented seed delivery system puts seeds directly into the slit, reducing seed waste and increasing germination
- Close 1½” spacing increases germination with fewer passes
- Now available as a walk-behind, the TriWave delivers even greater maneuverability and versatility

To see the TriWave in action visit www.turfco.com, or call 800-679-8201 to schedule a FREE DEMO.
New Mode Makes an Impression

Superintendents get good control with fungicide

BY ANTHONY PIOPPI, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

DeMarco says a salesman introduced him to Civitas and he decided to give it a go, even though he admits he’s rarely the first to try any new product. “I [prefer to] wait until things are tried and true and tested,” DeMarco says.

Powelton Golf Club traces its beginning to 1892. Sixteen of the greens are old and of the push-up variety. All 18 greens are a mix of bentgrass and Poa annua. The oldest greens have a healthy

Continued on page 37

Fungicides, until recently, have had the same modes of action to protect a plant; they’re either of the contact or the systemic variety and directly attack the pathogen. Now, though, Petro-Canada has introduced Civitas fungicide that the company says is different from other conventional fungicides. According to the company Web site, Civitas has “a proprietary mode of action called Induced Systemic Resistance (ISR) — a plant defense activator that turns on the natural defenses of the plant to fight off fungus.”

The Civitas label shows the product is 98 percent mineral oil and 2 percent “other ingredients.” The company says the fungicide is effective against a multitude of problem pathogens such as dollar spot, anthracnose, gray snow mold and red thread.

Bob DeMarco, superintendent of the Powelton Club in Newburgh, N.Y., and Joe Noppenberger, superintendent of Wedgewood Golf and Country Club in Powell, Ohio, have been using Civitas since last year.

Save the Date

January 11-13, 2011

Rochester Riverside Convention Center

Smart Growth - Learn with the Pros

Key Speakers:
Ronald Calhoun, Ph.D., Michigan State University and Frank Rossi, Ph.D., Cornell University

Co-sponsored by
NYSDEC, PA, PGMS, RI and VT

Recertification Credits
GCSAA Education Points

To request a brochure or more information about the Empire State Green Industry Show contact us at (800) 873-8873, show@nysta.org or visit our web site at www.nysta.org.
Great things happen when passion and commitment combine with technology and value.
To learn more about how Nufarm’s passion for turf can help you, both agronomically and financially, see your distributor or go to www.nufarm.com/us.

“We’re just as CRAZY ABOUT PERFECT TURF as you are.”

Blaine Pinkerton, Regional Sales Manager


© 2010 Nufarm. Important: Always read and follow label instructions.
New Mode

Continued from page 35 percentage of South German bentgrass. The tees were rebuilt in recent years and are 90 percent bentgrass. The fairways, thanks to a dedicated overseeding program, are as much as 60 percent bentgrass with Poa making up the rest.

Convinced Civitas might work, DeMarco made an application to combat dollar spot and anthracnose from tee to green — applying at a rate of 14 ounces per acre mixed with propiconazole at a 1-ounce rate. DeMarco wanted control that lasted at least 21 days, which he did get. He made another application in 2009 to combat snow mold and was happy with that result, as well.

This year, DeMarco put down an application before the dollar spot really hit, and then will make another application in November to thwart snow mold.

DeMarco says it was the best dollar spot control he’s had in years. He’s been at the club for 33 years, 29 as superintendent. It’s the way Civitas works that enticed DeMarco to try it.

“That’s what did attract me; it’s a whole new mode of action,” he says.

At Wedgewood Golf and Country Club, Noppenberger is also using Civitas but in a slightly more cautious approach than DeMarco. Last season he put down an application on two fairways, one that stands up well against disease and one that gets high disease pressure.

Wedgewood is a 20-year-old Robert Trent Jones Jr. design that Noppenberger grew in. Greens and tees are Penncross while the fairways are Penn Eagle.

“It did a pretty good job,” Noppenberger says.

It’s in one specific area that Noppenberger saw his best outcome.

“On tees we have a dollar spot problem and it was doing really well,” he says. “There was better healing of divots.”

He, like DeMarco, mixed Civitas with propiconazole. Noppenberger also added fertilizer at a mix of 26-0-19.

Noppenberger says Civitas interested him as soon as his salesman brought it up because it’s billed as an environmentally friendly product.

Pioppi is a contributing editor to Golfdom.

The Company Line

Underhill International offers Water Dex, a palm-sized remote that adjusts sprinkler run times without reprogramming the irrigation controller. Called a “shortcut to seasonal adjustments,” Water Dex includes a mini-transmitter (3 inches by 2 inches by 2 inches) with a 200-foot, line-of-sight range and micro-receiver that hard wires into the irrigation controller. By dialing up or down on the Water Dex transmitter, end-users can immediately increase or decrease sprinkler run-times for any zone throughout their system, without affecting the programming cycle.

Underhill offers an expanding line of water-efficient irrigation products, including 2Wire Decoder systems, Pellet Pro and LiquidPro applicators, Gulp pumps, Catch Can kits, MicroEase low volume, Magnum and Precision hose-end nozzles, and FCI Profile stainless steel hose-end nozzles.

Kochek Co. offers the UltraLite Irrigation Hose. This multi-purpose and lightweight irrigation hose has a rigid 1-inch diameter, meeting the needs of golf, sports turf and all irrigation market applications. The 1-inch diameter has a 1-inch, full-flow coupling, and the 1¼-inch diameter has a standard coupling with 1-inch fitting. The hose is kink resistant.

Kochek also offers the GH Series Irrigation Hose, a high-quality hose that has a smooth black PVC inner tube. The cover is smooth opaque green PVC compound reinforced with high-tensile strength yarn and is abrasion resistant.

The hose is available in 1-inch and three-fourths inch diameter as well as in different lengths. It’s equipped with Barb couplings and can be ordered with 1-inch, full-flow couplings (for 1-inch hose only).
The last time turf herbicides saw an innovation this big, man had yet to walk on the moon.

Introducing DuPont™ Imprelis™ herbicide—one giant leap for broadleaf weed control.

DuPont™ Imprelis™ is the most scientifically advanced turf herbicide in over 40 years. Thanks to its innovative new technology, you can control clover plus even the toughest broadleaf weeds—like ground ivy and wild violets—with more application freedom than ever before. Apply Imprelis™ on rainy days, hot days, dry days, cold days ... even reseeding days, and experience longer-lasting residual control on a wider range of broadleaf weeds. Imprelis™ is easy on the environment too—with one of the lowest application rates in lawn care, combined with low mammalian toxicity.

Make the leap with DuPont™ Imprelis™ herbicide.
Over the last 14 years, over 300 courses have had their greens converted to CHAMPION by Champion Turf Farms

AFFORDABLE
Savings of hundreds of thousands of dollars compared to conventional reconstruction

MINIMAL DOWNTIME
We routinely get courses back in play in less than 2 months – minimizing the greatest cost of performing a renovation – loss of play

INCREASED ROUNDS
Most of our clients report significantly increased numbers of rounds/increased revenues after converting their greens to Champion

AGRONOMICALLY SOUND
We have identified the rootzone properties that work best with the growth habit of Champion and we test your existing greens to compare against these parameters

GUARANTEED RESULTS
We conduct the necessary evaluations and testing as well as performing every installation ourselves to ensure your successful outcome

LONG TERM SUCCESS
Greens we installed over 14 years ago have retained their purity and still perform well today

THE BEST PUTTING SURFACE
No other bermudagrass can create the same ball roll as Champion. The growth habit of Champion combined with the correct system of agronomic management allows you to have putting surfaces that are second to none.