

PEER-TO-PEER, BETTER TURF THROUGH NETWORKING

Question for Superintendents: PGR use on greens and fairways: What are your rates and observations?

At **Coffee Mill Golf Club**, our older, heavy Poa front nine greens receive .125 O/M Primo approximately monthly included with a regular application of fertilizer/fungicide. Our newer Providence back nine greens receive 6 - 8 O/M Trimmit approximately monthly included with a regular application of fertilizer/fungicide. Our Trimmit applications seem to reduce small Poa patches during hot weather; we will experiment with increasing rates to further delay Poa encroachment. We have not treated other areas of the golf course, but are considering treating tees to reduce clippings.

- Jeff Normandt
Coffee Mill Golf Club, Wabasha

At **Spoooner Golf Club** I apply two applications of Primo at .125 oz/1000 and Proxy at 5 oz/1000 in early spring on Poa greens. Timing is critical with these apps for successful Poa seedhead suppression. The first app is typically around April 20 with the second application three to four weeks later. I keep a Growing Degree Days chart in the spring and use it for predicting my first application (when GDD32 =300). Primo at .125oz/1000 is then applied every 10 days through the remainder of the growing season. This same program works well for me on Poa/Bluegrass fairways mowed at 1/2 inch, the only difference of using Primo at .25 oz/1000 and stretching out summer applications to control growth as needed.

- Eric Ritter
Spoooner Golf Club, Spooner, WI

At **Midland Hills**, we are using a combination of Cutless/Primo on our greens (Bent/Poa) this season. In 2006, we did a season long test (plot) using rates of 0.05 oz/1000 of each product in our fungicide/fertility tank mixes every two weeks. We saw a nice reduction in clippings and noticed no difference in color compared to our other greens that received only primo; we also saw an increase in bentgrass on the test plot. As for our fairways we use Primo at a rate of 0.15 oz/1000 every two weeks and increase through the year topping out at 0.20 oz/1000, for the main purpose of clipping reduction. Our granular fertility program masks any off coloring

that may result from the primo applications on fairways.

- Ben Just
Midland Hills Country Club, St. Paul

At **Edgewood** our greens only use Andersons Turf Enhancer 2SC on Poa/Bent Greens Rate of 10 oz. per acre tank mixed with .2 N/1,000 sq. ft. every 21 days.

Provides decreased growth with minor discoloration of Poa. Increased density and green speed. Allows us to skip a mowing and roll only once per week, usually only during hot weather conditions. Also allows us to skip clean up round 2-3 times per week.

Plan to use a TGR on tees this season, possibly Primo.

- Mark Lindberg
Edgewood Golf Course/Fargo Parks

North Oaks Golf Club's Poa/Bent surfaces rely on growth regulators to limit clippings during the summer months. Our greens receive .09 O/M of Primo every week during the summer along with the fungicide/fertilizer tank. Fairways and tees receive .16 O/M every two weeks in season along with fungicides and fertilizers. I believe it is important to add a bit of N with any PGR to mask the off-color tinge sometimes noticeable after an application of PGR. We are conducting a Trimmit study with the University of Minnesota and have observed significant suppression

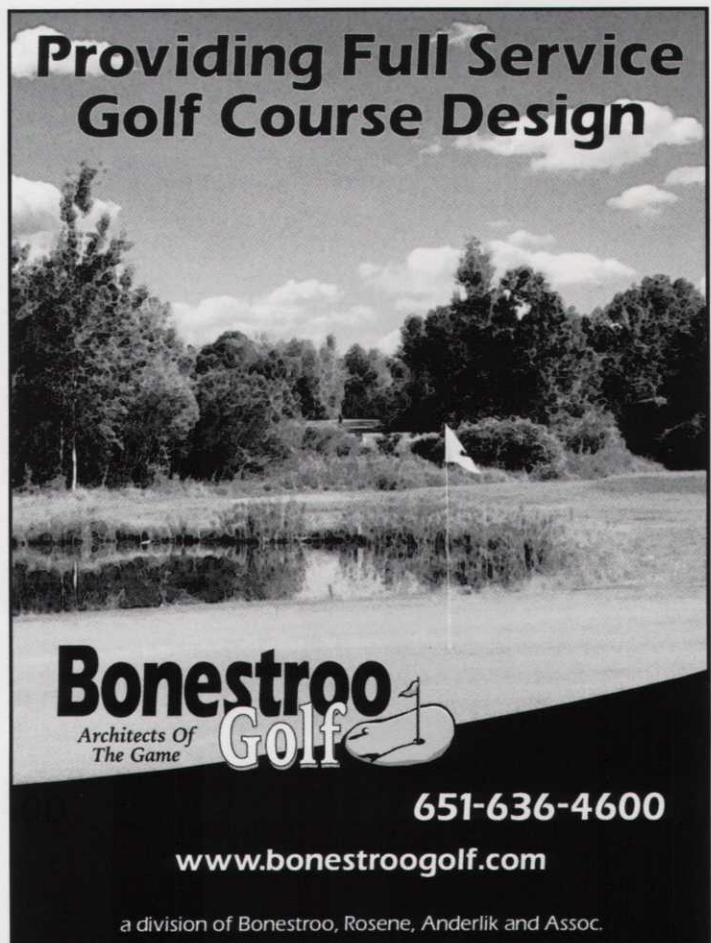
of the Poa in the treated plots. However, in the plots most suppressed, I don't believe the players would tolerate the funky look. But the Trimmit did work!

- Jack MacKenzie, CGCS
North Oaks Golf Club, North Oaks

At **Deer Run** we use Primo on Greens, tees and fairways from mid May till late september. Greens are treated every two weeks at the rate of .15. Tees are treated every three weeks at .25, Fairways are also treated every three weeks at .25. We also use Proxy on our greens to control seedheads one 5 oz app. early May followed by another 5 oz app three weeks later.

- Barry Provo
Deer Run Golf Club, Victoria

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Peer-to-Peer-

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At **Hong Kong Golf Club** Primo is used on all three courses from May thru November to control growth and produce a denser, faster putting greens surface. Fairways are a mix of Bermuda and Zoysia turfgrasses. Regulating growth is extremely important during the warm, wet summer months. With wet conditions, it may be impossible to mow on a daily basis, so the Primo is an important tool to control growth. Primo is applied at .1 O/M to .15 O/M on fairways every three weeks. Greens and tees receive an application of .06 O/M to .09 O/M every two weeks. All applications have iron added to the application to a mask any potential yellowing, but during periods of rapid growth the iron is not necessary.

- Randy Witt, CGCS
Hong Kong Golf Club, China

At the **Monticello Country Club** we apply Primo on our Bent/Poa greens at the rate of .125 O/M every two weeks with our fertilizer and fungicides applications. Our primary reason for the application of growth regulators is that a majority of our play occurs later in the day and this

keeps the greens at an acceptable speed for those golfers. Keep in mind that an acceptable speed for the MCC is around 9.5 on the stimp meter. We also seldom lower our mower heights below .130", double cutting 3x per week to aid in that speed.

As for the tees, we spray our approaches and tees together, mowed at .437." For those, we use Primo to help reduce clippings at the rate of .20 O/M. We only spray once a month in the summer months, so it has a tendency to come out of regulation before the next application. I tried spraying at the rate of .25 O/M a couple of years ago, but the yellowing (albeit very little) bothered our golfers.

Our budget doesn't currently allow for growth regulators on the fairways. Heck, I wish I could afford more fertilizer!

- Rick Traver, CGCS
Monticello Country Club, Monticello

The Ponds of Battle Creek uses PGRS on the greens. My greens are L93 and four years old. I use Primo at .075 oz/M every two weeks with some N in the same tank. I start the applications at the beginning of June and end in mid-September. I use it to reduce clippings and try to keep a consis-

tent surface throughout the day. I have good results and notice when I am at the end of the two weeks because clippings start to increase. I would like to use Primo on tees and fairways but do not have enough in the budget to support it. Hope this helps.

- Rob Adams
The Ponds at Battle Creek, Maplewood

The Classic at Maddens Resort is predominately providence bent with about 10/ 15% poa. Start the end of April with 4 oz./A of Cutless and 6 oz./1000 Bensumec on greens (water in) and 8 oz./A of Cutless on fairways with 32 oz./A Dimension (water in). Greens are on a 2 week schedule and fairways on a 3 week schedule with the Cutless. We use a combination in early May on greens for seed heads (1 app.) of 3 oz. Primo 4 oz. Cutless per A and 3 oz./1000 of Proxy. We then continue with Cutless only until fall. The regulating appearance of Cutless on the providence is more subtle. Not as much yellowing as TGR and still get good lateral growth. Iron and liquids are applied with Cutless periodically. We did use 16 oz./A of TGR with our first application for snow mold on tees and fairways. After two years it seems to help

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with hardening off and the Poa really looks yellow in the spring. Overall trying to give bent the best chance to compete.

- Charles Kornmann

The Classic at Madden's, Brainerd

Tartan Park uses Primo as a primary means for keeping its greens consistent throughout the day. It is applied at a rate of 0.125 oz/1000 on 2-week intervals, starting in mid-May and ending after the first heavy frost. It is applied in conjunction with liquid fertilizers and fungicides. The tees and fairways do not receive PGR treatments.

- Jeff Hanson

Tartan Park Golf Course, St. Paul

Prestwick GC uses Primo at .12 oz./M on greens only every two weeks. It is tank-mixed with our liquid foliar feed program. First apps are roughly end of May through end of August. No PGRs are used on other areas of course.

- Dave Kazmierczak

Prestwick Golf Club, Woodbury

At **Village Greens Golf Course** I use Turf Enhancer 25C every 3 weeks on the greens @ 16oz to 24oz/Acre. I start at 16oz/Acre in the spring and I increase the rate as the season goes along. I have been on this program for 10 years and I am very happy with the results. I don't use PGR's on the fairways because of cost.

- Rick Dauner

Village Green Golf Course, Moorhead

At **Medina G & CC** we use Primo at a rate of 0.125 oz/M on greens, every two weeks starting in mid-May. About July 1st we increase the rate to 0.15 oz/M. (The length of regulation seems to get a little shorter as the season wears on.) We treat fairways with Primo at a rate of 0.15 oz/M every three weeks starting about June 1st, and we increase the rate to 0.2 oz/M in mid-July. I am planning to do some trials with Cutless and/or Trimit this year on some fairways and greens. We have a pretty large percentage of bentgrass in our greens, due to severe winter-kill of the poa in the winters of 03-04 and 04-05, and I would like to do whatever I can to maintain and increase the percentage of bentgrass. Also, we do not cover our greens in the winter, in part because no one has ever proven to me that the benefits outweigh the costs, and also to tip the competitive balance in favor of the

bentgrass.

- Drew Larsen

Medina Golf & Country Club, Medina

I thought I would throw in my two cents of PGRs. I have applied Primo to my Bluegrass/Poa fairways at **Waseca-Lakeside** for the past 12 years. This program is so predictable, for me it has become a no-brainer in my management program. When I first started I experimented with rates and have settled in on .32oz/M in combination with a soluble fertilizer every three weeks starting around the last week of May or first of June. I budget for five applications and that has been fine all but two years in 11.

For greens I started using Primo about four years ago. The rate that has worked for me is .15oz/M every 14 days in combination with liquid fertilizer/fungicide as needed. I generally start the end of May first of June like fairways depending on growth and continue until the first week of September. We have Bent/Poa greens but manage for Bent and have a fairly good population.

- Rob Panuska

Waseca-Lakeside Club.

Brackett's Crossing uses growth regu-

lators to control clippings and seed head production. We have Bent/Poa greens and use Primo/Proxy in Spring. Primo/Proxy applications are dependant on temps and usually first application is mid April, followed by 2nd application early to mid May. Results here have been very good with Poa seed head reduction and minimal puffy turf.

We apply Primo to greens, tees and fairways throughout the golf season.

1) Greens two week interval, .10 Primo with liquid fert .10 N, with medicines (fungicides) as year goes on, may increase Primo to .12 or so as growth continues (Bent/Poa). 2) Tees, start of year

(April, May) 3 week interval .10 Primo with liquid N and medicines, (June, July, August) down to two week interval .12 Primo, N and medicines (Blue /Poa /Bent). 3) Fairways, similar to tees, start year three week interval, .25 of Primo, liquid N and medicines then down to two week interval, .18 of P, N and medicines (Blue/Poa/Bent).

- Tom Proshke

Brackett's Crossing C.C., Lakeville

Last season at **Dellwood** we switched from using Primo only to a combination of Primo and Cutless. Our main goal is clipping reduction. Secondary goals are Poa reduction and improved turf vigor. We are on a two week spray interval for fungicides and we include fertilizer and growth regulators at the same time. The rates we used last year were Cutless at 3oz/A and Primo at 3oz/A on greens. For tees it was Cutless at 3oz/A and Primo at 4oz/A and fairways were Cutless at 3oz/A and Primo at 5oz/A. Our results were good clipping control and better green speeds than with Primo alone and little discoloration. We did not see a significant reduction in Poa but did


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The photos below illustrate the difference in particle size and uniformity between the Andersons small and mid-size fairway fertilizer and a competitor's product. Notice no nutrient segregation with Andersons mid-size due to uniform particle sizing versus significant nutrient segregation with competitor.

Andersons 25-3-9 + 2% Fe (150 SGN)



1 lb. of N per 1,000 = 175 lbs/acre = 3.7 particles per sq in.

Local Competitor 15-5-10 (215 SGN)




1 lb. of N per 1,000 = 290 lbs/acre = 2.0 particles per sq in.

The matrix shown below demonstrates a dramatic increase in particle coverage (PPSI) by using smaller particle products versus increasing the rate (lbs.) of a larger particle product.


Rate (lbs./acre)	Particle Size (microns)					
	125	150	175	215	240	300
100	3.9	2.3	1.4	0.8	0.6	0.3
125	4.9	2.8	1.8	1.0	0.7	0.4
150	5.9	3.4	2.1	1.2	0.8	0.4
175	6.9	4.0	2.5	1.4	1.0	0.5
200	7.9	4.5	2.9	1.6	1.1	0.6
225	8.9	5.1	3.2	1.7	1.2	0.6
250	9.8	5.7	3.6	1.9	1.4	0.7
300	11.9	6.8	4.3	2.3	1.7	0.9

Avg. SGN (gms) = 1.8

Non-Uniform



Uniform Blend




The illustration below shows the effect of using a non-uniform fertilizer product. Note the severe skewing and banding of different nutrients.

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Musing the Minutes

MGCSA Board of Directors Meeting
January 16, 2007, Somerset Country Club

By MATT McKINNON, MGC SA Secretary



President James Bade reported that he has written a letter to the new Dean of the College introducing the association. James expressed our association's support for Dr. Horgan and Dr. Watkins. Scottie Hines, CGCS and James attended the Minnesota Golf Council meeting. The point of the meeting was to try to grow the game. The MGA is going to do an Economic Impact Statement. Weather and forecasting were big issues.

Tom Proshek reported the annual Awards Banquet would be held at Prestwick Golf Club.

Scott Turtinen reported there were 59 people who participated in the 18-hole challenge. The Lanyards that were handed out at the MGCSA booth went over well.

Paul Diegnau, CGCS reported there were 8,000+ attendees at the Minnesota Green Expo. The MTGF will make over

\$100,000. Paul also reported there were a lot of positive comments about the show. The show in 2008 will be one week later.

Kevin Clunis, CGCS reported there are 254 registered voters and 39 independent voters in our association. The MGCSA has three sets of 254 votes but no more than 254 votes can be used per candidate. Kevin also reported that the GCSAA would not increase dues at this time.

Rob Panuska reported that Rick Traver, CGCS would be running for President. Vice President and Treasurer will also be open along with three Directors positions in 2008.

Jack MacKenzie, CGCS reported the MTGF would be meeting soon to discuss the requests for funding they have received. There is around \$180,000 in request and the MTGF will hand out about \$120,000 for those requests.

Have a great spring!

Peer-to-Peer-

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see the Bentgrass moving more laterally. We will be increasing our Cutless rate by 1oz/A on our applications to greens, tees and fairways to try and take out some of the weaker bio-types of Poa.

- Eric H. Peterson

Dellwood Hills Golf Club, Dellwood

Keller GC sprays all playing surfaces from May to October to reduce clippings and improve overall health of our Poa annua. Our greens receive .15 oz/M of Primo every 2.5 -3 weeks from early May through Sept. Fairways and tees receive .25 oz/M of Primo every 2.5 -3 weeks for the same time frame. Played around with Trimit on two fairways this past summer to begin a fairway conversion to bentgrass. Seeded middle of June after Poa annua seeded out. Results were poor due to extreme heat in July and Trimit application timing. Trimit definitely suppresses Poa annua growth and can yellow turf. Yellowing is greatly enhanced by frost. Will continue trials in '07.

- Paul Diegnau, CGCS

Keller GC, St. Paul

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Contact: Ryan Nelson
raider2764@yahoo.com
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+ 1999 National 84" 680 hrs. Good condition - \$1,500
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