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Inside

Office Notes ............................................. 3
Naumann’s Nor Cal News .............................. 3
NorCalendar ........................................... 3
New Members .......................................... 3
President’s Message ................................. 4
Management of Rapid Blight Disease
on Putting Greens in Southern California ..... 7
USGA/Chevron Partnership Supports
Field Trip Programs in Northern California ... 12
From the Field ......................................... 14
Tilden Park Gets Certified ........................... 17
Mullie, The Tilden Park Goose Gal .............. 17

Thru The Green published bimonthly by the Golf Course
Supervisors Association of Northern California.

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Thru the Green—May/June 2013
We have just concluded the scholarship application process and once again we have lots of good candidates. The Scholarship Committee will begin the review, so stay tuned for their announcements. This brings to mind the Clifford & Myrtle Wagoner Scholarship Tournament scheduled for Claremont Country Club, July 1, 2013. This is a wonderful venue, and I am looking forward to another great event. Mark your calendars, grab your members/guests/friends for a great day of golf and auction items. If you have something you want to donate, please give me a call. Rounds of golf, golf merchandise, services, equipment and course materials are just some of the items auctioned last year. As donations are made, we will post them to the website for review and bidding.

Web and Thru the Green use is something which I have been tracking since 2009. Thanks to the Google Analytics and Nxtbook Analytics, we have some good use information. It’s good to know you are still reading and using these tools.

Some trivia:

**The most frequently used browsers:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Browser</th>
<th>Usage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internet Explorer</td>
<td>35.64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safari</td>
<td>25.64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firefox</td>
<td>19.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chrome</td>
<td>17.23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mozilla Compatible Agent, BlackBerry, Android Browser, Blackberry 9560 Opera Mini & Safari (in app) make up the balance.

There are also statistics on monitor resolutions, city and country of origin for visits to the website and as well as information regarding smartphone/tablet use.

Ok, so what you say? Well, all these factors are important for maintaining a functional website. As software changes in the Microsoft/Apple world, so too must the website. Last month there was an issue with Firefox which necessitated the updating of some of the website coding. Thankfully we do have a company interested in keeping us up to date. If you experience something odd or something that hasn’t happened previously, please let us know.

Want to send us something for Thru the Green? We love to have articles written by membership. Just submit by the deadline dates below.

- **July/August Issue**  
  - June 11
- **Sept/Oct Issue**  
  - August 13
- **Nov/Dec Issue**  
  - Oct 8
- **Jan/Feb 2014 Issue**  
  - Dec 10

**Naumann’s Nor Cal News**

Sadly we must report the passing of David Saly, Larry Norman and Gurmit Sandhu, former supt. at Orinda CC. We wish all those affected by these passings our deepest condolences and prayers.
See You There?  **PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE** By JON CHRISTENSEN

Now that aerification is mostly behind us for another few months, maybe we can all find some time to play some golf? If any of you are like me….probably not!!! However, we have some worthwhile events coming up that I would like to encourage you to participate in. The annual Clifford & Myrtle Wagoner Scholarship and Research Tournament has been a huge success over the years, and we anticipate this year to be no different. We have another great venue to visit this year at Claremont Country Club on July 1st. This event is a great way for the Association to raise money for future Golf Course Superintendent’s scholarships, scholarships for our sons, daughters, grandkids, and the research that can make our every day jobs easier, and also provides a great opportunity for networking with our peers and vendor sponsors. Speaking of our vendor sponsors, their support of this event has been outstanding through sponsorships and donations for the auction that follows the day of golf. Are you all aware that the GC-SANC website puts all of the items up for “silent auction” on the website also? For those of you that cannot attend, this provides a chance for you to give back to the event as well as score some great deals on some great items. I would like to also ask if anyone has or knows someone that has an item that can be donated for the auction, please contact myself or Barbara at the office. For those that have taken part in the auction, you know that items have ranged from hand tools, power tools, sporting event tickets, golf, sports memorabilia, fertilizer, chemicals, sand, sod, etc. As you can see, we will take it all! I encourage you to talk to anyone you can, and donate a product for this worthwhile event for all of us.

We also have our annual Field Day event this year at Tilden Park. Wildcat Creek, which passes through Tilden Park Golf Course, sustained major erosion, including a washed-out bridge abutment, during the heavy winter storms of 2005-06. The Federal Emergency management Agency (FEMA) declared a federal disaster in Contra Costa County that winter. The East Bay Regional Parks District thereafter proposed to restore sections of Wildcat Creek passing through Tilden Park Golf Course by creating step pools and planting vegetation along stream edges and slopes, as well as the entire project being monitored during construction and re-vegetation which took place from September to early November 2012. Monitors were required on the project site in order to minimize impact on select species, particularly the federally protected California red-legged frog and Alameda whip snake. This will be a great field day example that will take place on May 20th at Tilden Park. I hope to see you at these events! Please check the website for further details.

---

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THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF GOLF: STATE-BY-STATE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Number of Golf Facilities</th>
<th>Direct Economic Output*</th>
<th>Total Economic Output**</th>
<th>Total Jobs***</th>
<th>Total Wage Income***</th>
<th>Year SRI International Study Conducted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>$808 Million</td>
<td>$1.5 Billion</td>
<td>21,221</td>
<td>$459 Million</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>921</td>
<td>$6.3 Billion</td>
<td>$13.1 Billion</td>
<td>128,000</td>
<td>$4.1 Billion</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>$638 Million</td>
<td>$1.1 Billion</td>
<td>11,570</td>
<td>$337 Million</td>
<td>2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>1,128</td>
<td>$7.5 Billion</td>
<td>$13.8 Billion</td>
<td>167,377</td>
<td>$4.7 Billion</td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>401</td>
<td>$2.4 Billion</td>
<td>$5.1 Billion</td>
<td>56,922</td>
<td>$1.5 Billion</td>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>$1.4 Billion</td>
<td>$2.5 Billion</td>
<td>30,187</td>
<td>$854 Million</td>
<td>2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>683</td>
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<td>$4.8 Billion</td>
<td>50,466</td>
<td>$1.5 Billion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>$909.6 Million</td>
<td>$17.7 Billion</td>
<td>21,000</td>
<td>$530.7 Million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>$429 Million</td>
<td>$770 Million</td>
<td>10,396</td>
<td>$231 Million</td>
<td>2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>280</td>
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<td>$710.4 Million</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>$218.7 Million</td>
<td>2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>$446 Million</td>
<td>$810 Million</td>
<td>11,129</td>
<td>$275 Million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>$7,272 Million</td>
<td>$1.3 Billion</td>
<td>14,700</td>
<td>$408 Million</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>$1.4 Billion</td>
<td>$2.8 Billion</td>
<td>29,630</td>
<td>$857 Million</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>865</td>
<td>$2.2 Billion</td>
<td>$4.2 Billion</td>
<td>56,977</td>
<td>$1.4 Billion</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>508</td>
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<td>$2.4 Billion</td>
<td>34,653</td>
<td>$777 Million</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>$888.6 Million</td>
<td>$1.7 Billion</td>
<td>21,000</td>
<td>$485.1 Million</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>$289.8 Million</td>
<td>$525.1 Million</td>
<td>6,200</td>
<td>$151.2 Million</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>$1.4 Billion</td>
<td>$2.9 Billion</td>
<td>27,700</td>
<td>$857.5 Million</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>818</td>
<td>$2.9 Billion</td>
<td>$5.3 Billion</td>
<td>56,594</td>
<td>$1.6 Billion</td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>558</td>
<td>$2.6 Billion</td>
<td>$5.3 Billion</td>
<td>68,667</td>
<td>$1.7 Billion</td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>738</td>
<td>$2.4 Billion</td>
<td>$4.8 Billion</td>
<td>68,120</td>
<td>$1.5 Billion</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>$280.5 Million</td>
<td>$545.6 Million</td>
<td>10,600</td>
<td>$166 Million</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>$1.2 Billion</td>
<td>$2.5 Billion</td>
<td>27,168</td>
<td>$704 Million</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>$960.5 Million</td>
<td>$1.9 Billion</td>
<td>22,500</td>
<td>$564.1 Million</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>907</td>
<td>$3.4 Billion</td>
<td>$7.4 Billion</td>
<td>98,859</td>
<td>$2.4 Billion</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>$1.6 Billion</td>
<td>$3.1 Billion</td>
<td>40,189</td>
<td>$948 Million</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>$1.2 Billion</td>
<td>$2.5 Billion</td>
<td>29,318</td>
<td>$796 Million</td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>499</td>
<td>$1.2 Billion</td>
<td>$2.4 Billion</td>
<td>38,431</td>
<td>$772 Million</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Direct Economic Output is defined as the size of the golf industry cluster (Golf Facility Operations, Golf Course Capital Investments, Golfer Supplies, Tournaments & Associations, Real Estate, Hospitality/Tourism) within the state economy in terms of revenues.

** Total Economic Output is defined as the direct economic output combined with the indirect economic output (includes revenue generated from the purchase of goods and services from other companies by golf course facilities and the companies that provide goods and services to the golf industry) as well as the induced economic output (includes economic impact from employees directly employed by the golf sector who will spend much of their income in the region thereby creating more spending and more jobs in the local economy).

*** Includes full-time employees only.

AN ADDITIONAL FIVE STATES COMMISSIONED THEIR OWN STUDIES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Number of Golf Facilities</th>
<th>Direct Economic Output*</th>
<th>Total Economic Output**</th>
<th>Total Jobs***</th>
<th>Total Wage Income***</th>
<th>Study Conducted By</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>$2.1 Billion</td>
<td>$3.4 Billion</td>
<td>53,957</td>
<td>$1.4 Billion</td>
<td>Arizona State University, 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>$560 Million</td>
<td>$1.7 Billion</td>
<td>10,913</td>
<td>$177 Million</td>
<td>Colorado State University, 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>$481 Million</td>
<td>$985 Million</td>
<td>20,800</td>
<td>$432 Million</td>
<td>New Mexico State University, 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>699</td>
<td>$1.1 Billion</td>
<td>$2.3 Billion</td>
<td>48,900</td>
<td>$700 Million</td>
<td>National Golf Foundation, 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>$1.4 Billion</td>
<td>$2.3 Billion</td>
<td>30,938</td>
<td>$713 Million</td>
<td>SC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, 2007</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Management of Rapid Blight Disease on Putting Greens in Southern California

Rapid Blight disease affecting annual bluegrass on the practice putting green at Hidden Valley Golf Club, Norco, CA. Symptoms were more severe on this area of the study that received bi-weekly verticutting, sand topdressing, and dragging vs. the area in the background that received topdressing and no dragging. Photo taken 21 Sep 2012.

The Bottom Line:
Rapid blight disease activity was sporadic due in part to distribution of Poa annua on the putting green and environmental conditions. Rapid blight was most severe on the area of the green that received more aggressive cultivation practices (light verticutting, sand topdressing, dragging). In contrast, light sand topdressing without dragging incited less disease and thus would be recommended during the summer months on greens with a history of the disease. Pillar G (Insignia) alternated with Fore Rainshield (mancozeb) provided the best overall suppression of rapid blight. Velista (penthiopyrad) appeared to offer the greatest Rapid blight suppression among newer and previously untested fungicides.

Research Report Brought To You By

Alea Miehls and Jim Baird
Department of Botany and Plant Sciences
University of California, Riverside
jbaird@ucr.edu

Iain Sturge
Superintendent
Hidden Valley Golf Club
Norco, CA
Introduction:

Rapid blight, caused by Labyrinthula terrestris, is an increasingly serious disease of Poa trivialis, Poa annua, and perennial ryegrass turf. Disease is usually associated with poor quality irrigation water with elevated sodium chloride, and severity on Poa annua putting greens in California typically manifests in late summer as salts accumulate in the turf profile. Furthermore, cultivation practices aimed at improving putting conditions can incite disease activity by compounding summer stress of host species. Few fungicides are effective for control of rapid blight, but include pyraclostrobin (Insignia), trifloxystrobin (Compass), and mancozeb (Fore).

Objectives:

1. Evaluate new and existing fungicides and nutrients for preventative control of Rapid Blight disease on a Poa/bentgrass putting green.

2. Evaluate two cultivation strategies for their impact on disease incidence and severity.

Location: Hidden Valley Golf Club Norco, CA

Site: Practice putting green

Rootzone: Sand

Mowing Height: 0.110-0.125 inches

Fertility: See treatment list

Experimental Design: Randomized Complete Block; 4 replications

Plot Size: 4 ft by 6 ft

Sprayer: Output: 2 gal/1000 ft²

Nozzles: TeeJet 8004VS nozzles

Study Period: 3 July (first chemical treatments) to 28 Sept. (final rating) 2012

Cultural Practices:

Prior to the study, the normal maintenance regimen on the green included spraying every two weeks with 0.2-0.3 lb N/1000ft², and 0.4-0.6 lbs K/1000ft² and Primo Maxx at the high label rate. These practices were stopped during the study period.

Cultivation Treatments:

One area of the green where chemical treatments were applied received double verticutting, light sand topdressing, and dragging on 17 July 2012 and approximately every 2 weeks thereafter during the study. Chemical treatments were also applied to another area of the same green that received light sand topdressing only every two weeks. The entire green was core aerated and topdressed on 9 July 2012.

Data Collected:

Percent Poa annua cover (0-100%) at Day 0; Disease Cover (0-100%); Visual Turf Quality (1-9, 9 = best, 6 = minimally acceptable); Electrical conductivity (dS/m); Digital images (overall + individual plots)

Acknowledgments:

Thanks to BASF, Bayer, Dow AgroSciences, Syngenta, DuPont, Grigg Brothers, Valent, and the California Turfgrass & Landscape Foundation (CTLF) for their support of this research.

Results:

✓ Initial disease activity was observed on 3 August, 28 days after initial chemical treatments. However, greatest activity occurred at the end of August through September.

✓ There were significant differences in rapid blight activity between the cultivation practices at three rating dates (Table 1). The more aggressive practice of verticutting, topdressing, and dragging incited more disease and resulted in higher salinity on one rating date only (Table 2).

✓ The only significant differences in rapid blight suppression among the chemical treatments occurred on 30 August and 28 September (final rating date) (Table 3). Although there was appreciable variation in rapid blight disease activity due to Poa annua distribution and environmental conditions during the study, the best disease suppression was achieved with the proven rapid blight fungicides: pyraclostrobin, mancozeb, and trifloxystrobin. Mancozeb applied alone provided among the best rapid blight suppression when applications were made on a routine basis. However, protection was short-lived following the final application in late August. A similar observation was made for the treatment combination of PK Plus, Elicitor, and Kelplex. Of the newer fungicides, Velista (penthiopyrad) offered among the best and longest disease suppression; however further testing is needed to confirm activity.

✓ Our results confirmed that preventative applications of proper fungicides in conjunction with minimally invasive cultivation practices are key components to managing rapid blight on Poa annua putting greens in southern California.
Table 1. Effects of cultivation treatments on rapid blight disease severity averaged over chemical treatments. 2012. Norco, CA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Rapid Blight Cover (%)</th>
<th>Rapid Blight Cover (%)</th>
<th>Rapid Blight Cover (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8/30/12</td>
<td>9/20/12</td>
<td>9/28/12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Verticut</td>
<td>49.01</td>
<td>67.46</td>
<td>67.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-verticut</td>
<td>36.70</td>
<td>34.26</td>
<td>42.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSD ((\alpha = 0.05))</td>
<td>2.43</td>
<td>4.07</td>
<td>4.13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Effects of cultivation treatments on soil electrical conductivity (EC) averaged over chemical treatments. 2012. Norco, CA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Soil EC (dS/m) Mean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Verticut</td>
<td>0.546</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-verticut</td>
<td>0.456</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSD ((\alpha = 0.05))</td>
<td>0.367</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 3. Effects of chemical treatments on rapid blight disease severity averaged over cultivation treatments. 2012. Norco, CA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Rate Formulation</th>
<th>(oz/1000 ft²)</th>
<th>Rapid Blight Cover (%) Applications (d)</th>
<th>Rapid Blight Cover (%) 30 Aug 2012</th>
<th>Rapid Blight Cover (%) 28 Sep 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Control</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>53.9</td>
<td>51.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>PK Plus</td>
<td>Grigg Bros.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0, 14, 28, 42, 56</td>
<td>52.4</td>
<td>67.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Elicitor</td>
<td>Grigg Bros.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0, 14, 28, 42, 56</td>
<td>44.0</td>
<td>63.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>PK Plus</td>
<td>Grigg Bros.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0, 14, 28, 42, 56</td>
<td>49.5</td>
<td>64.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>PK Plus</td>
<td>Grigg Bros.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0, 14, 28, 42, 56</td>
<td>53.5</td>
<td>68.5</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Elicitor</td>
<td>Grigg Bros.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0, 14, 28, 42, 56</td>
<td>35.8</td>
<td>58.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>N, P, K control</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>0, 14, 28, 42, 56</td>
<td>52.2</td>
<td>60.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Secure</td>
<td>Syngenta</td>
<td>4 SC</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0, 14, 28, 42, 56</td>
<td>46.5</td>
<td>57.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Secure</td>
<td>Syngenta</td>
<td>4 SC</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0, 14, 28, 42, 56</td>
<td>40.5</td>
<td>52.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>A12946B</td>
<td>Syngenta</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0, 14, 28, 42, 56</td>
<td>43.6</td>
<td>61.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Pillar</td>
<td>BASF</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>0, 28, 56</td>
<td>28.5</td>
<td>26.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Insignia</td>
<td>BASF</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0, 21, 42</td>
<td>45.1</td>
<td>39.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Insignia</td>
<td>BASF</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0, 28, 56</td>
<td>32.4</td>
<td>47.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Compass</td>
<td>Bayer</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0, 14, 28, 42, 56</td>
<td>41.9</td>
<td>44.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Fore Rainshield</td>
<td>Dow</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0, 14, 28, 42, 56</td>
<td>41.9</td>
<td>44.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Velista</td>
<td>DuPont</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0, 14, 28, 42, 56</td>
<td>41.6</td>
<td>39.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Velista</td>
<td>DuPont</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0, 14, 28, 42, 56</td>
<td>33.1</td>
<td>51.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Velista</td>
<td>DuPont</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0, 14, 28, 42, 56</td>
<td>36.6</td>
<td>60.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>UCR001</td>
<td>Exp.</td>
<td>0.31</td>
<td>0, 14, 28, 42, 56</td>
<td>53.1</td>
<td>45.0</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>0-0-50</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>2.0 lbs</td>
<td>14, 28, 42, 56</td>
<td>47.4</td>
<td>51.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>LSD (α = 0.06)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>6.1</strong></td>
<td><strong>7.3</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Application Dates:** A = 3 July; B = 19 July; C = 3 Aug; D = 16 Aug; E = 30 Aug.
N, P, K control provided same amounts of nutrients as contained in trts 2-6.
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April 2, 2013. As people in the golf industry work to stem the decline in players, a group called First Green is bringing youth to golf courses, giving many of them a positive introduction to the game. The Pacific Northwest-based First Green is innovative in that it accomplishes this through science—by using golf courses as learning labs.

**How does it work?**
First Green has created training and resources to assist golf superintendents in hosting schools on their local courses. Teachers and students make field trips to the course where they perform hands-on experiments and tests, all within the focus of their school’s environmental science and/or horticulture curricula.

In these outdoor “labs” students test water quality, collect soil samples, identify plants, do math activities and work with local issues such as stream-bed or owl-nest restoration.

First Green also emphasizes the environmental and community benefits of golf courses, while introducing potential new golfers to the game in a fun, educational manner.

The learning labs are based on what the superintendent does as part of his golf course management regimen. First Green has linked these activities to the curriculum in the classroom, allowing the learning labs to offer schools “real-world” learning experiences. These STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) labs enhance what the schools provide within the classroom.

**How Can You Get Started With Field Trips?**
First Green has just been awarded a one-year STEM grant of $100,000 by the United States Golf Association (USGA). The grant funds the development of informational training videos and field trip resource kits that will be made available to golf course superintendents who schedule field trips on their facilities.

The grant also funds First Green workshop programs in Northern California to review the field trip resources and talk about starting local golf course/school connections.

May 30 is the first opportunity for you to experience a First
Green field trip and start planning for your own local program. See the workshop information below.

A tax-exempt nonprofit, First Green was founded in the State of Washington in 1997 and is expanding nationally. For more information about First Green, see http://thefirstgreen.org. Be sure to take a look at the Power Point field trip overview.

Registration Open for Free First Green Workshop
You can observe a field trip on May 30. This will be a fun event and a great way to see First Green in action. Superintendents, club members and association members are all invited. You will also be able to see the field trip resource kit and talk about the potential of a field trip at your own golf course.

Location:
Metropolitan Golf Links: 10051 Doolittle Dr., Oakland, CA 94603

When:
May 30 from 10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
The actual field trip will be from 10:30 to 12 noon. Afterwards, First Green will host a lunch and brief informational workshop (12:00–1:30 p.m.) that will explain how you can get started at your own golf course.

The 2013 Rounds 4 Research auction is right around the corner and we still are in need of donations from Northern California golf facilities. The first auction is scheduled for June 6-16 in conjunction with the U.S. Open and the second auction is scheduled for Aug. 1-11 revolving around the PGA Championship.

As you may be aware, the Rounds 4 Research program was designed to address a critical shortage in turfgrass research funding by auctioning donated rounds of golf online. The program is administered by the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG) and presented in partnership with Toro. EIFG is the philanthropic organization of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

Rounds 4 Research allows GCSAA chapters and turfgrass foundations to participate as fundraising partners with the 80% of proceeds from the auctioned rounds going back to those organizations. In this way, these organizations can direct the proceeds to specific projects that will have the most significant impact in their local areas. The remaining 20% of proceeds go to operating costs involved with the management and marketing of the program. In addition to research, chapters may use funds for advocacy, education, scholarships and environmental programs.

Biddingforgood.com is online auction platform assisting Rounds 4 Research. Biddingforgood.com has a database of 650,000 active users. In addition to the marketing assistance being provided by the USGA and PGA of America, Rounds 4 Research is being promoted through social media, press releases and various allied golf organizations with a specific focus on state golf associations who have the most direct access to golfers.

To donate a round, please visit www.rounds4research.com and click on the donate button in the upper right hand corner. Fill out the facility, contact, donation information, description, redemption and proceeds blocks. Make sure to indicate the chapter or foundation you want the funds to go to. You may also put restrictions on the rounds in this area including days, times, attire, etc. Download a course photo and logo and then send in a certificate to EIFG or they can create one for you.

The entire process takes approximately 10 minutes and you will be assisting your chapter in raising funds for important research and education.

If you have any questions concerning the program, please don’t hesitate to contact me at jjensen@gcsaa.org or follow me on Twitter @GCSAA_SW. Enjoy the great spring weather and I hope to see you at an upcoming event.

www.rounds4research.com

From the Field

By JEFF JENSEN, GCSAA Field Staff, Southwest Region

The 2013 Rounds 4 Research auction is right around the corner and we still are in need of donations from Northern California golf facilities. The first auction is scheduled for June 6-16 in conjunction with the U.S. Open and the second auction is scheduled for Aug. 1-11 revolving around the PGA Championship.

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Mullie, The Tilden Park Goose Gal

We found Mullie on Craig’s List from a young couple in Hayward. She is a Border Collie/McNab mix. Both breeds are herding dogs. Her favorite toy is a squeaky skunk. She loves to herd everything from me to the mowers on the course. In her “off duty” time she lives with Jay and his girlfriend in the Richmond Marina.