

TALKING HEADS

CHEMICAL APPLICATIONS

Compiled by Malcolm Huntington MBE

1

Which one pesticide/herbicide/fungicide makes the biggest difference to your work?



Name: Kenneth Harper
Course: Meldrum House Golf Club
Region: Scotland
Course Type: Parkland 18 holes, plus large practice areas
Staff: Head Greenkeeper, plus six, plus three in summer

Relay Turf, a herbicide which controls all broad leafed weeds.



Name: Mike Goodhind
Course: The Tytherington Golf Club
Region: Northern
Course Type: Parkland 18 holes
Staff: Course Manager, plus five

A difficult question, but I would say a herbicide. We use a number of different weed killers, among them Relay. Spraying is done cheaply and quickly by contract.



Name: Kim Blake
Course: Fulford Heath
Region: Midland
Course type: Parkland
Staff: Course Manager plus five

A herbicide called Headland Relay which controls clover exceptionally well in addition to other broad leafed weeds. It is relatively cheap.



Name: Craig Fudge
Course: Kendleshire Golf Club, Bristol
Region: South West and South Wales
Course Type: Parkland, 18 holes
Staff: Course Manager, plus seven

Intrepid, a herbicide which sorts out all the broad leaf weeds. I use Tritox on tee banks.



Name: Chris Toop
Course: Langley Park Golf Club, nr Beckenham
Region: South East
Course type: Parkland 18 holes
Staff: Course Manager, plus five, plus mechanic

Rimidin to control fusarium, coupled with Integrate, a Mascot product which improves soil condition, aeration and water percolation which has made a big difference to our course.



Name: Paul McFadden
Course: Strabane Golf Club. Co Tyrone
Region: Northern Ireland
Course type: Parkland, 18 holes
Staff: Course Manager plus three

A fungicide called Daconil which controls fusarium. Without it we would be wiped out. I spray two to three times a year.

2

Has the removal of any particular chemical product from circulation made a real difference to your ability to maintain your course?

I use very few chemical products, concentrating instead on aeration, spiking and feeding. I use chemicals as a last resort to control disease.

A long term worm killer. I understand the reasons for banning such as chlordane, the best of the lot, but nothing has replaced it. I use carbendazin, but this isn't as good.

No change. We began to practice cultural ideas such as aeration and scarifying about five years ago but use a fungicide for fusarium once a year.

Not really. I used to have Touchdown LA and I have replaced that with Roundup which does the same job.

Something to replace chlordane. We have had nothing anywhere near as effective since then. We have a bad worm problem and a product as good as chlordane would be a major help.

Without a doubt chlordane, which so far as I am concerned was the only product to control worms effectively.

3

What product are you waiting for someone to develop, and why?

I would like to see one developed to suppress grass growth. There are chemicals about but they can be improved on. One to control poa annua would be welcome.

I am sympathetic to environmental products, so a microbial product would be useful. I have used this sort of thing for three to four years with some success. It improves tolerance to disease and stimulates plants in their natural defensive mechanism.

A worm suppressant. Nothing has replaced chlordane which we used once every three years before it was banned. Now we really need to spray once every six months.

A fungicide to control Take All on greens. I understand there is a product called Heritage which is being used in the United States and should arrive here in the spring.

We need something which will deal effectively with fusarium by one application a year. At the moment I am spraying two or three times.

A chemical to deal with fusarium on a once a year basis, plus the problem dealt with in the previous question.

4

What do you think the future would hold if all chemical applications were banned from golf courses?

I would love to see the day when they are banned as long as the course doesn't suffer... and as long as we don't get more hassle.

We have to modify our management regime and become more reliant on cultural products, correcting the cause rather than treating the symptoms.

The golf course would become very costly in terms of maintenance with more brushing, spiking and aeration.

It might be very difficult with some diseases. We may have to use more organic ideas and fertilisers to try to prevent disease coming.

A total collapse of the game of golf. We would have greens covered in disease and it would take all summer to get things back to normal. Worms, leather jackets and weeds would be a huge problem and it would be very labour intensive.

I suspect it would be utter chaos and it would make the greenkeeper's job very tough to say the least. The courses would suffer, it would be much more work intensive and we would obviously, need more greenkeepers.

5

Have you changed your maintenance regime in anticipation of it possibly becoming a reality?

I already practice in anticipation of the eventual banning of chemicals, which I think will come, as it has already in Germany for example.

I am more observant towards the possible future banning of chemicals and avoid using an excess of nitrogen. I also keep a careful check on possible over-watering.

Yes. Our machinery is a lot bigger now in anticipation of having to do more aeration and spiking. We began this programme four to five years ago.

We haven't changed very much at all. We aerate a lot as we have USGA greens. As for chemicals being banned, some people will say it will come and others not.

Not at the moment. I just hope it will never happen. If I see any proof that it will, then I might change a few things.

No. We brush the greens every morning to keep them as dry as possible. We verticut a lot and also cut back the trees to provide as much air round the greens in a bid to prevent disease.