

The President's Message

With the Denver convention and the Midwest Regional Turf Conference behind us, we can start and plan on getting our golf courses in the best of condition for the 1971 season. At the present time it looks like the golf courses have come out of the winter with less problems than any year in the past. I would like to see all the membership attend all meetings. We have a very good educational committee working for your benefit and a committee picking out some very fine golf courses for your golfing pleasure. Get all the news by attending your meetings. One day away from your duties at the club a month is the best way to relax yourself. See you around.

Joe Canale

POA ANNUA PROGRAMS —

POA ANNUA WILL BE CONTROLLED !!

Going into the 70's one has several choices being offered for the control of Poa Annua. Basically we can break these down into four programs.

1. **Scorched earth method.** Complete burning off, or stripping sod and thatch. This has proven successful on some courses but it is a drastic program. **Advantages.** Can accomplish change over from poa to bluegrass or bentgrass in one year. Can then go on a prevention program to keep poa out. **Disadvantages.** Takes course out of play for long period of time. This like all programs, requires good cultural practices, such as good drainage, de-thatching. Aeration and correcting soil acidity.
2. **Pre-emergence. (Balan - Dacthal - Betasan - Pre-San)** This method while still very new, is completely dependent on the quirks of nature. Timing is very important, but weather conditions are the key factor. If you apply these chemicals at just the right time and nature knocks out the poa, then you can prevent it from coming back by killing the

new emerging seedlings, as they germinate. The big draw back of this program is that poa usually dies all at once instead of gradually—leaving unsightly bare areas. The desirable grasses do not recover because of the chemical destroying the desirable seeds.

Advantages. Economical—Use any fertilizer—No residue.

Disadvantages. Affect desirable seeds—Can't reseed for 2 to 6 months. Soil can't be disturbed after application. Possible danger to bentgrasses. Will not control poa that does not die out. **Must be repeatedly applied at critical times and rates.**

3. **Growth Retardant (Po-San).** Inhibits poa seed head production and retards foliar growth. Encourages upright growth and reduce matting. Inhibits 80-100% **seed formation.** Places poa under chemical stress.

Advantages. No soil residues—Use any fertilizer—Re-seed immediately.

Disadvantages. Mixing two chemicals—agitate while applying—Timing must apply **before** seed heads develop. Do not use on greens. Use only in well established turf.

Put turf under high stress—heat—drought—disease may stress weakened turf more. Temporary chlorosis will occur. Knocks out seed but not mature plants so you may never rid area of poa completely. Results are variable.

4. **Soil Control Program. (Chip-Cal)**

Start with one fairway, green or the whole course. Follow the 6 point program that has worked on over 3,000 courses. The only program that takes out poa without depending on nature.

Advantages. Works slowly so there is no lost playing time. Can reseed and build up desirable turf. Once control is reached, cost of program drops to very economical level. Also controls crabgrass, chickweed and soil insects.

Disadvantages. Restricted fertilizer program.

THE PLANT:

With any program you choose there are certain ground rules that must be followed. We in the northern area of the United States know that Poa Annua is very unpredictable. In some areas it dies out every year. In other areas it lives for two or more years, so it acts more like a perennial weed. Which ever program you choose will only get results if you follow the correct principles.

THE ACTION — IT'S UP TO YOU

1. Explain program to all interested parties, greens chairman, committee and membership. Tell them what to expect and how long it will take.
2. Correct any soil deficiency, lime if acid, etc.
3. Aerate, de-thatch or spike the ground.
4. Drain low area — on fairways, trench or vertical slit.
5. Overseed often — as the poa goes out you want to fill in with Bluegrass or Bentgrass.

Now's the time to do something — Poa may go at any time and cause undue hardships on some really fine people.

Tom Cronin
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CHIPMAN DIVISION