

EDUCATION RECAP

Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*



Invasive Weeds

The June MAGCS meeting was held at Elgin Country Club. Randy Lusher, Senior Sales Specialist for BASF (you know, the people who don't make the products, they make the products better) made a great presentation on Invasive Species Management Practices.

An invasive weed is any plant, not native to the community. The invasive plant tends to take over and cause harm. (Don't worry Gurke; I don't think he's talking about the poa on your greens) Many of these plants were brought over from Europe or Asia for gardening purposes. Over time, the seeds of the plants were spread by birds, wind and water. Most of these plants have no natural predators which causes their populations to overtake native plant communities. The result is a mono stand of the weed and overall loss of diversity within the plant community. The snow ball effect can affect the loss of species.

Some examples of invasive plants are: Buckthorn, Honey-suckle, Spotted Knapweed, Fragmites, Reed Canary Grass, Purple Loosestrife, Canada Thistle and Garlic Mustard.

Randy played an entertaining video, highlighting some of the problems with the invasive species.

Some control methods discussed were:

- Mechanical removal
- Control through the use of fire
- Cultural control
- Chemical control

Some additional tips include timing of weed control, specific herbicide rates, cut surface applications and use of adjuvants.

Randy had a hand out for everyone with many of the invasive weed control specific herbicide rates.

For more information on control of invasive weeds check MIPN.org (Midwest Invasive Weed Network) -OC



Randy Lusher explained cutting invasives such as buckthorn without a follow up surface application of herbicide can create more work in the future because of the sprouting that occurs.

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