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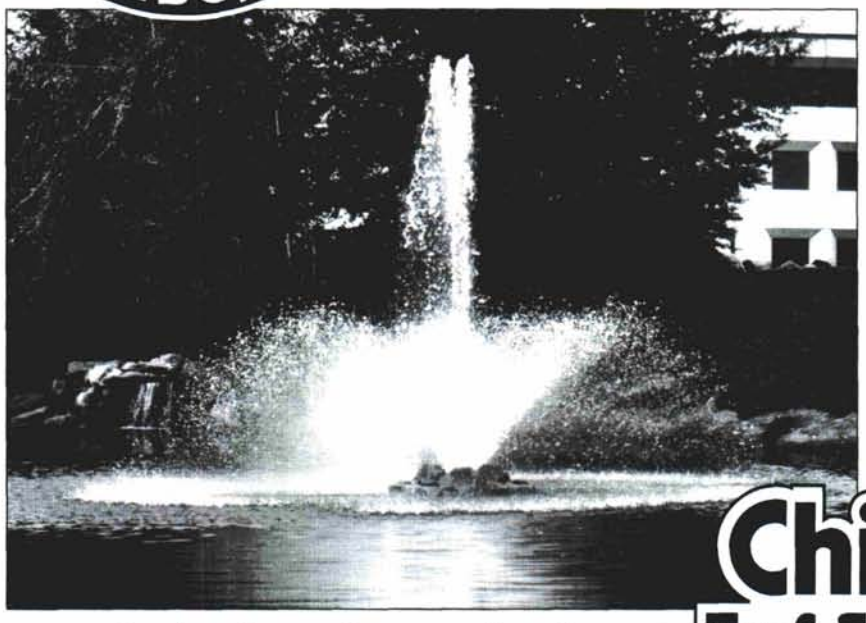

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FEATURES

The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents is a professional organization founded in 1927 whose goals include preservation and dissemination of scientific and practical knowledge pertaining to golf turf maintenance.

We endeavor to increase efficiency and economic performance while improving and enhancing the individual and collective prestige of the members.

The MAGCS (Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents) member is also an environmental steward. We strive to uphold and enhance our surroundings by promoting flora and fauna in every facet in a manner that is beneficial to the general public now and in the future.

In a few short days, our association will once again hold the famed Midwest Clinic and Annual Meeting. It is the day that the gavel will be passed and a new Board of Directors will be elected to guide us into the new year. With both a sense of relief and melancholy, I will begin the final leg of my journey on the board, joining that prestigious group, our Past Presidents.

The time has passed ever so quickly this year, and I can now begin to better understand why it is that past presidents have so many suggestions. It's because there is just not enough time to get everything accomplished that a president would like to accomplish in one short year. Perhaps a two-year term would provide a greater likelihood of achieving more goals and implementing plans that are conceived during the first year.

Conversely, the ascendancy of our vice president to president (and with him some fresh ideas, renewed energy, and, as we'll have with our new president, a greater sense of humor) is healthy, if not essential, for our association. The MAGCS will be in good hands with President-elect Ed Braunsky. Congratulations, Ed, and best wishes!

Of course, one person cannot begin to manage the myriad of activities necessary in the operation of an association as large as the Midwest. This year, with a larger than usual work load and time commitment at my course, it was especially relieving to have assistance from the dedicated, hard-working and effective group of gentlemen we know as the Board of Directors.

From the ultra-efficient handling of day-to-day business operations by our Executive Secretary George Minnis, the superb work of *On Course* Editor Fred Opperman in producing our first-rate magazine, to the outstanding efforts from our vice president, secretary/treasurer, and all of the committee chairs, I am indeed grateful. I sincerely thank each of you! If the ratio of complaint-to-praise comments are a measure of our success this year, we made a "Hole in One."

So collectively, what have we accomplished for the MAGCS and our members this year? Briefly, our member record keeping and response time of mailings and the directory update is better than ever; our magazine is now something we can all be more proud of and willing to share with others at our clubs or courses; we are nearly complete (much farther along than most chapters) with the GCSAA Affiliation Agreement; we have improved our association's presence via the golf show and the new MAGCS brochure (scheduled to be out now) and our *On Course* magazine; we have increased research support both locally and nationally with contributions to CDGA, ITF, and others and have joined the Platinum Tee Club, extending our ongoing commitment to the GCSAA Foundation; and finally, but not all inclusively, our employment referral service has been streamlined.

We've accomplished much, tried some new ideas, and recognize we must continue to seek ways to improve in many areas.

This year, we tried a new format at several of our meetings with the holding of education before golf. From the comments I've heard, this was well received, and we will likely continue this format when applicable. We tried to keep our summer meetings casual, recognizing that many members travel long distances and may want to return to their courses in the evening. Most of the comments support this as well. At the upcoming Midwest Clinic, we will forego the usual after-meeting dinner and instead hold a President's Reception. Over the years, the dinner attendance has fallen, and it is time to try something new. These and many other ideas will surely be discussed and perhaps modified by the new Board of Directors.

Where can we improve? Well, there is always room for improvement. Our research contributions still fall short of other, smaller chapters. We could always do more to get positive press about the many environmental benefits our courses have contributed to our communities (perhaps the formation of an environmental stewardship committee will help here). We should do more to recognize the many commercial members who so often support and finance many of our endeavors (remember to support those who support the Midwest). Finally, we could upgrade our golf championship event with more participation, improved tee prizes, and perhaps a

(continued on page 26)

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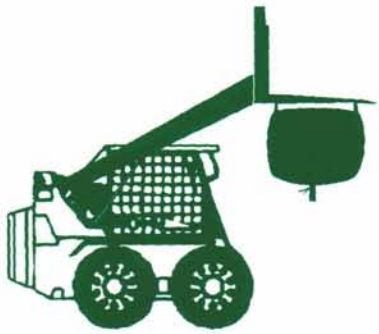

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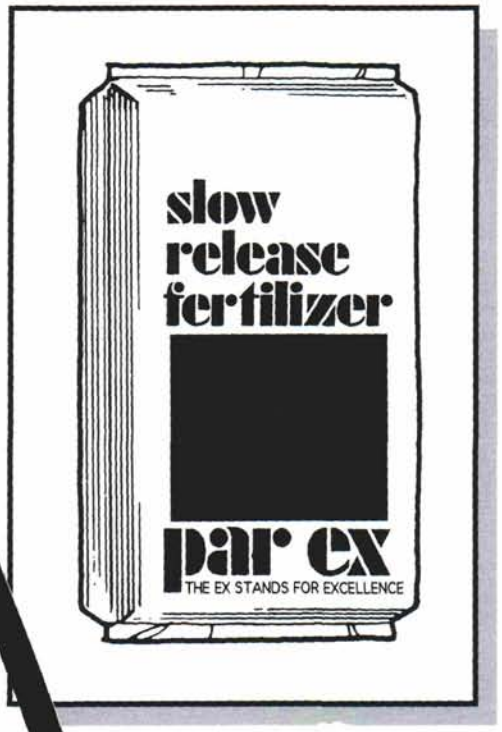

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Joel Purpur, CGCS
River Forest G.C.

As I write my last Director's Column before "going out to pasture" from the board of the MAGCS, I am proud of what the MAGCS has accomplished over the last decade. The energy and direction I see in our new board is very encouraging, and with Ed Braunsky as our new president, I am sure the upcoming year will be entertaining as well as productive. Ed could write a book with all of his witty analogies.

Many times I have heard from out-of-town superintendents that the MAGCS is an association that is like no other. Professional, progressive, organized, and involved are a few of the qualities that we as members have come to know and expect. The operations could not take place if it were not for the unselfish efforts of many. I hope that I myself have contributed to the betterment of the MAGCS as well. (If I hadn't by now, it's a good thing I am getting the boot!)

Our association would not be at its present level if it were not for the class of the individual members themselves. The board strives to serve the needs of its membership, and it is the membership itself that pursues such high standards and involvement. Our monthly publication, *On Course*, would not be what it is today if it were not for the demands of the membership and the hard work of the Editorial Committee and Editor Fred Opperman, Congratulations to all involved. We are all proud of their accomplishments, and they should be too.

There are too many people to thank for helping me during the past nine years that I have been a part of the MAGCS board, beginning when Mike Nass was president. Being president of the MAGCS during the "summer of '95" was quite challenging, and the 1995 Executive Board deserves special thanks: "Big Al" Fierst was always there for advice and grammatical consultations; Don Cross, who is a stickler for details; and Secretary/Treasurer Ed Braunsky. Ed worked hand in hand with new Executive Secretary George Minnis many, many hours; and together they brought the office operations, computer database, and programs to new levels. But most of all, I would like to thank the members of the MAGCS for giving me an opportunity to be a part in the constant development of our great Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents. Thank you to all for the memorable experience and involvement. ■

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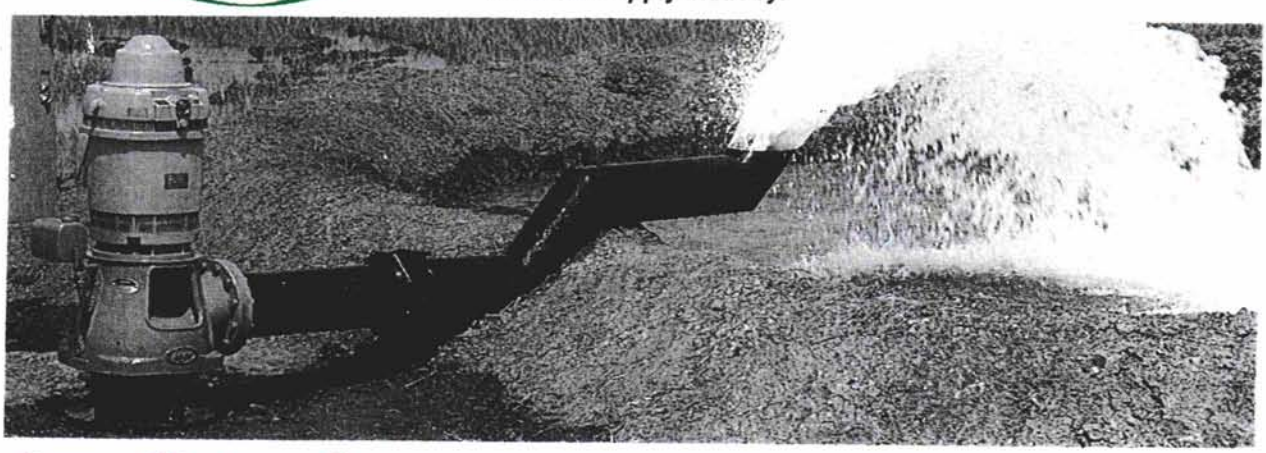

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Timing Is Everything for an Effective Weed Management Program

Dr. Joeseph C. Neal
Cornell University

In turfgrass management we are fortunate to have many effective tools (herbicides) for the control of weeds. In general, the herbicides are very effective and have broad windows of application. However, like all other management inputs, to obtain the maximum benefit from a minimum of effort and expenditures, careful attention to product choice, dosage, application uniformity and the timing of these applications are essential. Optimizing when you implement your weed management program will improve scouting results and efficiency, weed control, and turfgrass safety.

Weed scouting

Making informed management decisions require information. In this case, in order to control weeds you must know what species are present, their relative abundance (has the infestation exceeded your "threshold" for acceptable turf quality?), and where the infestations occur.

Weed scouting need not be a labor-intensive or time-consuming process. The first step is to divide the area into management units. In lawn care, this may be as simple as front, back and side yards. In golf courses, obvious management units are tees, fairways, roughs, and greens for each hole. The second step is to determine the intensity of management and what weed or amount of weed cover will be acceptable in that particular site. The third step is to scout the property.

The late summer or early fall has proven to be the best time to scout. Then, summer annual weeds, both monocot and dicot, are mature; perennial weeds are present; and winter annuals are germinating.

In Cornell University's integrated pest management (IPM) program, we have found that a simple inventory of the species, followed by highlighting the more important or prevalent species, combined with noting when patterns of weed cover are present, i.e., are weeds throughout, spotty, or in a patch somewhere, will provide adequate information for decision-making.

Scouting is best done when all weeds are present and when turf quality concerns can be addressed to improve turf density before weeds germinate. The late summer or early fall has proven to be the best time to scout. Then, summer annual weeds, both monocot and dicot, are mature; perennial weeds are present; and winter annuals are germinating. Also, cool-season turfgrasses are actively growing and can fill gaps left by dying weeds. Also, turf can be successfully overseeded at this time of the year. A follow-up scouting in late spring can identify weeds that escaped fall or spring treatments, and seedling summer annual weeds can be treated when they are small and easier to control.

Weed control

Many herbicides are available for controlling turfgrass weeds. Getting the most out of these products requires that they be applied when they can do the most good. Optimum timing of herbicide applications are influenced by many interrelated factors including:

- Weed species and physiology — particularly time of emergence, development and seasonal variation in sugar translocation within the plant;
- Climactic factors — temperature and moisture primarily;
- Turfgrass species and management — warm season versus cool-season species, mowing height, irrigation, fertility, cultivation events, etc.; and
- Herbicide chemical properties and mode of action — each

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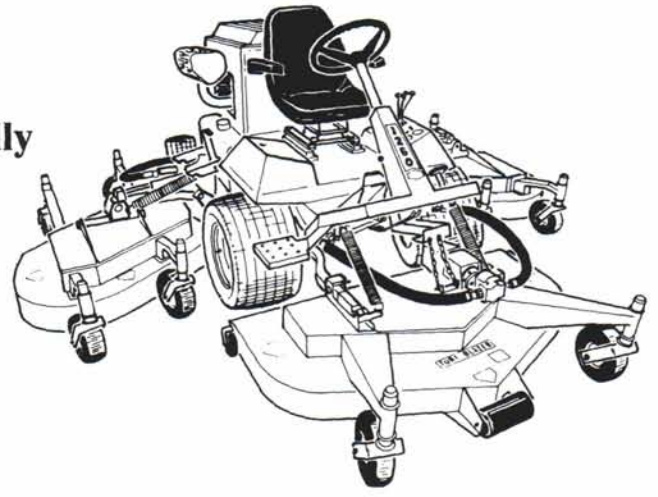

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Timing Is Everything...
(continued from page 8)

family of herbicides kills plants in different ways, and they decompose in the soil at different rates.

To understand how these factors influence herbicides efficacy, different weed control strategies and categories of herbicides must be discussed separately.

Annual grass control

Crabgrass and goosegrass are the most common summer annual grass weeds in turf and are typically controlled with preemergent herbicides. Ideally, preemergent herbicides should be applied about two weeks prior to weed germination. Crabgrass germinates when the soil temperature is between 55 and 60 degrees Fahrenheit. Goosegrass has an absolute requirement for 65 degrees Fahrenheit to germinate, so it emerges later than crabgrass.

Unfortunately, predicting when soil temperatures will reach these critical levels with adequate soil moisture present is an inexact science. Instead, we use indicator species to tell when weather is conductive to germination. In warm-season turf, preemergent herbicides should be applied by the time dogwoods are in fall bloom. In cool-season turf, the soil warms more slowly and application may be delayed until shortly after the dogwood blooms fade. In the northeastern U.S., we use forsythia in full bloom as an indicator for the application of preemergent herbicides.

Recent research has shown that with the newer, longer-residual preemergent herbicides, there is greater flexibility in the application time. Dormant season (January and February) applications of pendimethalin, Barricade, Dimension, and Ronstar, have controlled crabgrass as well as mid-March treatments. Additionally, Dimension has the added flexibility of controlling crabgrass after it has emerged thereby extending the effective window for application by several weeks. However, once tillers form on crabgrass, Dimension alone does not provide adequate control.

Crabgrass germinates when the soil temperature is between 55 and 60 degrees Fahrenheit. Goosegrass has an absolute requirement for 65 degrees Fahrenheit to germinate, so it emerges later than crabgrass.

Postemergent control of crabgrass may be accomplished with Acclaim or MSMA. Both products are best applied early in the season to young, about one-tiller, crabgrass. At this time, control is usually superior to later treatments. Lower rates may be used to obtain this control, and more favorable weather conditions will reduce the potential for turfgrass injury. It may also be desirable to tank-mix a low dose of a preemergent herbicide with the postemergent treatments to prevent subsequent crabgrass germination and emergence.

Postemergent control of goosegrass is more difficult. MSMA is ineffective and Acclaim is less active than on crabgrass. Acclaim applications should be made before goosegrass has reached the three-tiller stage, with the earlier the better. Applications to larger mature goosegrass plants will be ineffective.

Nutsedge control

Nutsedge is often mistaken for a grass. With a few notable exceptions, most grass control herbicides do not control nutsedge. In certain warm-season turfgrasses, metolachlor (Pennant) may be used preemergently to suppress yellow nutsedge; however, nutsedge is usually controlled postemergently.

Basagran or MSMA are applied to young actively growing nutsedge plants with the optimum timing for these treatments based on uniformity of the emergence and the physiology of nutsedge tuber formation. Tubers sprout over an extended period of time, from late spring to mid summer. Treatments should be delayed until most plants have emerged. However, tubers are formed when days begin to shorten: after June 21. Delaying treatments much past July 1 will allow the plants to produce tubers which will infest the turf next year. Also, delaying treatments to midsummer increases the likelihood and severity of turfgrass injury from the available herbicides. Therefore, the first Basagran or MSMA treatment should be made in mid to late June and followed with a second application in about fourteen days.

Broadleaf weed control

Optimum timing for postemergent broadleaf weed control is when weeds are actively growing, there is adequate soil moisture, daytime temperatures are moderate (between 50 and 80 degrees Fahrenheit), and when turfgrass recuperative potential is highest. Additionally, the inherent susceptibility of the weeds must be consid-

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