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The bench that overlooks Merit Club with the 13th in the background.
Photo credit: Luke Cella

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The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAGCS), founded December 24, 1926, is a professional organization 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 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.

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DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Ed Braunsky, CGCS, Geneva Country Club



Getting Older... But That's a Good Thing!

You know you have gone through this scenario... an item comes over the radio filling you in on something that happened on this day in history. I must admit I am a pretty avid WGN radio listener. I also love PTI on ESPN. Both of these media outlets always seem to have a tidbit or two that I always find interesting. For example I heard that 40 years ago the first fight between Muhammed Ali and Joe Frazier took place in Madison Square Garden. 25 years ago Jack Nicklaus won the Masters at the age of 46 and 20 short years ago the Chicago Bulls won the first of their many NBA championships. It makes you stop and think how much older you are and how quickly times goes by.

Old is not a bad thing. Some of the "old school" things that are still around are pretty important, but have been falling by the wayside lately. Take for example "Thank You" notes. We now live in a society that offers instant everything. The idea of writing a note on a card or a piece of paper may seem to be so yesterday but it still has a place in our busy world. At a MAGCS board meeting this year, those in attendance were asked to sign a thank you letter that was being sent to the sponsors of the Hospitality Room in Orlando. Many letters were sent around the table and everyone put their John Hancock on them. Soon to be Past President Dan Sterr makes it a point to send Thank You cards to monthly meeting sponsors. It is a nice touch that makes MAGCS what it is today.

There are plenty of ways you can continue this practice and insure to leave a positive impression. Playing a fellow member's track? Don't just show up, give a call and let them know you are coming. Afterwards, throw a thank you note in the mail and point out some positive things going on at their facility. Get a gift from someone? I always try to put a note in the mail the day I receive a gift from a club member. It is certainly easier to send off an email or punch out a text, but where's the effort? Take a little time to say thanks, it won't be forgotten.

*Take a little time to say thanks,
it won't be forgotten.*

As the chair of the Past President's Council, I would like to extend my thanks to the current Board of Directors of the Midwest. They have done a great job running the Midwest and offering excellent education, great days of golf and camaraderie, publishing the magazine, directory and website, funding the scholarships for our children, contributing to the Wee One Foundation, the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation, the Environmental Institute for Golf, the Chicago District Golf Association, the Illinois Junior Golf Association and more each while managing their own facilities through two tough seasons in a row. Great work gentlemen. Your work and dedication is appreciated. **-OC**



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—Rich Carter, General Manager
Indian Wells, CA

FEATURE I

Paul Koch and Dr. Jim Kerns, *University of Wisconsin*

Preparing for Snow Mold Applications

After a spring and summer full of surprises including a frigid May, a bone-dry June, and a blistering July with significant rainfall, planning for snow mold applications in September is a welcome sight! With the chaos of the PCNB stop-sale order issued by the Environmental Protection Agency in August of 2010, and the widespread feeling that PCNB wouldn't be available for a significant period (if ever again), it seemed that planning for the 2011-2012 winter would be straightforward. Scrutinize the 2011 UW Snow Mold Research Reports, discuss with colleagues and sales representatives, make a selection, and wait for the right time to spray. Then on August 19, 2011 came the latest twist. The PCNB stop-sale order, issued in 2010, had been vacated by a district judge, allowing the sale of PCNB once more. Predictability had been thrown out the window, replaced by questions with no certain answers. Do I revamp my plan to once again include PCNB? Can the product get to my facility in time? What will PCNB be priced at, and how will that affect my decision? For the latest on the PCNB situation as well as a full listing of all the orders and press releases visit the Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab's PCNB page at www.tdl.wisc.edu/PCNB.php.

By the time you read this, most of the above questions are likely to have been answered. That does not mean that the uncertainty surrounding PCNB is over. The legal wrangling will likely continue until PCNB is (eventually) fully removed from the turfgrass market. For that reason, in the long term it is best to find a snow mold program that works for your facility and your budget and does not include PCNB. An excellent place to start is with the 2011 University of Wisconsin Snow Mold Research Reports.

The 2010-2011 UW Snow Mold Trials were held at 5 locations in Wisconsin, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and Minnesota. The trials were held at Grant Park, GC in South Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Sentryworld GC in Stevens Point, Wisconsin; Wawonowin CC in Champion, Michigan; Les Bolstad GC in St Paul, Minnesota; and The Legacy at Craguns GC in Brainerd, Minnesota. A sincere thank you to the host superintendents at each course for their gracious hospitality: Jason Rosbach at Grant Park, Gary Tanko at Sentryworld, AndyHakkarinen at Wawonowin, Brent Belanger at Les Bolstad, and Matt McKinnon at Craguns. The full reports for each site can be found at the Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab's Research page at www.tdl.wisc.edu/research.php.

The 2010-2011 trial that showed the greatest difference among treatments was held at Sentryworld GC (See Figure 1). Ninety different treatments were tested, and not a single one

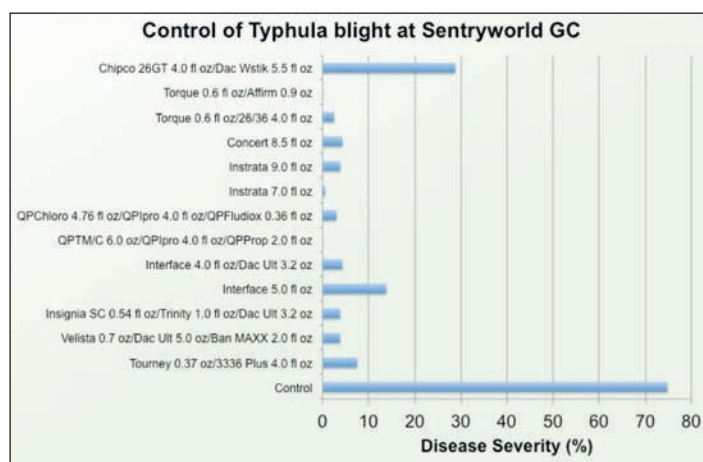


Figure 1. Fungicides that provided good suppression of *Typhula* blight at Sentryworld Golf Course in Stevens Point, WI. Applications were applied in early November and plots were rated in early April.

contained PCNB. Disease pressure was high, as non-treated controls averaged 74.8% disease. Despite this high pressure, nine treatments gave complete control of snow mold and thirteen more allowed less than 5% disease. Including some other experimental products and experimental Civitas mixes,

(continued on page 7)

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a full 36 treatments out of a possible 90 allowed less than 5% disease. Two common aspects of the treatments that performed well include applications of two or three active ingredients in the tank mix and inclusion of multiple fungicide chemistries (contact, DMI, Qol). Products that performed well when mixed with other products include Insignia, Trinity, Instrata, Interface, Reserve, Velista, Torque, and 26/36 (Figures 1 and 2). With 36 treatments performing exceptionally well though, there is a wide range of options for obtaining excellent control of snow mold.

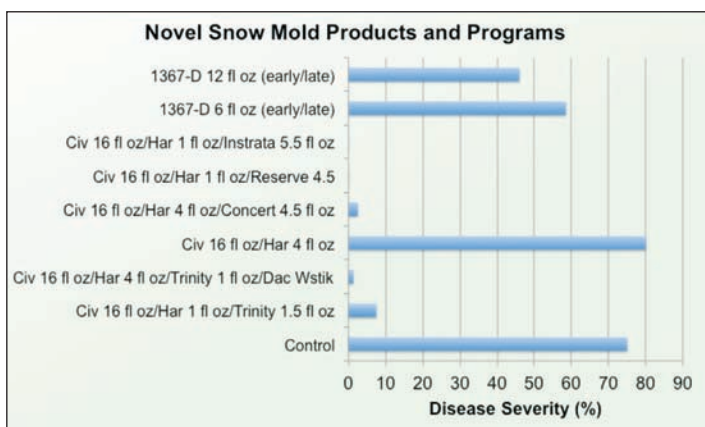


Figure 2. Novel snow mold programs and products for the control of *Typhula blight* at Sentryworld Golf Course in Stevens Point, WI.

In the Chicagoland area, the primary snow mold pathogen of concern is *Microdochium patch* or pink snow mold. Products that are typically very effective against *Microdochium patch* are iprodione, Qol fungicides (Heritage, Insignia, Compass, Disarm), Trinity, Torque and various pre-mix products. Research from Dr. Derek Settle reveals that tank mixtures of Banner MAXX and DaconilUltrex work well against *Microdochium patch*, as do applications of Tartan or Heritage TL (Figure 3). Data from the west coast demonstrates that applications of Interface, Headway, and Torque are effective in suppressing *Microdochium patch* development (Figure 4). Fairway applications in the Chicagoland area may not be warranted, but be prepared to deal with *Microdochium patch* during the spring. If the disease does develop it is normally easy to clean up with any of the fungicides listed above.

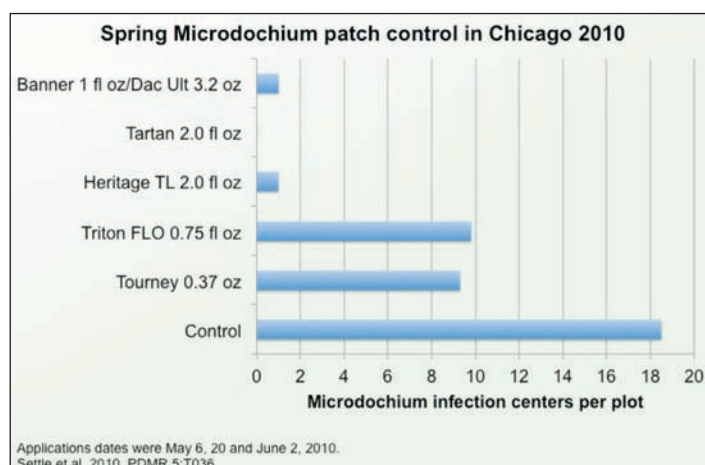


Figure 3. *Microdochium patch*, pink snow mold, control with three spring applications of fungicides in Chicago, 2010.

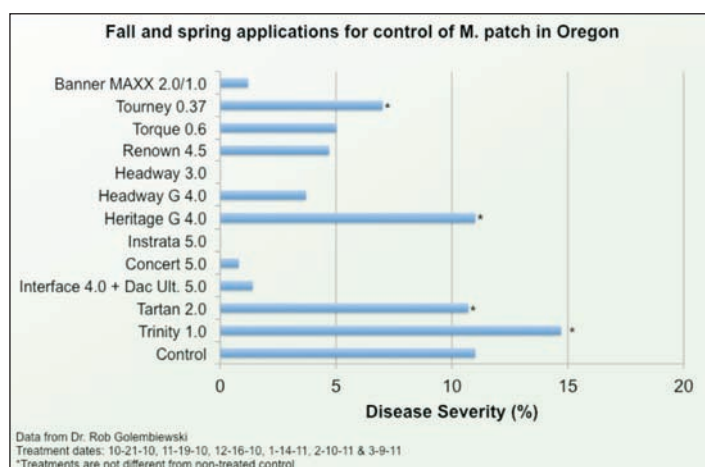
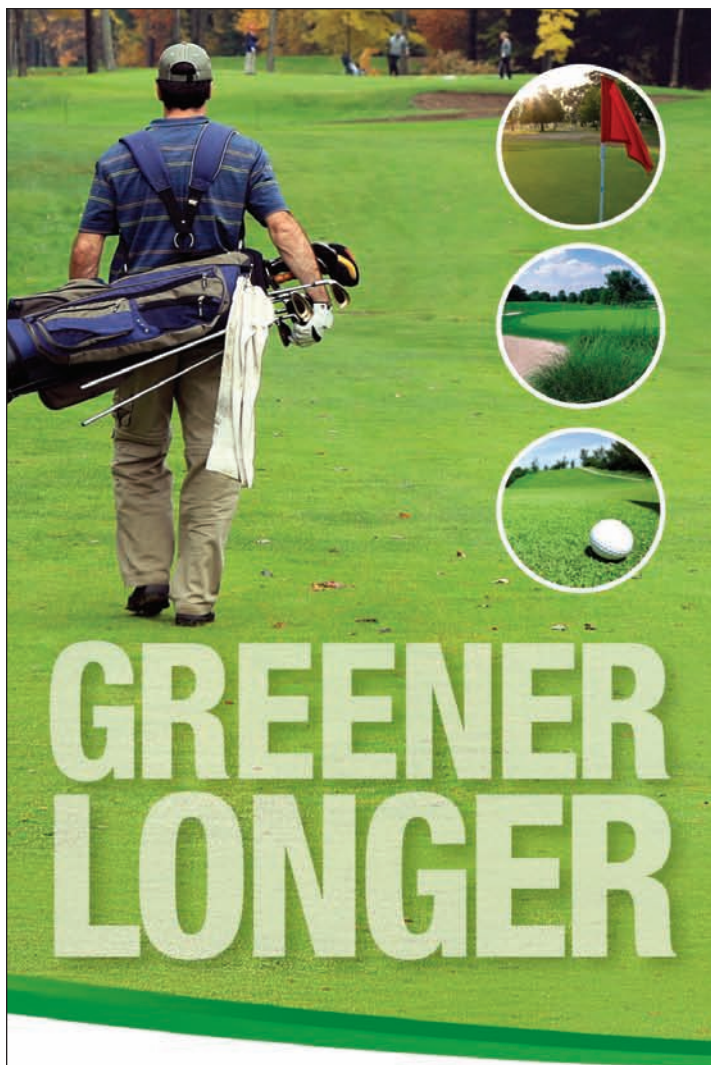


Figure 4. *Microdochium patch*, pink snow mold, control with three fungicide applications in late fall and three applications throughout the spring in Oregon. Bars with an asterisk were not significantly different from the control.

The treatments listed above will provide excellent snow mold protection, but may not be practical for most facilities on larger areas such as fairways. PCNB is a popular product not because it completely controls snow mold; it doesn't. It's popular because it provides a reasonable level of control at an affordable price. Are there options currently available that also provide a reasonable level of control at an affordable price? The answer is yes, as both Trinity and Torque will provide a reasonable level of snow mold control (0-20% disease allowed) at costs that most facilities can afford. Applied at the full label rate over 30 acres of fairways, both products cost approximately \$3,000. If greater levels of control are desired and can be afforded, mixing in products such as Daconil, 26/36, and Insignia will improve disease controls. A final consideration about snow mold fungicides is that soil temperatures affect their residual efficacy. Once soil temperatures consistently eclipse 32°F, fungicides applied prior to snow cover quickly degrade. Take home message: once the snow melts and the ground thaws, fungicides applied in the fall are no longer effective and re-applications may be warranted to protect against new pink snow mold infections. If any questions arise after examining the figures included with this article or the ones posted on the website please do not hesitate to contact Paul Koch (plkoch@wisc.edu) or Dr. Jim Kerns (jkerns@wisc.edu). -OC



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FEATURE II

Doug Davis, *Flagg Creek Golf Course*

A Unique Fall Flowerbed



When I have the opportunity to play golf at courses other than my own, I get to see many things other than greens, tees, and fairways. (Especially where my ball flies on occasion!) I particularly enjoy seeing how other facilities utilize areas of the golf course such as the front entrance and clubhouse surrounds using color by way of annual/perennial flowers, bulbs, fall mums, etc.

At Cantigny, I have always been impressed by the way Scott Witte creates some of the most eye catching flower beds in some of the, otherwise, most out of the way areas. Whether it is a colorful landscape bed on an island in a pond or lake, hanging planter boxes on a bridge, or even cascading plants dropping down out of the crotch of a tree, these stylish ideas create rainbows of color that might otherwise just be green landscapes.

In the middle of my golf course, near a bent grass nursery, bordered by a practice range I had this mound of aerification plugs, mostly sand, that I didn't have an immediate use for, but that I didn't want to just lose in my waste area. The pile was visible from the 1st, 6th, and 7th holes and had good access to an irrigation source. So, one morning in early June I looked at that mound and said to myself, "Hmm—pumpkin patch?" A few bags of compost blended in and all was set. The good folks at Burpee and Livingston Seed Company have many varieties to choose from and experiment with. Packets for the largest pumpkins may have only four seeds in them.

So, I put four to six seeds in each of about three mounds, tossed a little straw around the mounds to conserve moisture

and ward off weeds, and I waited. It took very little time at all for the sprouting to begin, and we were on our way. At the beginning, I fertilized the plants almost weekly or bi-weekly to get them aggressively growing and then cut back after the first fruits started to form. The fun part at that point was this huge patch of green vines and leaves that everyone drove or walked by each day and no one had a clue as to what it was.

Then, toward the end of August, the big orange globes started to show themselves through the foliage, and boy did the comments begin! Guess it's one thing to see a pile of pumpkins for sale in a box at the store and quite another to see them growing naturally in a large patch. I had people coming up to me left and right inquiring, complimenting, and of course wondering what I was going to do with them. The pumpkins, approximately 14 in all, will be part of a fall display outside the entrance to our clubhouse.

I think if you were to ask most people what their favorite season is they would say fall. Creating a pumpkin patch somewhere on your course might generate some smiles and excitement and add to this enjoyable time of the year. (Ed note: plus give Linus something to do on Halloween.). **-OC**



SUPER -N- SITE

Travis Dykstra, *St. Charles Country Club*



John Nelson, Arne Nordenson & Joe Baert -N- Merit Club

As many of you know, John Nelson and the Merit Club, located in Libertyville, Illinois, are hosting the 2011 MAGCS College Championship in October. What you may not know is that this Par 72, 7100 yard course was built by architect Bob Lohmann. The property comprises 320 acres, 21 holes (3 practice holes), and opened in the summer of 1992. The course hosted the U.S. Women's Open in 2000. John has been at the Merit Club since 1990. He's been captain of the Merit Club ship since 2006. Superintendents know they can't do it alone, though. That's why John relies on his two assistants, Arne Nordenson and Joe Baert.

Arne Nordenson grew up in McHenry, Illinois. He began his college career in the SIU music program. After SIU, Arne enrolled at McHenry County College where he took a combination of music, horticulture, and turf management classes, and is currently working on his turf management degree. He began his career in the turf industry by working as a caddy and a range attendant at Turnberry Country Club in Lake of the Hills, Illinois. Next, he worked on the night irrigation crew for Brian Comiskey at Pinecrest Golf Club in Huntley, Illinois. In between Turnberry and Pinecrest, Arne worked in the home construction industry for six years. In the spring of 1999, he returned to the golf industry as the irrigation/spray tech at Bull Valley Country Club in Woodstock, Illinois, for



Out for a morning spin, left Joe Baert and Arne Nordenson, Nelson's two assistants that help to keep Merit Club in top shape.

Kenny Goodman. That same year he landed the assistant's job at Four Winds Golf Club in Mundelein, Illinois. He worked in that position until 2003, when he was promoted to superintendent. In 2007, Four Winds closed, and Arne moved to the superintendent position at the Legends of Bensenville in Bensenville, Illinois. That same year the club was sold and Arne moved to the super-intendent's role at Bittersweet Golf Club in Gurnee, Illinois. He filled that

role until October 2010, when he decided to work for John Nelson at the Merit Club.

Arne told me that the biggest challenges at the course, just like everywhere else, is fulfilling member expectations and dealing with unpredictable weather. Nonetheless, he enjoys

