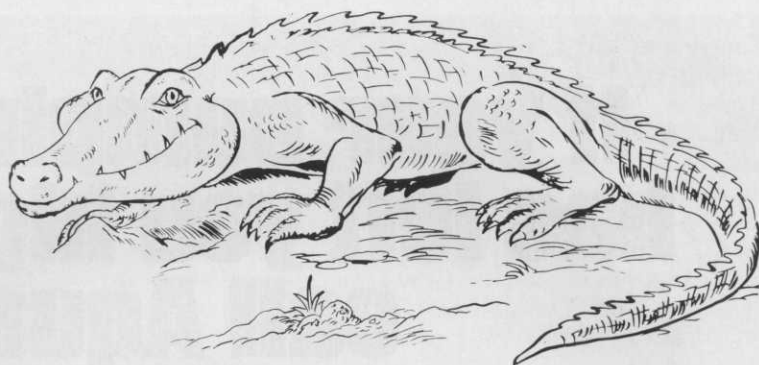


# The Gator Growls



By DALE WALTERS

This is a composite report from several golf courses in southwest Florida concerning which pesticides are in use, why they are used, and problems that have been encountered.

The weather that southwest Florida experiences no doubt has a great effect upon our disease and insect problems. We have warm weather from mid-March through mid-November and the average rainfall is about 60 inches per year. Most of the rainfall comes in the months of June through September and hot, humid weather is common throughout the summer months.

The following insecticides are in general use for our area: Diazinon, Dursban, Toxaphene, Lannate, Malathion, Baygon, Temik, Mocap, Dyfonate, Sevin, Cygon, Lindane and Dansanit.

Diazinon, Dursban and Lannate seem to be the most used insecticides because they give good control of sod webworms and armyworms which are the major insect problem on greens. Lannate probably has proven to be the best for length of residual control. Sevin and Toxaphene are economical to use but residual is reduced with Sevin and Toxaphene has shown some phytotoxicity. It is necessary to alternate the use of insecticides because the sod webworms and armyworms can build up some immunity. There is also a problem with odor from many of the insecticides which usually takes a couple of days to disappear. Bait forms of several of the insecticides as well as sprays are used for control of mole crickets but none give good control. Insecticides are extremely hazardous and need to be handled with care to protect both the applicator and those on the golf course.

The following nematicides have been in general use for our area: Ethylene Dibromide (EDP), Nemagon (DBCP), Nematicur and Dasanit.

Injection of EDP and DBCP have given good control of nematodes; however, DBCP is no longer available. EDP not only gives control of nematodes but is very effective in controlling mole crickets. Nematicur and Dasanit are excellent for reducing nematodes and their application is very easy, but extreme care is necessary in handling these chemicals.

The following fungicides are in general use for our area: Daconil 2787, Dithane M-45, Fore, Captan Kromad, Thiram, Tersan SP, Demosan, Truban, Koban, Benlate, Tersan 1991, Form-A-Turf, Tersan LSR, Dexon.

Several of the listed fungicides are the same as others listed having only different trade names. Daconil 2787 is a highly used fungicide for broad spectrum use and is available in the flowable form which is much easier to handle than the powder and the flowable is better for the sprayer pumps and nozzles. Dithane M-45 and Fore are good broad spectrum fungicides. Form-A-Turf can be phytotoxic but it is inexpensive and seemingly promotes root growth. Thiram and Captan have given control of brown patch but need to be used at higher rates than many other fungicides. Benlate or Tersan 1991 also have given good control of brown patch and dollar spot. Tersan SP, Koban, Truban and Demosan have shown good control of pythium while Dexon did not do as well. Care should be used in handling and applying fungicides as they are hazardous. The eyes need to be protected from spray drift because they are sensitive to many fungicides.

The following herbicides are in general use for our area: MSMA, 2,4-D, Sencor, Buctril, Asulox, Parquat, Kerb, Round-up, Basagran, Trimec, Balan and Dowpon C.

MSMA seems to be the safest broad spectrum herbicide to use on bermudagrass; however, it does not give control of some weeds that we need to eliminate such as goosegrass or crowfoot. 2,4-D gives good control of most broadleaf weeds but it can stunt the bermudagrass. Sencor works well in areas that aren't shaded but slight misapplication can be trouble. Asulox works well on the crowfoot but it takes about six weeks in action and it can burn if the rate is too high. Buctril works well on many broadleaf weeds and has little effect on the bermudagrass. Trimec is another good herbicide to use for a broad spectrum of broadleaf weeds. Basagran, with one or two applications, has excellent control of sedge and is safe to use on bermudagrass. Kerb is good for ridding *Poa annua* but it is very important to get a good control rate. Kerb's residual action is desirable in that there is a margin for error in when to apply it as a pre-emergent. As a postemergent Kerb does well but it also can stunt the bermudagrass to some degree. As a preemergent Balan has also shown control of *Poa annua*. For non-selective herbicides Paraquat, Dowpon C and Round-up seem to be the chemicals most used. Paraquat and Dowpon C give excellent quick kills. Round-up takes up to two weeks to kill but it gives a complete kill of the weed.

The following algicides are in general use for our area: Aquazine, Copper Sulphate, (Lake Dye).

Aquazine is excellent for algae control in lakes that are not used for irrigation. Copper sulphate works well on floating

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algae. Lake dye is not an algicide but it works well to mask out sunlight in the lakes and prevent algae blooms.

A limitation as to which pesticides we can use and for what purpose has been legislated on us, the pesticide users, especially insecticides and nematicides. Many effective materials that were used in the past are no longer on the market and others will probably be gone in the near future. Probably the biggest limitation in the use of pesticides is economics. The price of material is making the choice for us as to what to use and when it is necessary to use pesticides.

## FTGA Tournament Results

Randy Robbins scored a three-stroke victory in the FTGA golf tournament. Superintendent of the Gainesville Golf and Country Club, Robbins used his accuracy on the greens for only 27 putts in his pacesetter score of 70. Ron Hill, CGCS, Amelia Island, also a member of the North Florida Chapter, was runnerup. There were three tied at 75: Dennis Packer, Cape Orlando Golf Club; J. W. Stamps, and Dave Fry.

The tournament site was Turkey Creek Golf and Racquet Club, Alachua. Golfers had high praise for the condition of the course and the smooth, fast putting Tifgreen 328 bermuda greens. The host superintendent was Jeff Hayden and the host professional Roger Krueter.

Selection of the state team ended with the FTGA tournament. The winners of the three statewide golf tournaments and the best overall finisher will make the trip to Anaheim, California. The team will be Roy Hill, CGCS, North Florida Chapter; Fred Klauk, Palm Beach Chapter; Robby Robbins, North Florida Chapter, and Dan Myers, CGCS, West Coast.

The team event will be scored with the three best scores of the four-man teams. The tournament is a 36-hole event prior to the 52nd International Turfgrass Conference and Show. Our next issue will PROBABLY have full details of our CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM victory.

## Turfgrass Field Day

A turfgrass research field day will be held on April 1, 1981 at the Agricultural Research Center in Fort Lauderdale. Current research projects on turf management, pest control, and cultivar evaluations will be presented.

All persons interested in turf are invited to attend. Activities will start promptly at 1:00 p.m. Come dressed for the weather.

For further information contact Dr. Bruce J. Augustin, Agricultural Research Center, 3205 S.W. 70th Ave., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33314. Telephone (305) 475-8990.

# Treasure Coast Chapter Formed

As most Florida Golf Course superintendents were busy getting their courses ready for the upcoming season, superintendents from Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River Counties took time from their already overloaded schedules to form the Treasure Coast Chapter of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association this past summer.

After two organizational meetings at the Sandpiper Bay Resort in July, 15 area superintendents had laid the strong foundation required to get the ball rolling. As of November 1, the Treasure Coast Chapter had 40 paid members on its roster.

Serving as association president is Adam Yurigan, Jr., superintendent of the John's Island Club in Vero Beach. Other officers include: Lonnie Stubbs, V. P. for internal affairs (Sandpiper Bay Resort); Tom Burrows, V.P. for external affairs (Turtle Creek Club); James Callaghan, secretary (Riomar Country Club); Joe Snook, treasurer (Riverbend Country Club); Craig Baker, director (Indian River Plantation); Leo Cushing, Jr., director (Crane Creek Golf and Racquet Club).

According to President Yurigan, "We may be a small organization but we have a strong nucleus and expect continued growth. Attendance at our monthly meetings has been over 75%. I think that shows a very keen and sincere interest in our association."

The Treasure Coast Chapter meets the first Wednesday of each month and meetings are open to all Florida golf course superintendents.



Officers of the recently formed Treasure Coast Chapter of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association are from left to right, Lonnie Stubbs, Bill Mangold, Craig Baker, Adam Yurigan Jr., Joe Snook, James Callaghan and Tim Burrows.