

TEE TO GREEN

By DAVE BAILEY



Dr. B. J. Johnson

The following is an interview with B. J. Johnson. He is an associate professor of agronomy with the University of Georgia. He was the education guest speaker at the July meeting of our association.

Question: What area is your research work?

Johnson: I deal primarily in herbicide treatment.

Question: What is the best new herbicide chemical in the last ten years?

Johnson: The best product researched and now on the market in recent years is Metribuzin. (4-Amino-6-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-3-(methylthio)-1, 2, 4-triazin-5(4H)-one

Question: This active ingredient translates into what product trade name?

Johnson: Mobay Chemical Corporation calls their product SENOR. Dupont Chemical Corporation calls their product LEXON.

Since only Mobay is actively selling their product from this point on in the discussion only Sencor will be referred to. Sencor is a 50% wettable powder herbicide.

Question: When did you first start working with Sencor?

Johnson: In 1973, it was labeled in Florida and Georgia in 1978.

Question: Where has your research been done?

Johnson: On test plots and at seven golf courses over a three year period of time. The location is about forty miles south of Atlanta.

Question: Upon what weed is Sencor most effective?

Johnson: Your greatest problem weed, goosegrass and crowfoot.

Question: What application rate is giving the best results?

Johnson: Remember the best rates mean weed killing with as small amount of damage as possible. To achieve this goal the best test results are as follows. Mix MSMA (monosodium acid methanearsonate) and Sencor. On a one acre basis use 2.0 pounds active ingredient MSMA and 1/8 pound active ingredient Sencor.

Remember this means ACTIVE ingredient. That will become a tank mix of 1-2/3 quart per acre of MSMA if you use 6.0 active MSMA. The total ingredient of Sencor product from the bag would be 1/4 pound or 4 ounces per acre. Higher rates of Sencor have been used in the past when not mixed with MSMA. If EPA takes MSMA off the market we may be left with Sencor as our base material.

Question: Do you use a sticker?

Johnson: If you can afford to do so. The work I have done shows no improvement with a sticker since MSMA has some. But I never get a Florida style summer rain. The important time factor is to get about four hours absorption after the spray application.

Question: What is the time interval between applications?

Johnson: Seven to ten days works best.

Question: How many applications?

Johnson: Generally two applications will be sufficient.

Question: After the weeds are killed off and the next generation occurs when should you spray?

Johnson: As soon as the turf is healthy. Here you will need to make your own good field judgement for south Florida. Fertilize weak areas then spray once and evaluate timing from there. Remember herbicide programs are only effective if you continue to keep your turf healthy. Dead areas do no one any good.

Question: Another product of great interest in south Florida is BASAGRAN herbicide, can you give us any data on this subject?

Johnson: Yes, I started working with it also in 1973 and like Sencor it received a label in 1978. Basagran is the trade name for BASF Wyandotte Corporation. The active ingredient is sodium salt of bentazon.

Question: Upon what weeds is Basagran most effective?

Johnson: Basagran is aimed at the nutsedges with better results on yellow than purple.

Question: What rates give best results?

Johnson: One to one and half quarts per acre.

Question: How many applications?

Johnson: Many times two applications are needed.

Question: When can Basagran be applied?

Johnson: Basagran is very selective on sedges in bermuda greens. It can be used all year with no bermuda damage.

Question: What is the best herbicide for Poa Annua in our area?

Johnson: Kerb 50% wettable powder gives the best results

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on bermuda grass and is very selective. It is a product of Rohm and Haas, the active ingredient is 3, 5-dichloro-N-(1,1-dimethyl-2-propynyl)-benzamide.

Question: We often criticize researchers for working only on test plots what is your comment?

Johnson: We do hear that often, that is why I worked with Sencor for three years on seven golf courses.

Question: What is your main message to us?

Johnson: Often chemical salesmen are too influential on rates and not on purpose. Always use test plots yourself. Do not spray the entire golf course and then be sorry. It is very important to keep good records on all your spraying. Local people need a good current education on weed killing. Always understand your rates and keep good calibration of application. Our work is only as good as your application.

HOOKS AND SLICES

The salesman mentioned that he'd got three orders so far that day: "Get out. Stay out. And don't come back."

My wife and I have a perfect understanding I don't try to run her life . . . and I don't try to run mine.

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In the past our small magazine staff has addressed the "South Florida Green" envelopes by hand . . . a time consuming job!

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Shown left to right; Ralph Luga, Computer Specialist, Ralph Baxter, Vice President, Turf Sales and Fred J. Maxted, President Hector Supply Co.