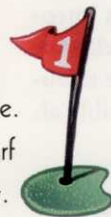


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Dr. Bryan Unruh, IFAS Extension Specialist at the West Florida Research & Education Center in Milton presented an update on his research into Methyl Bromide alternatives at the USGA Regional Conferences this year. Photo by Joel Jackson

Drought Outlook Worse Than 'Severe'

The winter, spring, and early summer are the normal dry season in Florida. However, since late fall of 1999, a large portion of the state has not received any significant rainfall. A recent assessment published by the Climate Prediction Center has more than two-thirds of the state rated as being in a D2+ condition. D2 is the designation for a severe drought condition and the + indicates that the forecast calls for further intensification.

With day and night temperatures building, water requirements of turfgrasses also are increasing quickly. The net result experienced at a large number of courses around the state is growing problems maintaining a uniform green turf cover.

The base bermudagrass turf cover of Florida golf courses is considered to have excellent drought resistance. Bermudagrass is able to survive prolonged dry periods by going into a dormant stage, and then breaking dormancy when adequate soil moisture redevelops. As the bermudagrass enters into dormancy, it quickly loses its green color, but an acceptable playing surface still can be maintained.

Of greater concern at this point is completing the transition process out of winter overseeding cover. With hot daytime temperatures, any remaining overseeding material will quickly burn out. If the base bermuda is under drought stress, recovery will be prolonged.

The following is a review of some basic agronomic principles about managing grass during a drought.

1. **Control traffic.** Heavy traffic on grass under wilt/drought stress can cause permanent damage. Restrict traffic to paths, minimize traffic on roughs to the extent possible, do not allow crossover or the "90 degree rule," and even encourage walking.
2. **Raise mowing heights** and mow less often. After all, the grass should be growing slower.
3. **Use plant growth regulators.** Where

As the bermudagrass enters into dormancy, it quickly loses its green color, but an acceptable playing surface still can be maintained.

appropriate, apply or continue using growth-regulating chemicals. These products can reduce water use rates by as much as 30 percent.

4. Pest management. On a positive note, insect (mole cricket) and disease activity is reduced.

5. Fertility. Defer fertilizer applications, especially granular, readily available nitrogen materials, until the weather moderates. Guard against stimulating too much growth. Sprayable forms of fertilizers can be beneficial when applied in a timely fashion. Maintaining adequate potassium is helpful for increasing stress tolerance.

6. Irrigation water quality. Regardless of the source, it would be advisable to check the irrigation water for sodium/salt build-up. In several locations, salt intrusion is a growing concern.

7. Renovation/Reconstruction. Rethink renovation or reconstruction projects. In general, do not disturb the turf unless you have the ability to irrigate these areas. Be patient, wait for better weather, and monitor district and local regulations covering renovation and turf establishment.

Remember that all golf courses represent the turfgrass industry and the game of golf. Respect irrigation regulations and requests for voluntary conservation. While individual conditions vary, we are in a serious drought, and unfortunately no relief is in sight. Hopefully, these points will help golf courses manage their turfgrass through a difficult period. If any specific questions arise, feel free to call our office at 561-546-2620. Good luck and let's pray for rain.

JOHN FOY
Director, Florida Region

predation accounts for 300 million bird deaths a year. Gillihan has authored a book titled *Bird Conservation on Golf Courses: A Design and Maintenance Manual*.

The book is available from Ann Arbor Press, 800-487-2323. It makes a great companion to Ron Dodson's book, *Managing Wildlife Habitat on Golf Courses*, also available from Ann Arbor Press.

•Methyl bromide and ultradwarf updates - Dr. Bryan Unruh, assistant professor UF/IFAS extension specialist told the audience that while a couple of products hold out some hope for being used as a fumigant, nothing has come along yet that matches methyl bromide's effectiveness.

He also reported that California representative Richard Pombo has introduced bill H.R. 4215 to try to delay the ban on MeBr until 2010 to give scientists more time to develop a viable alternative.

Until something is found, MeBr production will decrease and product will become more expensive as we head toward the current ban date of 2005.

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KEEP ON TRUCKIN'

Are You SURE You've Got a License to Drive That Thing?

BY CRAIG WEYANDT

Y&CC of Stuart

What do you drive at work? I'm not talking about your big gest Big Bertha or any other oversized titanium monster that you bought on the home shopping channel. I'm talking about your company trucks.

It seems that every time I go to a superintendent's meeting there are more pick-up trucks than any other vehicle in the parking lot. Let's face it. A truck is a practical vehicle to have. You can haul people, fertilizer, mulch and many other things.

When I started at the Yacht & Country Club, the company vehicle was a 1986 Chevy Blazer. The Blazer was nice but not a practical work vehicle. If I wanted to haul anything of size I would have to drive the dump truck, a 1982 Ford 350.

The dump truck had the size but was really on its last legs. As a matter of fact, our head mechanic, Ken Kolinski, had to build a complete new dump body for the truck. He did a great job and this helped, but it still did not change the fact that one door was welded shut and if you had to stop in a hurry you could always pretend you were Fred Flintstone and put your feet through the floor board to stop.

As budget time approached I decided to put in a capital request for two new work vehicles. The dump truck was a simple replacement of the cab and chassis. After all, Ken had just built a new dump body and with a few modifications it would fit perfectly with the new cab and chassis of a 1999 Ford F350.

To replace the Blazer I definitely wanted a truck... but what type and size? To get a better price, I decided to stay with Ford for the make of the truck. As far as size, I wanted to try to anticipate what would be the maximum amount of weight that I would want to haul or tow.



Craig Weyandt, superintendent of the Y&CC of Stuart stands by his new Ford pick up truck that he could buy – but not drive until he upgraded his driver's license to a Class D status. The upgrade requires taking a written test and paying a fee

I thought to myself, "What if the dump truck is busy and I want to get a pallet of sod or fertilizer?" We also have a Vermeer 935 chipper that requires a 500-pound tow hitch capacity.

After looking at all the capabilities that I wanted, I had no choice but to go with the 1999 Ford 250, 3/4 ton Super Duty Truck. I think the name says it all and if I were Tim Allen, I would be grunting right now. The proposals were made, pictures taken and turned in for approval in the fall of 1998 for the purchase in 1999.

I did my homework, shopped for the best prices, justified my needs and was confident in my selection process. I won't let the suspense kill you, I got the trucks. However, there was one thing that I missed. If I wanted to drive the vehicles off property to get sod, rock or any other material, I didn't have the proper driver's license! That's right. It turns out I needed a Class D license to drive either truck.

In the 1999 Florida Statutes, 322.54 Classification 2d states:

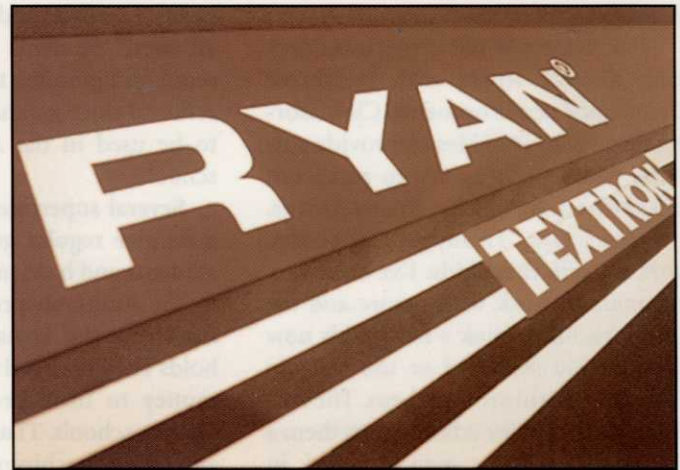
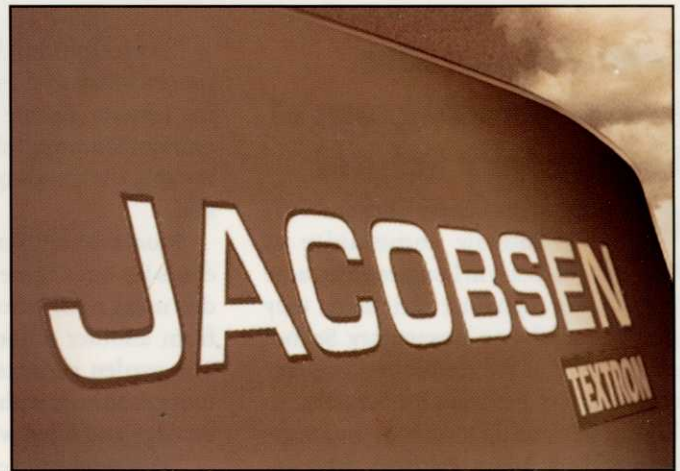
"Any person, except a person who possesses a valid Class A, valid Class B, or valid Class C driver's license, who drives a truck or a truck tractor having a gross vehicle weight rating, a declared weight, or an actual weight, whichever is great-

est, of 8,000 pounds or more but is less than 26,001 pounds, or which has a width of more than 80 inches must possess a valid Class D driver's license.

"Any person who possesses a valid Class D driver's license may be subject to the appropriate restrictions and endorsements, drive any type of motor vehicle other than the type of motor vehicle for which a Class A, Class B, or Class C driver's license is required, within this state."

So what does all that legalese mumbo-jumbo mean in laymen's terms? It means that if you have a truck with a sticker on the inside of the door that says it is rated for over 8,000 pounds, if the registration is rated at over 8,000 pounds, or if the physical weight of the vehicle is over 8,000 pounds (which ever is greater) you must possess a Class D license to operate the vehicle.

This is the first time I had ever heard of a Class D license and I wouldn't be surprised if this is the first time for a few others. To change you license to a Class D requires taking a written test and paying a small fee for the new card. To be on the safe side, double check your company trucks' weight ratings and make sure all potential drivers are licensed properly.



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Legacy Sponsors Audubon Program at Elementary School

Soon after the Legacy Club and Taylor Woodrow community at Alaqua Lakes in Longwood became an Audubon Signature Sanctuary, they adopted Heathrow Elementary School as a member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Schools.

The relationship took root under superintendent Adam Feltman, who recently moved to the Laurel Oaks G. C. in Sarasota.

New Legacy Club superintendent John Kopack works with Heathrow Elementary's Environmental Club coordinator Susan Halkides to provide students with opportunities to reach out and touch nature with hands-on activities.

Kopack says, "I really get a kick out of working with these kids. I've been very fortunate to work with nature and the outdoors, but I think a lot of kids now days are too sheltered or too busy to notice the world around them. The Audubon program for schools gives them a chance to learn that man can work in harmony with nature."

Last March Kopack cranked up his sod cutter and cut out a garden plot in the shape of a butterfly. Several of his crew helped haul in some soil mix and mulch, and then they stood back and let the kids landscape the garden with plants and homemade stepping stones.

"We let the kids do everything except the real heavy work, and they loved planting lantana, purple fountain grass and marigolds among other varieties and arranging the stepping stone borders," he said.

More recently, Kopack helped the students lay out a flower and vegetable garden using some leftover concrete blocks from another school building project. The garden consists of several 5-by-6-foot raised beds with the concrete blocks on edge and filled with dirt.

"You ought to see these plots now," Kopeck says. "They've got corn, squash, beans, tomatoes and flowers coming up all over." Students are taught how to scout and monitor the gardens for pest removal since no chemicals are allowed to be used in the ACSP program for schools.

Several superintendents around the state give regular golf course tours to students and have made a commitment to the Audubon program for schools. Each year the Treasure Coast Chapter holds The Blue Pearl tournament to raise money to fund programs for Stuart County schools. Thanks to John Kopack and others for shining a positive light on golf course superintendents. Won't you think about asking your club to sponsor a local school in the Audubon Sanctuary program? It's a great way to show the public that we are not the "bad guys" so often depicted in the media.

JOEL JACKSON, CGCS



Legacy Club superintendent John Kopack used plastic plant pots as molds to pour stepping stones for the Heathrow Elementary School's garden areas. Kopack (standing) looks on as students decorate the stones with sea shells and small stones.



J1-P2: Heathrow Elementary teacher Susan Halkides and Legacy Club superintendent John Kopack inspect the school's flower and vegetable garden made of raised concrete blocks. No synthetic pesticides are used to control pests in the ASCP school program. Scouting, monitoring and plants like marigolds are used to discourage pests.

Audubon List Grows

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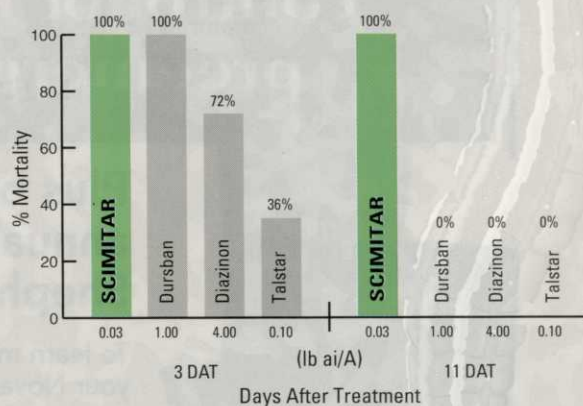
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Source: J. Reinart, Texas A&M University, Dallas, TX, 1996.

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FTGA Announces \$97,000 for Turf Research in 2000

The Florida Turfgrass Association has announced research grants totaling \$97,489.50 have been awarded for 2000. Some of these funds are for multi-year studies that started in 1999. This amount does not include the possible funding in 2000 from the Seven Rivers GCSA restricted Envirotron Research Account.

The Florida Sod Growers Cooperative has raised \$10,000 to begin a two-year, \$20,000 study by Dr. Barry Brecke on tropical signalgrass control in st. augustinegrass sod.

Turfgrass Research Funding for 2000			
Year	Research Project	Cost This Year	Length of Study
FTGA Research Grant Funding for 2000			
1999	Influence of silicon on controlling gray leaf spot	\$2,100	2 years
1999	Evaluation of nitrogen leaching in St. Augustine	\$17,250	2 years
1999	Evaluation of ultradwarf bermudagrass management practices	\$9,437	2 years
1999	Fate of nitrogen during grow-in of a golf course fairway	\$15,352	2 years
2000	Bahiagrass improvement for rough turf applications	\$10,925	3 years
2000	Development of a simple technique for evaluating insecticides for southern chinch bug control	\$5,750	1 year
2000	Seashore paspalum management in Florida	\$2,875	2 years
2000	Breeding bermudagrasses for Florida	\$20,000	1 year
2000	The role of gypsum and sodium in the maintenance of bermudagrass and overseeded grasses on sand soils	\$13,800	2 years
Florida Sod Growers Cooperative Research Grant			
2000	Tropical Signalgrass Control in St. Augustinegrass Sod	\$10,000	2 years
<i>Projects do not include funds raised by Seven Rivers GCSA to equip and maintain the Envirotron Research Laboratory in Gainesville.</i>			

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How!

YMCA offers an exciting program that provides opportunities for busy superintendents to slow down, step back and enjoy nature and our environment, while strengthening their family relationships.

BY ROBERT KLITZ, CGCS

*General Manager, Golf Hollywood
Orangebrook Country Club*

In the summer of 1996, a flyer came home from my son Robert's school announcing orientation and registration for the YMCA Indian Guide/Princess program offered by our local North Broward YMCA. My wife Lisa asked me if I would be interested in joining the program with Robert so we could spend more time together.

Camping? In the woods? With a 5-year old? Are you crazy?

My response was not well received.

Hesitantly and reluctantly, I attended the orientation/registration program with a strong sense of being railroaded into something against my will.

Fortunately this program has become a key component in my desire to establish a close and enduring relationship with my children. Time will tell if my efforts will have an effect on my long-term relationships with my children, but the short-term impact on our relationships has been significant.

Now the question you are asking is "What is this nonsense doing in a golf course superintendents' magazine?"

to Build Relationships With Your Children.



Bob Klitz, CGCS and his daughter Lauren working on bow and arrow skills while on a YMCA Indian Guide/Princess outing.

'Camping? In the woods?

With a 5-year old? Are you crazy?'

My response was not well received.

Please bear with me and all your questions will be answered.

In March 2000, the St. Lucie County YMCA Indian Guides state campout (POW WOW 2000) was held on the 7,000-acre Florida Ranch Tours property.

This state gathering brought together 2,500 fathers, sons and daughters (and the occasional squaw who was permitted to attend because this is labeled as a family event), for four days of music, war games, Native American

demonstrations and crafts, out-of-control bonfires fires, and cow pies.

It was during this weekend that my path crossed that of several other turf professionals who are involved in the Indian Guide/Princess program in Florida.

Jeff Taylor, golf course superintendent at Boca Pointe Golf Club in Boca Raton, joined the Indian Guide program in the fall of 1999 with his son Anthony.

In Jeff's words, "At the state