

Howard's Turf Pride® with RONSTAR® brand herbicide is the premium product for pre-emergence broadleaf and grassy weed control. RONSTAR® provides season-long protection

without harming turf root development.

Weed seedlings aren't so lucky. RONSTAR® is quick to target and destroy undesirable germinating weed shoots like DNA-resistant goosegrass,

crabgrass and Poa annua. Use Howard's Turf Pride® with RONSTAR® to kill weeds without affecting new turf sprigs. Help turf recover with RONSTAR® for quick and long lasting results.



Order Howard's Turf Pride® with RONSTAR® by the bag or let us spread it directly on your tees and fairways.

Call 1-888-668-5868 or 352-429-0024

Howard Fertilizer Company Specialty Division
Groveland, FL

RONSTAR® is a registered trademark of The Aventis Group

H O W A R D
fertilizer
company, inc.

www.howardfertilizer.com

At the Florida Turfgrass Association's December committee day, a prominent sod producer suggested that the FTGA should be the organization to spearhead efforts to standardize the definition of a "bushel" of sprigs. Since we are trying to define and position the FTGA as the "umbrella" turf organization, it is fitting that FTGA tackle this problem. But superintendents, as the end users, and golf course designers, who typically write planting rates, need to be principals in the creation of these new specifications. Frank Hutchinson, president of the

Golf Course Builders Association of America, has already written on the subject, and the GCBA should also participate in this process.

How do *you* define a bushel of sprigs? Do you just accept what the grassing company delivers and then take the heat if your grow-in took longer than a neighboring course planted at the same time? Do you relish the thought of a confrontation with the grassing contractor and the inevitable delays when the planting job is

lighter than you had anticipated? If you're faced with a deadline or approaching winter, do you just specify a heavier rate of sprigs and pay the contractor more money for what might have been the proper and normal rate in the first place? Shouldn't a bushel from company A be the same as a bushel from company B?

I first became aware of the problem about 12 years ago when I sent a man and a truck to pick up 150 bushels from a nearby grower for a green renovation and was blown away by the paltry pile of sprigs he returned with. I sent my assistant to Publix to get a bushel basket, and when we had finished filling, counting, and emptying (without compacting), we had a grand total of 16 bushels. The grower was not apologetic or receptive to my complaint, but begrudgingly allowed me to pick up additional sprigs.

A Georgia bushel is supposed to be 0.4 cubic feet. A Texas bushel may be anywhere from 0.4 to 1.23 cubic feet. An industry standard bushel is 0.4 cubic feet, and the U.S. standard bushel is 1.25 cubic feet. Dr. Al Dudeck from the University of Florida defines a bushel as the amount of sprigs harvested from 100 square feet, while others try to

define a bushel in terms of how many live plants per square foot have survived three to six weeks after planting. Volume seems to be the only practical means of measuring sprigs.

Other factors also influence the delivered volume. Sprigs are typically delivered in an open truck rather than stuffed into bags, bushel baskets, or other containers. Trucks used for delivery must be easily measured to determine their capacity in cubic feet. Truck capacity can be certified by the grower or measured by the buyer upon delivery. Settling, or "shrinkage", is inevitable even if the sprigs were compacted after loading.

Obviously, the standards must agree on whether the volume is figured before or after this settling occurs. Water loss occurs the longer the sprigs sit in the truck before planting. Sprigs grown on heavier soils, like Georgia clay, are usually washed under high volume to remove the soil. This process may also remove more of the unusable detritus like clippings and thatch, whereas sand-grown sprigs are typically not washed (and may allow for nematode contamination as some of the Georgia growers contend). GCBA President Hutchinson's recommendation is to adopt the U.S. Standard bushel of 1.25 cubic feet and figure in no more than 20% shrinkage at delivery.

I won't go so far as to say that this is the grassing industry's "dirty little secret," but the facts that the sod producer who raised the issue wishes to remain anonymous, and that the industry has done nothing to police itself, suggests that a strong outside organization or coalition of organizations needs to step in. Having no standardized definition of a bushel of sprigs has allowed abuses by some grassing companies either at the bidding stage or the planting stage. The honest sod producers and grassing contractors will support this effort.

Architect Jan Beljan, who took part in December's discussion, has agreed to solicit the support of the American Society of Golf Course Architects and personally participate in the project. If we move forward with this, our thinking was to establish some plots at Ft. Lauderdale using different varieties and variable planting rates with photographs taken every step of the way, including the sprigs laid out on the ground before planting, to help in writing the standards and determining proper planting rates.

What do you think?

What is a Bushel?

Mark My Words



Mark Jarrell, CGCS

2001 Florida Green Photo Contest

Category 1 - Wildlife on the Course: includes mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians.

Category 2 - Course Landscape: Formal Plantings: includes annuals, shrubs, trees, entrance and tee signs.

Category 3 - Course Landscape: Native Plantings: includes aquatic vegetation, grasses, shrubs, trees and wildflowers.

Category 4 - Scenic Hole Layout Shots: includes sunrises, sunsets, frosts, storms and any other golf hole view.

Prizes

- 1 st Place (\$100) and 2 nd Place (\$50) in each category.
- Editor's Choice-Best Overall Photo - \$100.
- All winning entries published in the Fall 2001 issue.

Easy Rules

1. Color prints or slides. Prefer prints. Only one entry per category.
2. Photo must be taken on an FGCSA member's course. Photo must be taken by an FGCSA member or a member of his staff.
3. Attach a label to the back of the print or slide which identifies the category, course and photographer. **DO NOT WRITE DIRECTLY ON THE BACK OF THE PRINT.** Each photo shall be attached to an 8.5" x 11" sheet of paper. Attach the print to the paper using a loop of masking



Category 1: Wildlife on the Course. the largest mouse in Central Florida. Photo by Joel Jackson.

- tape on the back of the photo. Slides must be easily removable for viewing.
4. A caption identifying the category, course and photographer should be typed or printed on the sheet of paper below the print or slide.
5. Judging will be done by a panel of FGCSA members not participating in the contest.
6. Mail entries in a bend proof package to Joel D. Jackson, 6780 Tamarind Circle, Orlando 32819. No entries accepted postmarked after August 1, 2001.

Laserturf

Setting the Standard

Laser Controlled Leveling
and Topdressing For:

Golf Tees
Sports Fields
Tennis & Croquet
Courts

- **Dale Witting**
Main Office
- **Ron Butler**
Central Florida
- **Gary Clemmer**
Southeast Coast
- **Tom Mackanos**
Northeast Coast
- **Paul Housewright**
West Coast

561-692-3771

Post Office Box 2179
Palm City, FL 34991-7179

Tom Burrows, Consulting
Agronomist/Turfgrass Specialist
Independent Consulting using
"Brookside Laboratory"

Greens Reconstruction

- ◆ Soil Physical Analysis
- ◆ USGA Approved Testing
- ◆ Analytical Service
- ◆ Recommendations
- ◆ Specifications for Contractor Bidding

Soil Testing

- ◆ Greens, Tees, Fairways
- ◆ Analytical Report and Soil Fertility Recommendations

Water Testing

- ◆ Report & Recommendations

In the business 40 years

Jensen Beach, Florida
561-692-1221 cell: 561-485-3776

Being environmentally sensitive doesn't bother me at all. I have to drink water, eat food and breathe air just like everyone else. Being environmentally stupid is something else.

If recent edicts and proposals coming out of federal, state and local departments, legislatures and commissions are any indication of the mentality of people charged with representing and serving the people, then there seems to be a need for a massive recall of many elected officials and firing of their appointed staff members.

Before I generalize too much I must recognize the thoughtful, rational people in government who understand that, as employees of the public, they represent all stakeholders in a contentious issue. They are duty-bound to look at all the evidence and facts and do what's best for everyone. I commend the staff members in the Florida DOACS and DEP and the water management districts who are working with the

green and ag industries in Florida to find practical, responsible solutions.

What boggles my mind is the sheer arrogance and/or ignorance of some regulators who come up some real boneheaded decisions that miss real opportunities for improvements. For instance:

- In Houston, home of the petroleum refining industry, local officials are fighting air pollution by banning the use of leaf blowers and other small engine tools during the morning hours to prevent smog build up during the day. It makes it seem as though the officials are doing something, but it doesn't really address the major causes of air pollution in a large, bustling, industrial city.

- In Minnesota, there are folks concerned about phosphorus pollution of the lakes. The only phosphorus they are going after is that used on golf courses and home lawns. Those concerned choose to ignore agriculture, nursery production, industry, septic tanks, and natural decay of the annual leaf fall. The fact that surrounding states have found no direct link from lawn fertilizing to lake pollution doesn't not impress the officials. Minnesota hasn't

done such a study, so it doesn't count.

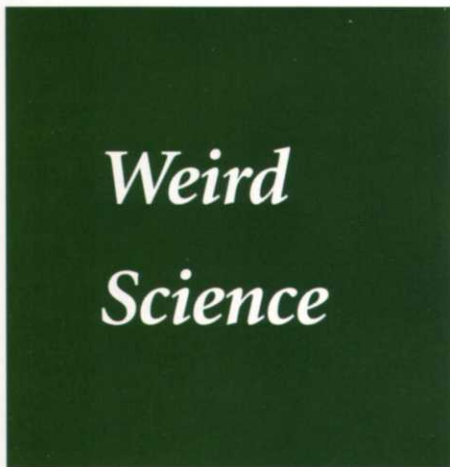
- In New Jersey, this year's drought brought swift targeting of golf courses as big water wasters. The fact that golf courses accounted for only .003% of the state's water consumption did not impress anyone. Once again fair and meaningful restrictions on all users were ignored in favor of hitting the easy target. Late breaking news indicates New Jersey is going to study the feasibility of using effluent water on golf courses. Maybe there's hope yet.

- In New York we won't mention the ban on spraying mosquitoes carrying the West Nile Virus, but rather talk about the proposed ban on using industrial-strength pesticides on public lands. When the staff of the sponsor of the bill was asked what constitutes an industrial-strength pesticide, they couldn't define it. However, they will be producing a brochure at taxpayers' expense to warn the public about the dangers of being exposed to an industrial-strength pesticide, whatever that is! Don't people already know that pesticides can be dangerous if not used properly?

- Here in Florida, water is doled out during drought conditions by designating days of the week to water. This might work under certain conditions, but consider this goofy scenario: In one city even the people who had effluent irrigation systems had to abide by the water ban. The result: unused effluent water is being dumped directly into a pristine river. Go figure. Maybe it was too hard for the water police to figure out who was on gray water and who was on potable. So the environment loses out in the long run.

Which brings to mind a recent conversation I had with a superintendent who got a call from an irate citizen who lives along his golf course. The person called condemning him for having a lush green golf course in the face of this horrible devastating drought. When the superintendent calmly explained that he was watering with 100% effluent water, the caller only replied, "Well, I don't care. You're not doing your part!"

All of these examples just go to prove that we have a lot of educating to do not only to the regulators and legislators but the general public as well. We can't let people in authority use weird science to make decisions that can affect our lives.

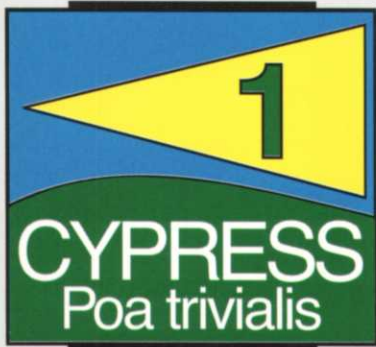


Green Side Up



Joel Jackson, CGCS
Editor

It's hard to
beat the
performance
of Stardust
and Cypress
Poa trivialis!



TMi

TURF MERCHANTS, INC.

33390 Tangent Loop / Tangent, Oregon 97389
Phone (541) 926-8649 / Fax (541) 926-4435
800-421-1735 / www.turfmerchants.com

Perfecting Turfgrass Performance™

In multi-year trials from the East to the West Coast, these Poa trivs have been tops in color and texture since their release re-defined the overseeding market. An additional bonus, is their higher seed count which give superintendents more coverage for the money. Both are grown under the certification program and this makes the quality of these Poa trivs the standard by which other Poa trivs are measured. **But don't take our word for it, take theirs:**

Cypress 50% Stardust 50%

"Best average weekly ground cover"

estimates of all Poa trivs in test—University of Fla, Gainesville 1997-98 putting green trials highest seed count of all Poa trivs - University of Florida. - 1997-98.

Stardust

"Highest density"

1995-96 overseeded greens University of Arizona

"Highest percent ground cover"

University of Florida. 1995

"Highest mean ball speed scores"

1994-95 overseeded Bermuda greens--University of Arizona.

"Best monthly/seasonal turf color"

of all Poa trivs overseeded on tifway Bermuda—University of Fla. 1994-95.

"Highest seasonal average"

of all Poa trivs"—putting greens evaluation-- 1997-98 Mississippi State University.

Cypress

"Highest mean for turf color"

1996-97 putting green overseeding trial, Clemson University.

"Highest quality rating"

of all entries in the 1996 Bermuda Triangle Research Center, Palm Springs, California.