

*Today, control of nematodes has been relegated to only one synthetic pesticide, fenamiphos, and this material is available only to the golf course and sod industries. At present, there are no synthetic nematicides available for the landscape and athletic turf markets. Although numerous products claim nematode control, these materials have proved largely ineffective in university-conducted research.*

tion of pesticides might reduce - by as much as 75 percent - the potential for pesticides to enter surface water (Perrault, 1998).

Aided by technological advances and a greater understanding of how better to use this equipment, researchers are now employing this technology in the battle against nematodes. In cooperation with Dow AgroSciences, we tested the efficacy of subsurface injection of 1,3-D using the Cushman Envirojet 160. This machine uses high-pressure pulses of water to carry the fumigant into the soil where the nematodes reside.

#### Research Projects

Trials were conducted during the summer of 2001 to determine the turfgrass tolerance to subsurface injection of 1,3-D and to determine the efficacy of 1,3-D for nematode control in Florida. In all the studies, applications were made using a Cushman Envirojet 160 subsurface high-pressure injection machine. 1,3-D was injected to a depth of 6 inches and the injection nozzles were spaced 4 inches apart. The operating speed of the equipment was fixed at 1.4 MPH to ensure that a 4-inch by 4-inch injection spacing resulted. The machine was calibrated to deliver 500 GPA at 2600 PSI. Tests were conducted on actual golf course Tifdwarf bermudagrass putting greens maintained at 0.156 inch.

#### Shoal River Country Club

Methods. A trial was conducted at

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Shoal River Country Club, Crestview, in the summer of 2001 to determine whether 1,3-D would provide effective nematode control and to evaluate the turfgrass tolerance to 1,3-D when injected into a bermudagrass putting green under high pressure.

On May 29, 1,3-D was applied at 5 and 10 gallons per acre using the equipment described above. As a comparative treatment, fenamiphos 10G was applied as a surface broadcast at 100 pounds per acre. Plot size was 10 feet X 40 feet with four replications (greens No. 1, 6, 18, and the practice green were used; one green equaled one replication).

**Results.** Nematode assays taken 79 days after treatment (DAT) showed that 1,3-D applied at 5 and 10 GPA provided 69 and 74 percent control of Lance nematodes (*Hoplolaimus gealeatus*), respectively (Fig. 1). Post treatment nematode counts from plots treated with fenamiphos actually showed an increase in nematode numbers (Fig. 1).

Although few Sting nematodes (*Belonolaimus longicaudatus*) were present, both rates of 1,3-D provided 100 percent control of this nematode (data not presented). By 93 DAT, nematode populations in plots treated with 5 GPA had recovered to within 70 percent of the pretreatment values. Conversely, nematode counts in plots treated with 10 GPA had only rebounded by 30 percent. Fenamiphos provided no control of either nematode species in this study.

Objectionable turfgrass injury was observed in plots receiving 10 GPA 1,3-D.

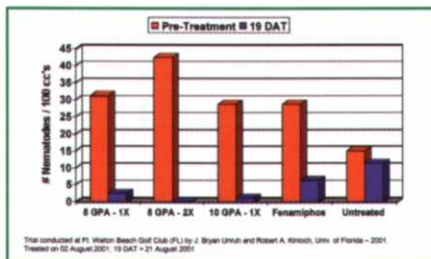


Fig. 4. Control of Sting Nematodes with 1,3-Dichloropropene Soil Fumigation

However, injury subsided within three weeks. Although nematode levels were high on these putting greens - exceeding the recommended treatment threshold - turfgrass quality was not adversely affected and post-treatment quality ratings did not show a significant improvement in turf quality (data not presented).

**Bottom line.** 1,3-D applied at 5 and 10 GPA provided good control of Lance and Sting nematodes. By three months after treatment, nematode counts had rebounded in plots treated at the 5 GPA rate. Under the conditions in which this trial was conducted, turfgrass injury was observed at the 10 GPA rate.

#### Ft. Walton Beach Golf Club

**Methods.** Two studies were conducted

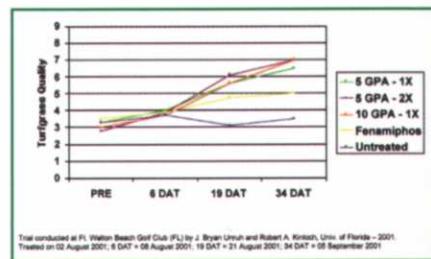


Fig. 6. Turfgrass Quality as Affected by 1,3-Dichloropropene Soil Fumigation Application

at Ft. Walton Beach Golf Club in the summer of 2001 to determine whether 1,3-D would provide effective nematode control when high-pressure injected into a bermudagrass putting green. On Aug. 2, 1,3-D was applied at 5 and 10 gallons per acre using the equipment described above.

Other researchers had noted that two passes, each injecting 5 GPA (total application rate of 10 GPA), did not cause the same level of injury as a single pass at 10 GPA (personal communication, Dr. Billy Crow). Therefore, this additional treatment regime (5 GPA 2X) was added to the trials.

As a comparative treatment, fenamiphos 10G was applied as a surface broadcast at 100 pounds per acre. Two separate putting greens were used, and plot size in both trials was 5' X 10' with four replications.

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TifSport's density, sod strength and good lateral growth rate give it a high ranking for traffic tolerance. Athletic field managers and golf course superintendents are reporting outstanding re-growth from normal wear and tear.

### Upright Leaf Blade Orientation

TifSport's leaf blade orientation and stiffness is being touted by many golf course superintendents. They feel TifSport gives a better ball lie in cut fairways and roughs.

### Impressive Leaf Texture

TifSport has a similar leaf texture to Tifway, and a finer leaf texture than most other grasses used on fairways and tees. This also helps promote good footing on athletic fields.

### Dark Green Color

TifSport has a dark emerald green color versus the somewhat lighter green of Tifway and Quickstand.

### Drought Tough

TifSport developer Wayne Hanna has data from a 2-year study showing that TifSport has good drought tolerance. It not only stays green longer but it also recovers faster.

### Cold Tolerant

TifSport has expanded the northern limits for warm season bermudagrasses, and has remained very consistent over multiple winters in Oklahoma.

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**Results.** In the trial conducted on practice green no. 10, 1,3-D applied at 5 GPA, 5 GPA 2X, and 10 GPA, provided exceptional control of lance nematodes (Fig. 2). Fenamiphos provide a slight level of nematode control compared to the pre-treatment counts. As noted previously in other trials, turfgrass injury was objectionable at the 10 GPA rate, but was not objectionable at the 5 GPA and 5 GPA 2X rates (data not presented).

In the trial conducted on the north practice green, all rates of 1,3-D provided 90-100 percent control of lance and sting nematodes (Figs. 3 and 4). Fenamiphos gave 55 and 78 percent control of lance and sting nematodes, respectively.

Of particular interest in this trial was the initial turf density - averaging only 40 percent turf coverage at the time of application (Fig. 5). Figure 6 shows the dramatic improvement of turf quality achieved with the application of 1,3-D. By 19 DAT, turf in fumigant-treated plots was at, or near, an acceptable quality level and by 34 DAT, regardless of rate, had improved from a pre-treatment value of 3.5 to a post-treatment level of 6.5 to 7.0. Figure 7 reveals photographically, the difference in turf quality observed at 19 DAT. Similar turfgrass injury results were observed in this trial.

**Bottom line.** Results from this study showed that 1,3-D can control lance and sting nematodes, and when used at 5 GPA or 5 GPA - 2X,

will not produce objectionable turfgrass injury.

### Conclusions

Results from the trials discussed here show that 1,3-D will provide a valuable nematode management tool to golf course superintendents should it receive a registration from the Environmental Protection Agency. With this tool, turfgrass managers will be better able to manage their turf and do so with fewer inputs of pesticides, nutrients, and water.

### Acknowledgments

This research was supported by the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station and in-kind financial support from Dow AgroSciences LLC. The authors wish to thank Chris Hood and Clint White for their technical assistance and golf course superintendents David VonSchmittou (Ft. Walton Beach Golf Club) and Radford Shirley (Shoal River Country Club) for their assistance with and support of the research.

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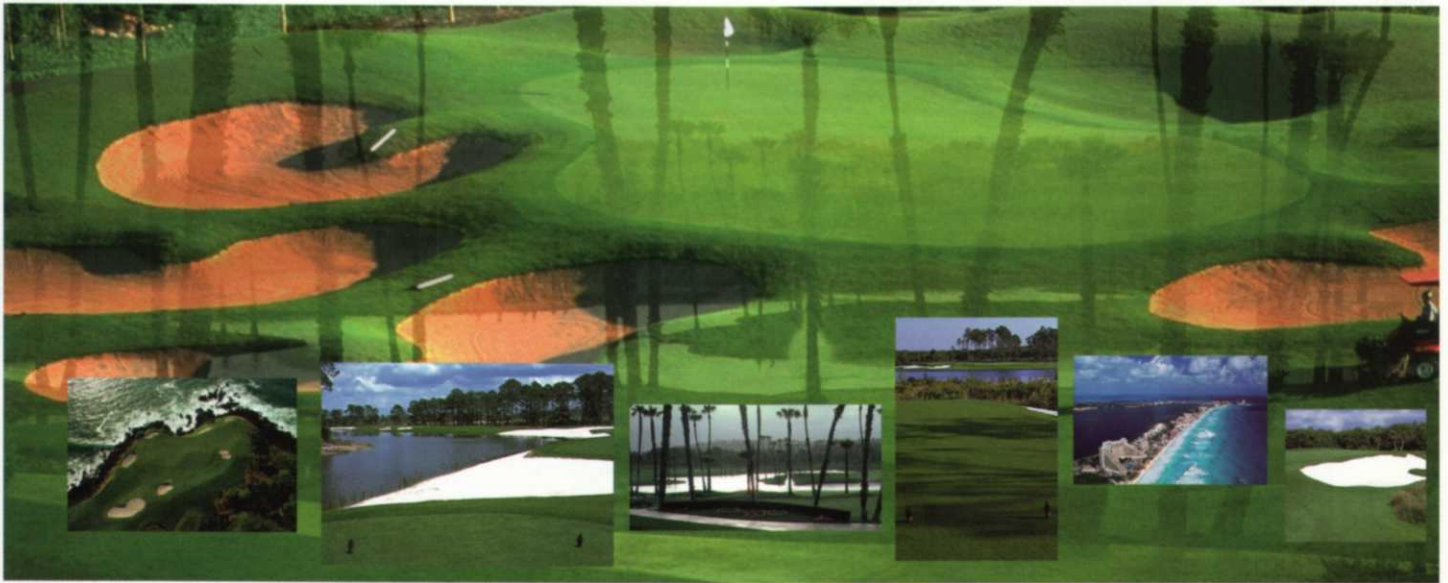
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# Mister Mayor

by Monroe S. Miller

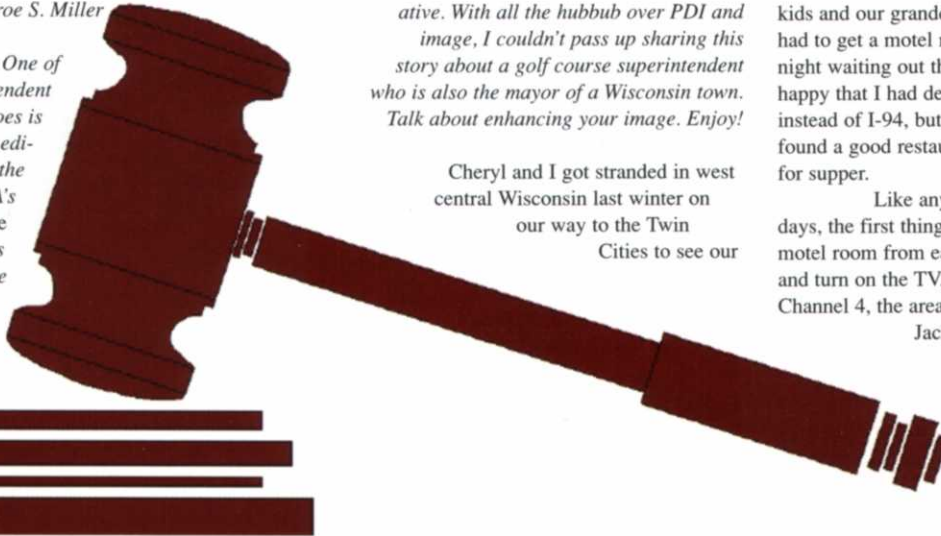
*Editors Note: One of my superintendent writing heroes is Monroe Miller, editor of the Wisconsin GCSA's magazine, The Grass Roots. His "Tales From The Back Nine" are always entertaining and inform-*

*ative. With all the hubbub over PDI and image, I couldn't pass up sharing this story about a golf course superintendent who is also the mayor of a Wisconsin town. Talk about enhancing your image. Enjoy!*

Cheryl and I got stranded in west central Wisconsin last winter on our way to the Twin Cities to see our

kids and our granddaughter, Grace Kaster. We had to get a motel room and spend a Thursday night waiting out the snowstorm. She wasn't real happy that I had decided to take the scenic route instead of I-94, but the room was clean, and we found a good restaurant (The Fork and Spoon) for supper.

Like any normal American does these days, the first thing I did when we returned to the motel room from eating was to grab the remote and turn on the TV. There before my eyes on Channel 4, the area's public access channel, was Jack Hauge, golf course superintendent at Splendid



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Valley CC. He was presiding over a meeting of the Bergen city council meeting; the nameplate in front of him said "MAYOR."

It was a good thing Cheryl had a book with her. I was determined to watch Jack manage the business of Bergen, a town of 2,000 with a strong Norwegian influence yet today despite its founding nearly 150 years ago. Jack traced all of his ancestors back to Norway and had visited the home fjord several times.

The meeting was pretty routine, I'd say. It seemed everyone on the council - there were only six of them, plus the mayor - was congenial. Clearly, in a small town there are far fewer divisive issues when compared to, say, Milwaukee or Madison or Green Bay.

This night they were talking about paving a section of Elm Street (the 600 and 700 blocks) and approved a motion to replace the recycling containers with new and larger ones. Both were budgeted items and approval seemed a formality.

There was a brief discussion about new lighting for the ball diamond in Hauge Park. Jack's brief comments put the issue to rest: "The community park was named after my grandfather. He donated the land for it to the city, and it is a special place for me. But if it needs lights now, it needed them when we were in the budgeting process. I am firmly against unbudgeted discretionary spending."

End of that deliberation.

There was one issue that did generate some discussion among the council members.

One member offered a motion to install a stop light at the intersection of Main Street and Lincoln Avenue. The city attorney pointed out the process with the Wisconsin DOT that they would have to comply with. The city engineer gave estimated costs. After weighing both sides of the issue, it was dismissed as unnecessary at this time.

And that was it. Jack had run a well organized meeting with efficiency and brevity, not unlike he ran the golf course at Splendid Valley.

The next morning we went back to the Fork and Spoon Cafe for some breakfast. We sat at the counter, ordered black coffee to drink while looking over the menu, and started to visit a little bit with the local folks who had gathered. Little restaurants like this one always have a regular crowd for each of the main meals of the day. My preference has always been the early birds, and it didn't take long to engage them in conversation about their mayor.

"Did you see him on TV last night?" asked one older fellow in bib overalls and LaCrosse boots.

"I sure did," came my reply as I volunteered, "and I have known Jack for many years. I am in the same business as he is."

"Oh," was the collective response from several within hearing distance.

We ordered bacon, eggs, wheat toast and hash browns with orange juice and milk to drink. The waitress went down the counter and filled the coffee cups.

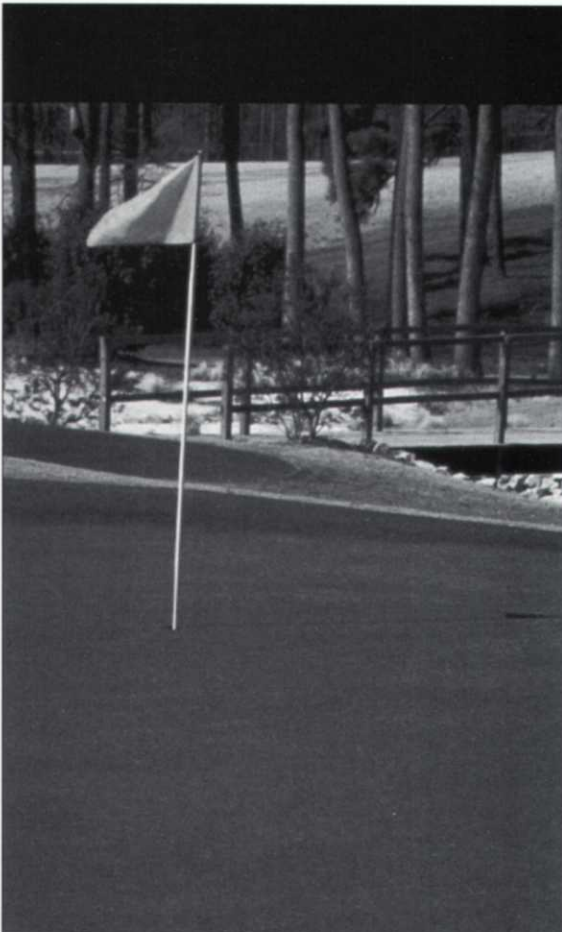
"How's he doing as mayor?" I finally asked. Norwegians are known to be a little reticent. "Well," came the reply slowly, "we got ourselves a good one. He takes the job way more seriously than any other mayor most of us can remember. And he works dang hard at it, too.

"Bergen has the best streets of any town or village out here in western Wisconsin, maybe anywhere in Wisconsin!"

The breakfast crowd was loosening up a bit.

"And if you think we have good streets in town, our parks are even better. He knows a lot about them because of the golf course he manages. He really shaped up the city crew when it comes to aerifying and mowing. Heck, he even spends a little money to fertilize them and he makes sure the weeds are killed. He does the spraying himself. We couldn't be happier.

"Plus you should see our ball diamonds since Jack has been on the city council. He put watering systems into the soccer fields and the ball fields the city owns, and now we are the envy of everybody out here in this part of the



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country!"

A man dressed in a coat and tie came in and sat at the counter with the rest of us.

"Ask him a few questions about our mayor."

I leaned around Cheryl and explained we were stranded in town last night and had watched the council meeting. "I know the mayor," I volunteered.

"EVERYBODY knows Jack," he said. "He does a really good job - I am on the council and I see him function up close and personal. We hope he sticks with it for a few more terms. He has made it impossible for whoever succeeds him.

"What Jack has done is create some excellent work habits among the public works staff. They seem to have a lot of pride that they didn't have before he was elected to the council. He has chaired both the Parks Committee and the PW Committee and left his clear impression on both.

"Our town now has a brighter, neater appearance. There are never any little unfinished jobs around town. No sloppy work. Everything from picnic tables to city vehicles is in tip-top shape. He expects excellence from people."

We took a breather so we could eat our breakfast - the food was getting cold.

The man in the coat and tie had his

usual coffee and a chocolate donut. Then he continued. "Jack's influence on Bergen has gone beyond the practical and obvious things we have been talking about.

"The city infrastructure is sound. We are on a planned replacement schedule for everything from fire trucks and snowplows to our municipal water supply. We have a carefully developed plan relating to annexation and growth and land use. We have personnel policies, vehicle-use policies and even a protocol for the use of city cell phones. Should the need arise, we are prepared for implementation of a TIF plan. We have a lot of confidence in our city government, due in no small part to Jack Hauge."

I mentioned to him that I knew Jack through our mutual profession. The man smiled and said that he felt there were similarities between a smooth-running golf course operation and a smooth-running municipal operation.

He asked what course I worked for. I told him and then asked if he played any golf.

"Oh, you bet," came the quick answer. "I have belonged to Splendid Valley for many years. In fact, I am the club president this year!"

I almost fell off the counter stool.

"So, when Jack is at the course, you are the boss!"

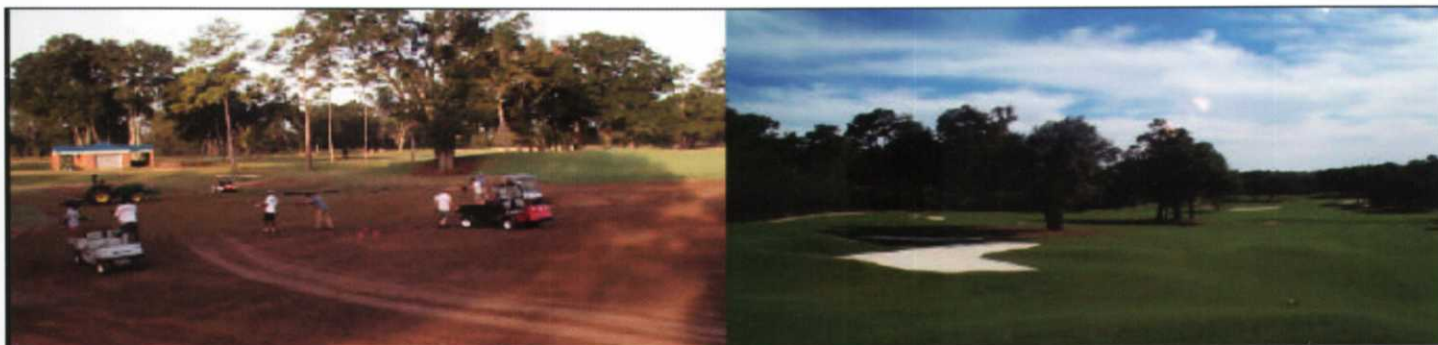
"Yes," came the careful response. "But as soon as I hit the city limits of Bergen, Jack becomes 'Mr. Mayor'."

We talked a little longer about club politics and city politics, and he said he was happy to say Jack was above it all.

I was thinking of my colleagues and all the interesting things they did outside of work. We could count among us an opera singer, a sculptor, a Brown Swiss cattle showman, an author, an amateur flower breeder (irises), a pilot, and an accordion player in a polka band. We even had a mayor in our midst and didn't even know it. What will it be next? The possibilities are limitless, just like the opportunities.

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May/June 2001*

***The man smiled and said that he felt there were similarities between a smooth-running golf course operation and a smooth-running municipal operation.***



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# Speed Kills!

By Jim Walker



When I was a young lad of about 10, I watched a movie about the Indianapolis Speedway and the Big Race held there each year. It starred William Bendix who played the part of "Burn 'em Up" Barnes. Needless to say, old "Burn 'em Up" slammed into the wall and expired amid the wreckage and twisted metal near turn two... or three... or one of those turns. Funny how that movie stayed with me all these years, but it has. The moral of the story, obviously, was "speed kills."

Last April, my wife and I had the opportunity to get up close and personal with Daytona International Speedway, thanks to her ex-husband, with whom she has remained cordial. Bruce is an architect working for the France Company which owns the Daytona Track and several others across the country. He took us on quite a tour of the facility, but the most compelling part of the excursion was almost being able to touch the wall in turn three where Dale Earnhart, "The



Intimidator," had bought it just a couple of months before. Moral of the story: "Speed kills."

In case you were wondering what the hell a bunch of people going around in circles at 180 miles per hour has to do with turf, it is that speed kills.

I have seen too many good superintendents lose jobs because their greens took a dump as they tried to maintain them at speeds of 10, 11, or 12 on the stimp meter. This quest to have the fastest greens in town is taking a toll, and it seems to me that it is all so needless.

Now don't get me wrong, I'm not someone who putts badly on fast greens and has a personal axe to grind. As a matter of fact, the faster they are, the better I like it. This fact can be verified by any number of people whose socks I've knocked the dust out of. Putting on fast greens brings out the Jerry McGuire in me.

But enough is too much already! A stimp 8.0 to 9.0 is plenty fast enough and leaves the plant sufficient leaf tissue to accommodate photosynthesis. Furthermore, there doesn't seem to be a loss of root mass at these speeds. With products like Primo, around 8.0 on well-shaped greens is more than what 90 percent of golfers can handle. I know it's one of the main reasons play has slowed down. The greens are too fast and all these pork chops are chipping from one side of the green to the other and following that up with three- or four-putts.

I think the time has long since passed that the USGA and particularly the GCSAA began aggressive education to the masses that the green speed they see on TV every week is not what they should expect from at their clubs on a regular basis.

I wish I had kept the article in *GolfWeek's Superintendent News*, which alluded to the fact that the greens on three of the last four US Open courses had to be replanted immediately after the event because they had gotten so stressed out during tournament week.

That's the part of the story the golfing public never hears. "Speed Kills" is the part of the story our industry, and the people to whom we have entrusted our profession need to begin preaching. Slow 'em down!

I know that this commentary will be read by some folks at big-time clubs and be laughed at, but not everyone has a million-dollar budget and a staff of 20 or more for each 18 holes.

I have known Fred Klauk since his days at Eagle Trace, and his TPC course was one of the courses that my wife and I played last April. That was just a short time after the Tournament Players Championship. Fred is for sure one of the best two or three superintendents I have known in my

30-plus years in the business.

When we played the first par three on the front side, there was one of his trusted and knowledgeable staff members working diligently, sodding bare spots! His comment to me as we commiserated on his task was, "You can't mow 'em at .110 and expect them to grow, can you?"

No, especially not in Jacksonville at that time of year.

Come on USGA! Come on GCSAA! Get on board and come on in for the victory lap, or else we'll have you standing tall before the man.

Start telling the masses: "Speed Kills!"

P.S. That day at Fred's magnificent facility, I knocked it in on No. 17, shot 82 and didn't three-putt a green.

## TURF=ENVIRONMENT

### If You Really Want to Understand How the Activists Think... Join 'em

By Phil Busey, Ph.D.



Phil Busey, associate professor of turfgrass science at the University of Florida's Fort Lauderdale REC, operates "Turfgrass Management," a web site, online discussion forum and an irregular but frequent email newsletter. The following excerpts indicate that not all voices in the discussion of turfgrass and the environment are either shrill or confrontational.

## Walk the Talk

If turfgrass is to survive in the urban age, we must talk the talk, and walk the walk, of environmental stewardship. If you as a turfgrass manager are not a member of the Sierra Club, or the Audubon Society, or the Nature Conservancy, you should seriously consider protecting your livelihood as well as doing what good you can do as a citizen, and join one of these or other responsible organizations. If for no other reason, you'll meet some interesting people.

That said, we must be careful to be accurate and not exaggerate the safety of pesticides, nor to exaggerate their potential harm. This came up at a recent meeting in which there was a comment made speculating about possible complaints by neighbors (which have never occurred) regarding pesticide use.

This kind of speculation is harmful