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After his keynote address at the 2007 FTGA Awards Luncheon, All-Pro Quarterback Jim Hart spent an hour at the Trade Show signing autographs and chatting with NFL fans. Photo courtesy of Leading Edge Communications.

place” perspective. Then the new FTGA officers and directors were installed, scholarships were awarded and Roy Bates received the Wreath of Grass Award after a friendly roasting from his longtime pal, Jerry Redden.

For me and the FGCSA, our new association manager, Jennifer Innes, made her public debut at our booth at the trade show and met lots of our members and other key industry folks. We made several promising advertising contacts for the Florida Green and got a chance to touch base with Hannes Combest from GCSAA as the national group fulfills its mission to be a solid resource for chapters and members to succeed. I met more turf industry professionals from other sectors such as parks and recreation and sports turf, which bodes well for the FTGA and for our united turf interests and issues in the state.



Seth Strickland won the 2007 FTGA Golf Tournament at Bonita Bay West and a place on the FGCSA Golf Team for the GCSAA National Championships in Orlando in 2008. Photo by Joel Jackson.



From left: During the Trade Show in Estero, Dale Mitchell and Richard Coyler from Golf Agronomic Supply and Handling presented President Darren Davis with a \$3,000 donation for the FTGA Research Foundation. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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UF Turfgrass Faculty Back to Full Strength

Former Extension Agent to Teach and Conduct Research in Golf and Sports Turf Management

GAINESVILLE – The University of Florida environmental horticulture department has hired Jason Dettman-Kruse as a turfgrass science assistant professor. Beginning August, he has been teaching several hands-on courses to Gainesville students and starting his research program on athletic fields.

Students in Dettman-Kruse's undergraduate courses will be using the Turfgrass Envirotron on campus and the Turfgrass Research Unit in Citra. In these facilities, students get to practice hands-on management of turf, including irrigation, mowing, topdressing, overseeding, and fertilization. He is also team-teaching a Landscape and Turfgrass Management class.

"Having worked in both the industry and as an Extension educator, I recognize the value of hands-on learning opportunities," said Dettman-Kruse. "I look forward to working with my colleagues and the industry across the state to help establish the Golf and Sports Turf Management Program at the University of Florida as one of the best in the nation."

Dettman-Kruse comes to UF/IFAS



Dr. Jason Dettman-Kruse is the newest addition to the UF Environmental Horticulture Dept. He will specialize in sports turf management and will focus on developing students in all phases of turfgrass science.

from the University of Wisconsin's Extension program, where he worked as an educator for the commercial horticulture industry. There he developed and taught curricula to Wisconsin's green industry on turfgrass identification, weed control, spreader calibration and pesticide application.

Dettman-Kruse received his B.S. in crop science from the University of Idaho, his native state. He earned

an M.S. in soil and water science at UF, studying the management of ultradwarf bermudagrasses, and a Ph.D. from Iowa State University. His research at Iowa involved the use of remote sensing systems in nutrient and water resources management.

Research will be a priority for Dettman-Kruse in his new position as well. His research program will focus on the management of athletic fields as related to player safety and site-specific management of soil and water resources in urban turfgrass systems.

"Turfgrass beautifies our environment and protects against injuries during athletic activities, while working to filter our air and water resources," said Dettman-Kruse. "My teaching philosophy is focused on creating a learning environment that combines traditional classroom and laboratory experience with a variety of hands-on learning activities and on-the-job training. Students successfully completing the Golf and Sports Turf Management program at the University of Florida will leave with the education and experience necessary to be successful turfgrass managers and good stewards of the environment."

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Dr. Dettman-Kruse essentially replaces the position vacated by Dr. Grady Miller. We were lucky to fill the position before the recent budget cuts necessitated a university wide hiring freeze.*

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– Current Toro/John Deere Customer

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– Current John Deere Customer

"Excellent quality-of-cut."

– Current Toro Customer

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2007 PLANTS OF THE YEAR

The exotic Cardboard Palm wraps up our review of the 2007 Plants of the Year selections. These plants are selected annually by a panel who look for their native ability to exist in Florida's three geographic zones.

Zamia maritima (formerly *furfuracea*)

Common Name: Cardboard Palm

Zones: North protected areas, Central & South

Mature Height and Spread: 3.5 x 4-6 ft.

Classification: Cycad

Landscape Use: Specimen, foundation planting, container

Characteristics: Exotic-looking seed cones surrounded by tough green fronds arise through the green, cardboard-like fronds making this plant a standout in the landscape. New growth appears as light olive above the mature dark green leaves. This cycad is drought tolerant and also tolerates neglect well. Its use adds a tropical flair to virtually any landscape. It is exceptionally salt tolerant and tough, making it ideal for use in coastal regions.

Possible Insect/Disease Problems: Occasional scale or mealybug

Propagation: by seed



Exotic-looking seed cones surrounded by tough green fronds arise through the green, cardboard-like fronds...



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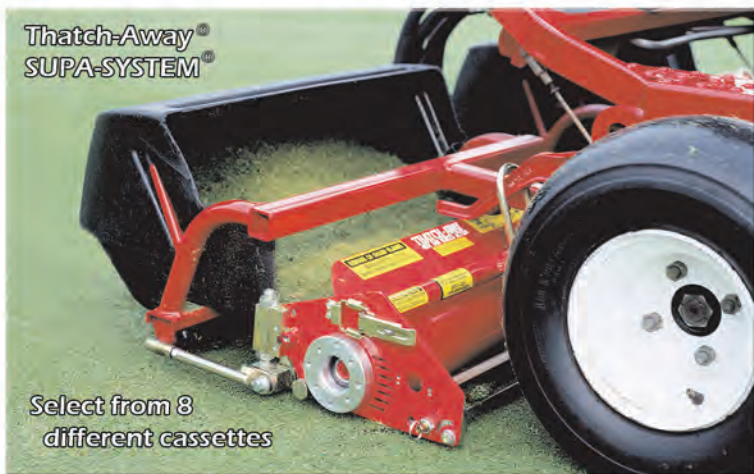
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It is interesting to note that no pathogens were found in many samples sent to the clinic. This result can be frustrating for a golf course superintendent who suffers turf damage or loss that is not caused by a pathogen.

Top Ten Florida 'Diseases'

By Todd Lowe

The University of Florida Disease Diagnostic Clinic was revamped last year, under the guidance of Dr. Phil Harmon, to provide golf courses with a Rapid Turf Diagnosis disease service for turfgrass managers. The new service has been a value to the golf course industry in our region, as it provides reliable and timely disease diagnoses and management suggestions. In its first year, the laboratory received 165 samples and has received 61 samples as of April this year. The results from those samples yielded the following results:

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Samples 2006</u>	<u>Samples 2007</u>
no pathogen.....	42	10
Pythium Root Rot.....	35	7
Rhizoctonia Lear/Sheeat Spot.....	18	2
Bermudagrass Decline.....	17	3
Pythium Blight.....	16	16
Fairy Ring	13	0
Brown Patch.....	12	3
Dollar Spot	9	3
Take-All Root Rot	8	0
Bipolaris Leaf Spot	5	4
Anaerobic Soil.....	3	0

Other pathogens found included Nigrospora blight, Rhizoctonia circinata brown ring patch, Limonomyces pink patch, Fusarium blight, Michrodochium patch, gray leaf spot

It is interesting to note that no pathogens were found in many samples sent to the clinic. This result can be frustrating for a golf course superintendent who suffers turf damage or loss that is not caused by a pathogen. Samples are sometimes submitted following fungicide treatments, which can provide a false diagnosis. Oftentimes, other environmental, mechanical, chemical or climatic factors cause the damage and the problem cannot be easily fixed with a fungicide treatment.

A disease laboratory technician cannot determine whether turf loss occurred because of trees surrounding the putting green, improper drainage, or mechanic/climatic stress. Such factors can easily cause turf damage without the presence of pathogens and it may be necessary to conduct a Turfgrass Advisory Service visit by a qualified agronomist to assess the putting greens.

The clinic also provides updates on turfgrass diseases throughout the region. Dr. Harmon and associates also are receiving research funds from the USGA to study diseases on seashore paspalum. We appreciate the value that the University of Florida provides the turfgrass industry and the game of golf.

Updates on turfgrass diseases can be found at
http://turfpth.ifas.ufl.edu/turfgrass/rapiddiag_disease.shtml



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ANALYSIS

Critical Flaws in MeBr Critical-Use Exemption Process

By Joel Jackson

The phase-out of methyl bromide (MeBr) has been decreed by the international Montreal Protocol signed by the USA in 1987. Under the agreement, critical-use exemptions (CUE) would be granted for commodities that could show critical need, no viable alternatives and market disruption if MeBr were not available.

Originally, golf courses and sod production were granted a CUE. Subsequent applications have been denied. The science and data haven't changed but EPA's position has.

Strike one.

When a commodity is not approved for critical use, producers may use MeBr in stockpiles. Our stockpiles are dwindling rapidly, thanks to EPA's aggressive annual cuts which supersede the amounts required by the International Body.

Strike two.

How it works: U.S. farmers and growers have consistently justified the amount of MeBr they need annually.

EPA cuts that amount and submits its nomination to the International body. That group usually approves an allocation for all users and it is always less than EPA's request. Then the EPA again cuts the amount approved by international group.

Why?

EPA's Office of Stratospheric Protection has been charged with overseeing the phase-out of MeBr. Officials do not appear to be swayed by arguments of national interest in terms of having no safe effective economic alternatives to grow our crops, fumigate stored grains, fumigate soil to keep yields profitable and competitive in the global market. Their job is to phase out MeBr and, at the rate they are double-cutting supplies, it will take only another year or two. They are not tasked with weighing risks and benefits.

The science and data remain debatable depending on whether you have zero tolerance for this product that is generally recognized as the only reliable and effective fumigant. Arguments revolve around naturally-occurring MeBr and manmade quantities. Some cite biomass burning and leaded gasoline combustion as producing more MeBr than agricultural uses. But these debates rage on while our access to this product is vanishing. Rather than continue the

debate, we must ask congress to step in and do just one simple thing: Require EPA to explain why it takes two cuts to the annual allowable amounts of MeBr.

Meanwhile golf-course use has not been granted a CUE in part because U.S. golf and turfgrass don't hold much sway in the international community. The international body did approve MeBr use for golf course development in some Caribbean countries. And they have seen fit to allow MeBr for cut flower production. So cultural biases have been endemic in the process.

Strike Three.

We are not married to MeBr if an effective alternative were available. After USDA spent \$192 million on research, we still have the same flawed alternatives which potentially have more damaging environmental effects and inconsistent performance. If you are contemplating regrassing your golf course in the future, your chances of encountering off-type contamination are pretty much guaranteed.

If not challenged, EPA's aggressive cuts will deplete MeBr stocks as early as 2009. If it's important to you, your business and your club, write your senators and representatives and ask them to require EPA to explain and justify its accelerated phase-out process at the expense of transparency and due process.

Following are excerpts of comments made on the record at the September 11, 2007 Methyl Bromide CUE Hearing at EPA. Please use these ideas in your own letters to your legislators asking for their help. We are past arguing science and data. We are asking for fairness and due process:

We are concerned that the EPA has not forwarded our repeated Critical Use Exemption applications to the International Body.

We understand that golf is the only commodity held to the market disruption standard, which we did address in amended applications. Golf courses and sod production were granted a CUE originally. The data and need has not changed but now we are denied. Why?

We do not understand why soil fumigation for the protection of certified turfgrass varieties is not deemed worthy of consideration, especially since reliable or safer alternatives have not been developed. The only alternatives have been shown to perform dramatically inconsistently and pose devastating impacts like fish kills in nearby waters.

Without a modest supply of methyl bromide for pre-plant fumigation of new courses or regrassing of existing properties, more quantities of traditional pesticides must be applied during the critical grow-in phase when the turf cover is thinnest and susceptible to runoff and leaching of materials to control soil-borne diseases, weed seeds and nematode and insects.

This seems counter to the mission of EPA.

There are roughly 15,000 golf courses in the U.S. They do not all need methyl bromide annually, and as the golf market adjusts to current trends new course construction has slowed appreciably since its boom in 1980s and 90s. Annual course renovations calling for the installation of newer varieties – which generally call for fewer inputs that impact the environment – (are not many). The point is that golf does not need large amounts to ... serve its customers, yet our applications have been summarily dismissed at the entry level.

It appears that the denial of consideration for a CUE for golf in the U.S. rests on arbitrary value judgments or biases against the worthiness of golf or