

# URI professor recommends higher cut — for turf's sake, not golfers

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"PCNB has good activity versus both gray and pink snow mold, but one year in five it fails. And the EPA [Environmental Protection Agency] is breathing down its back, and I don't know how much longer it will be available," Jackson said.

One by one, pesticides have gone off the market, and it has become hugely expensive to finance new products, he added.

Only a handful of new

*'Everyone, mow at 3/16 [inch] and no less and to heck with the golfer. Do this and you'll grow great grass.'*

— Dr. Noel Jackson



Dr. Noel Jackson

materials are released each year because of the lengthy, and costly, testing period.

Sentinel has finally been

registered by Sandoz after a six-year struggle.

Rohm & Haas' Eagle has been in the works for seven

years and is still not registered.

"The expense involved in producing a new chemical is increasing exponentially. It takes 10 years, \$50 million, and at the end of it if the rat dies, where are you?" Jackson said. "This is why you're being restricted [in what you can use]. And what you're seeing is, the agri-chemical industry is in a stage of siege."

In light of this, cultural practices will take on more and more importance in the care of

golf courses, he said.

Some tips from Dr. Jackson:

- If frost heaves push turfgrass up, do not roll it. Let it subside to its natural level. "If rolled, you'll ruin it."
  - Be very careful to check the pH of top dressing material. "Sand can have a very high pH. Often it's up to 8 or 8.5. That is sufficient to raise the surface pH and encourage disease."
  - Use PCNB for leaf spot control and snow mold protection. But do not use PCNB above 65 degrees.
  - Check the pH of your water supply. "Often the pH of the water can be 9 or 10. That can trigger Takeall Patch."
  - "You can gain two weeks using turf covers. The further north, the more they can benefit."
- But the problem with turf covers, he said, is knowing when to put them down and pull them off.
- "If you gamble wrong, you're in big trouble. If you take it off and the temperature drops, you're worse off than if you never used the cover," he said.

## U-Nebraska grad student given '94 Musser Scholarship

Jennifer M. Johnson-Cicalese has been awarded the Musser Foundation's 1994 Doctoral Award for Excellence.

The \$5,000 annual award is given to a student in the last year of their doctoral program who "demonstrates leadership in academic and extracurricular activities."

Johnson-Cicalese, 36, earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from Rutgers University

and is preparing her doctoral thesis at the University of Nebraska on resistance to mealybugs among turf-type buffalograss selections. Drs. Terry Riordan and Frederick Baxendale are her major professors.



Johnson-Cicalese

"Professor Burton Musser was a turfgrass pioneer for four decades at Penn State University," said foundation President Frank Dobie of The Sharon Club in Sharon Center, Ohio. "The foundation ... is dedicated to promoting that same kind of pioneering individual. Supporting this new generation of turfgrass scientists is the wisest move we can make."

Some \$57,000 has been awarded the past six years, Dobie said.



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