

# Q&A: Iowa's research paying off for ag, turfgrass

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the particle size. If you use it on greens it gets picked up in the catch baskets. It works well on taller grass and is just starting to catch on at golf courses.

I'd recommend a superintendent try a small amount first rather than totally convert to it right away.

Try it on the driving range. Put down a 4-by-8-foot sheet of plywood and then apply CGM around it. Take the plywood back up after the application. The plywood area will be your control area so you have something to compare.

The biggest barrier to golf course use is the granular form.

The next step is to convert it to a soluble form that can be sprayed on. But that's a multi-million-dollar leap.

We need to get someone willing to spend that money. I'm going to California to talk to some people about that.

GCN: What is the status of your work with growth regulators?

NC: Primo from Novartis is getting a lot of our attention right now.

It shows little phototoxicity, helps reduce clippings on fairways and could show some reduction of poa annua.

GCN: We understand you have some ongoing work on bentgrass greens. What can you

tell us about that?

NC: Again, we're looking at products that can control *poa annua*. Turf Enhancer from Scotts, Progress from Agrevo and Primo are the major ones we've studied.

We haven't come to any conclusions yet, except that all three show a lot of promise. We'll know more about the relative success of each in another year.

GCN: Are you receiving any U.S. Golf Association funding for your research?

NC: We recently completed a major project on pesticide movement through soil profiles. This has resulted in six published papers. We found that there can be movement and that pesticides could potentially reach ground water.

But we have the ability to control movement through proper turf management and reduce the risk. Control happens primarily through the watering program.

We tested movement after a heavy 1-inch rain and compared it to four evenly spaced 1/4-inch applications.

We saw a large reduction in the movement by applying water in smaller amounts at spaced intervals following a pesticide application and by not applying pesticides just before a heavy rainfall.

GCN: Does the USGA do a good job allocating its research dollars?

NC: Yes. I've been on the research committee and admired how the USGA funds a variety of subjects over such a large geographic area.

GCN: What will be the major advances in turfgrass management over the next 10 years?

NC: The Internet. It's such a great way to distribute information. I'm getting e-mail requests from superintendents more and more. In fact, we just added a site to access our latest research on corn gluten meal. The site: [www.hort.iastate.edu/hort then click on faculty, click on Christians, click on CGM].

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELECTS BOARD

The Rocky Mountain Golf Course Superintendents Association's 1997 board of directors has taken office. It includes Mike Brennan of Pine Creek Golf Course in Colorado Springs, Dave Brown of Flatirons Golf Course in Boulder, Jim Fitzgibbons of Meadows Golf Course in Littleton, John Hoofnagle of Calley Country Club in Aurora, Doug Jones of city of Grand Junction Golf Courses, Rick Robbins of irrigation consultant RRI Inc., George Stowell of Gunnison (Colo.) Golf Club, Lee Terry of Walkingstick Golf Club in Pueblo, Don Tolson Fox Hollow at Lakewood and Jim Wilkins of Westwoods Golf Course in Arvada.



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