

Beard's Turfax now available

By MARK LESLIE

CHELSEA, Mich. — There should be a saying, "University professors don't retire, they just stop going to class."

In Dr. James B. Beard's case, when he "retired" from Texas A&M, he just increased his workload in other areas. Consultant. Conference speaker. Writer/editor.

Subscribers to his *Turfax* are thankful Beard is continuing — and improving upon — his "international newsletter about current developments in turfgrass." Publisher Skip DeWall of Ann Arbor Press here, who published Beard and Toshikazu Tani's *Color Atlas of Turfgrass Diseases*, talked Beard into making the newsletter available to the general public — not just his clients.

So, with a little help from his friends, Beard has complied. Those friends are worthy of mention:

- Contributing Editors Dr. Peter H. Dernoeden of the University of Maryland, Dr. Daniel A. Potter of the University of Kentucky and Dr. Fred Yelverton of North Carolina State University; and

- Advisory Committee members Gary Grigg of Royal Poinciana Golf Club in North Naples, Fla., Bruce Williams of Los Angeles Country Club, Dan Quast of Medinah Country Club in Chicago, Don Tolson of Stock Farm in Hamilton, Mont., and Gordon Witteveen of Toronto's Board of Trade Country Club.

This, folks, is an all-star cast. Two editions of the eight-page *Turfax* have been published. One of my copies in hand includes articles by Potter on managing earthworm problems; by Dernoeden stating that summer bentgrass decline complex may be more physiological than pathological; by Yelverton spelling out the potential problems that may occur with continuous use of the same herbicide; and by Beard on the cultural changes demanded by fast putting surfaces.

Ann Arbor Press will mail a free copy of the latest issue to interested people, who may call 800-858-5299. The yearly subscription rate is \$69.95.

Potter reveals earthworm 'fix' in *Turfax* feature article

By DR. DANIEL POTTER

Earthworms have been called the "intestines of the earth" because of their importance in breaking down plant litter, recycling nutrients and enriching the topsoil. But on golf fairways, an abundance of earthworms can be too much of a good thing.

Generally, you'll have much

healthier turfgrass where earthworms are abundant. Their burrowing reduces soil compaction and improves air and water infiltration. Earthworm tunnels may account for two-thirds of the total pore space in soils. Earthworms enrich the soil with their fecal matter, called castings. Their feeding breaks down

thatch while mixing topsoil into the thatch layer, enhancing its suitability for turfgrass growth. Thus, earthworms perform a function much like mechanical topdressing. Their activity encourages microbes that further decompose thatch and enhance soil fertility. Conservation of earthworms is important in lawns

and other turf sites where thatch is a concern.

However, on golf courses, mud mounds abound where earthworms have pushed up castings through close-mowed grass. Golf cars and mower tires compact these mounds, smothering patches of grass. Golfers' drives

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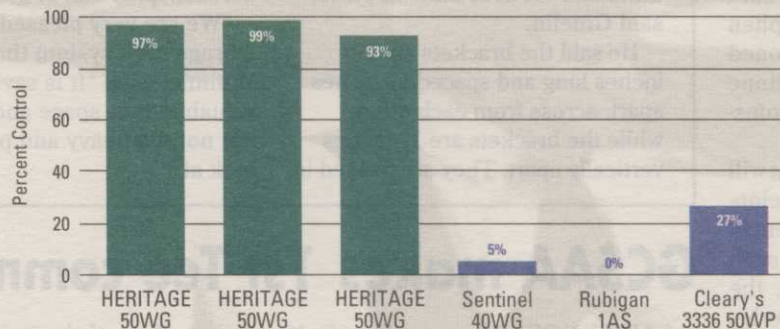
- Improves turf quality
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Anthracnose¹ (*Colletotrichum graminicola*) on 80% Annual Bluegrass, 20% Perennial Ryegrass



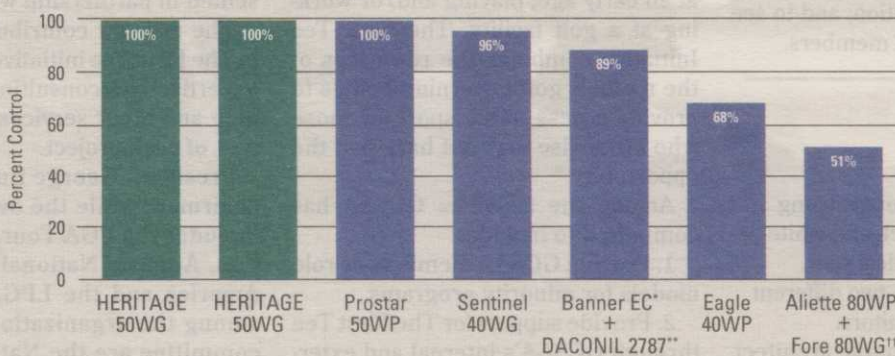
Oz./1,000 sq. ft.	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.25	1.5	2.0
Number of Applications	2	2	1	1	2	2
Application Interval (days)	14	14	—	—	14	14
Final Reading	17 DAA 2	17 DAA 2	31 DAA 1	31 DAA 1	17 DAA 2	17 DAA 2

Dr. Don Scott, Purdue University, 1995

¹ Also isolated from plots: 2 species *Rhizoctonia*; 3 species *Pythium*; and several species *Curvularia*.

US 67-95-P354

Brown Patch (*Rhizoctonia solani*) on Colonial Bentgrass



Oz./1,000 sq. ft.	0.4	0.2	3.0	0.25	1.0* 4.0**	0.6	4.0† 8.0††
Number of Applications	2	4	2	2	4	4	4
Application Interval (days)	28	14	21	28	14	14	14
Final Reading	12 DAA 2	8 DAA 4	19 DAA 2	12 DAA 2	8 DAA 4	8 DAA 4	8 DAA 4

Dr. Pat Sanders, Penn State University, 1994

US 66-94-P356

Baidy hired for Oneida Nation courses

VERONA, N.Y. — Joe Baidy, president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America in 1995-96 and superintendent of Acadia Country Club near Cleveland for the past 12 years, has been named director of golf courses and grounds at the



Joe Baidy

Oneida Nation's Turning Stone Casino Resort here.

Baidy is overseeing the 18-hole Shenandoah Golf Course, a nine-hole par-3 layout, teaching facility and driving range which will open next season.

A certified golf course super-

intendent, Baidy brings 30 years of experience, including eight years at Oak Hill Country Club in Rochester and nine at Fox Chapel Golf Club in Pittsburgh.

AURORA, Colo. — The city of Aurora Golf Division has named **Mike Osley** as the head superintendent of the Murphy Creek Course,



Mike Osley

which is scheduled to begin construction this summer.

Osley has 7-1/2 years experience as a superintendent in Tallahassee, Fla.

Designed by Ken Kavanaugh, Murphy Creek will be an 18-

hole prairie links-style course with wide corridors and rolling terrain.

Earthworm 'fix'

Continued from previous page

may stop short on worm-softened fairways, and golf balls may be muddied where they land. Mower blades are dulled, and mowers return to the maintenance complex caked with mud.

Over the past decade, my research team ran several multiyear field tests to evaluate the effects of turfgrass pesticides on earthworms.

My original intent was to help turf managers avoid killing earthworms, but I've since learned there are two sides to this issue. Indeed, most of the interest in our earthworm research has been from superintendents who were more concerned with suppressing earthworms. Here are some options for managing this problem:

Strictly speaking, turf managers in the United States cannot apply pesticides for earthworm control because no chemicals are labeled for such use. However, several products will kill a portion of the earthworms as a non-target effect when they are applied for control of insects or diseases listed on their labels.

According to our research, the insecticides bendiocarb (Turcam), carbaryl (Sevin), ethoprop (Mocap), or fonofos (Crusade) are toxic to earthworms. Any of these products, applied at rates labeled for grub control and watered in (1/2 to 1 inch of irrigation), generally will give an 85- to 95-percent reduction of earthworms.

The fungicide thiophanate-methyl (Cleary's 3336) provided similar suppression. The impact is greatest if the application occurs when the soil is moist and the earthworms are active near the surface.

One application often will reduce casting activity for 2 months or longer, not from residual toxicity, but because the earthworms are slow to reproduce or recolonize treated areas.

In England, carbaryl (Twister), and the fungicides carbendazim (Turfclear) and gamma HCH and thiophanate-methyl (CastAway Plus) are registered for "control of earthworm casts."

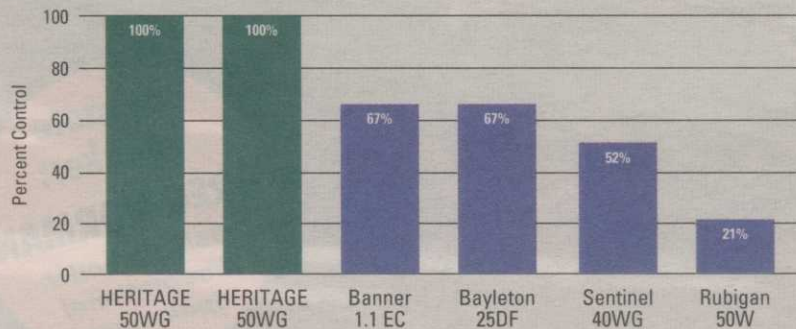
These products are not labeled for worm control in the United States. Availability and registration of products in other countries varies.

Most earthworm species are intolerant of acidic soils. Application of aluminum sulfate or sulfur to lower the soil pH to 5.8 or less may reduce their population.

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Summer Patch (*Magnaporthe poae*) on Kentucky Bluegrass

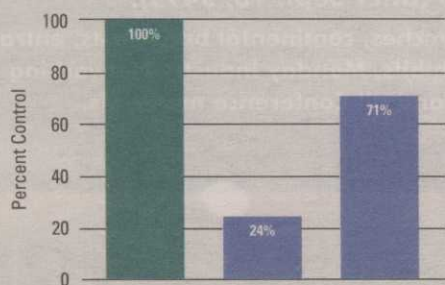


	HERITAGE 50WG	HERITAGE 50WG	Banner 1.1 EC	Bayleton 25DF	Sentinel 40WG	Rubigan 50W
Oz./1,000 sq. ft.	0.4	0.2	4.0	4.0	0.33	0.75
Number of Applications	3	4	3	3	3	3
Application Interval (days)	28	14	28	28	28	28
Final Reading	19 DAA 3	33 DAA 4	19 DAA 3	19 DAA 3	19 DAA 3	19 DAA 3

Dr. Bruce Clarke, Cooke College, Rutgers University, 1994

US 66-94-P362

Pythium Blight (*Pythium aphanidermatum*) on Perennial Ryegrass



	HERITAGE 50WG	Fore 80WP + Subdue 2E + Allette 80WDG	DAPONIL Zn 40.4% +
Oz./1,000 sq. ft.	0.4	4.0* 2.0**	6.0† 4.0††
Number of Applications	4	3	4
Application Interval (days)	14	21	14

Dr. John Watkins, University of Nebraska, 1996

USNP-96-P030

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