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NOVEMBER 2004

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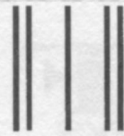
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## Physiological response of turfgrass to mowing

**M**ark Howieson is in the third year of his doctorate work, which is funded primarily by a grant from The Toro Co. The objective of his work is to study the physiological response of grasses to mowing. He's studying such physiological responses as carbohydrate metabolism and the activity of antioxidant enzymes. During 2004, his work has centered on creeping bentgrass and its response to treatments such as double cutting, mower sharpness and mower setting. His work is conducted in the field and in the greenhouse.

The wounding of grass by mowing and other physical damage results in highly active reactive oxygen molecules that can dam-

age the plants cells and affect the plants ability to form carbohydrates, lipids, and other plant chemicals required for proper growth and development. Plants have natural enzymatic systems to remove these reactive oxygen molecules and protect the plant from damage. Howieson's work is designed to study the protective response in creeping bentgrass.

Howieson also is conducting an extensive field trial at Cold Water Creek Golf Course in Ames, Iowa, about the physiological response of creeping bentgrass to mowing with equipment that has been sharpened with different types of reel sharpening equipment.

Howieson plans to complete his work by July of 2005.



Photo: Iowa State University

Mark Howieson's work has focused on creeping bentgrass' reaction to mowing.

### SOURCE

Nick Christians, university professor in the horticulture department at Iowa State University, provides updates on five of the major projects under his direction in which graduate students are involved. Each of these relate closely to golf course management and deal with current issues of importance to golf industry.

### MORE INFORMATION

More complete information about turfgrass research at ISU can be found at <http://turfgrass.hort.iastate.edu/>.

## Optical sensing identifies moisture, nutritional stress on greens, fairways



Jason Kruse uses optical sensing to identify moisture and stress in turfgrass.

**J**ason Kruse is in the final year of his doctorate work about remote sensing. This work also is being conducted with funding primarily from Toro.

The overall objective of the work is to use optical sensing techniques to identify moisture and nutritional stresses in grass before it's observed with the naked eye. The specific objectives are to: 1) evaluate various indices reported in the literature as tools for identifying moisture and nutrient stressed turf; 2) develop new indices to be used in detection of moisture and nutrient deficiencies; and 3) determine differences in spectral response of creeping bentgrass, Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass.

The remote sensing equipment used to collect the data was a field portable fiber-

optic spectrometer fitted with 30-degree, field-of-view optics. The tip of the fiber-optic cable is mounted inside a plastic hood that contains two 12-volt halogen lights. Kruse has collected extensive data during a two-year period about moisture stress from perennial ryegrass fairways at Veenker Memorial Golf Course in Ames, Iowa.

He also has data about creeping bentgrass that was treated with varying rates of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium in separate studies. He's currently analyzing the data using indices that were previously reported in the literature and a new mathematical index that he's developing with help of the ISU departments of statistics and mathematics.

Kruse hopes to complete the work by December 2004.

## Cation ratios, soil testing for sand-based greens

**R**odney St. John is in the third year of his doctorate studies. He's studying the unique soil conditions that exist in sand-based media such as that found in many golf course greens. His work is supported by a grant from the U.S. Golf Association.

The specific objectives of his work are: 1) to evaluate and correlate several existing soil extraction methods with tissue analysis to determine which type of extractant is best for sand based turfgrass systems; 2) to modify, if necessary, existing extraction methods to

better suit turfgrass soil types; 3) to better understand how the basic cation saturation ratio theory and Ca/Mg/K ratios apply to turfgrass systems; and 4) to improve current recommendations for Ca/Mg/K fertilization of turfgrass.

St. John's work during 2004 has been the establishment of proper techniques for the modification of cation ratios in sand media. He's also concentrating on evaluating soil test extractants for use in sand-based systems.

His goal is to complete the work in 2005.



Photo: Iowa State University

Rodney St. John is studying unique soil conditions in sand-based greens.

## Methods of establishing Roundup Ready creeping bentgrass on greens, fairways

Luke Dant is in the second year of his master of science work. The objective of Dant's work is to study methods for the establishment of Roundup Ready creeping bentgrass on golf courses. The work is funded by grants from O.M. Scotts.

Roundup Ready creeping bentgrass contains a gene that provides the plants with tolerance to the non-selective herbicide Roundup (glyphosate). Roundup kills most weeds that infest creeping bentgrass turf, including *Poa annua*, a weed for which there are no other effective selective controls.

Dant has conducted a series of studies about the conversion of conventional creeping bentgrass greens and tees, bluegrass fairways, and perennial ryegrass fairways to Roundup Ready bentgrass. He also has conducted studies evaluating various types of equipment for the renovation of creeping bentgrass greens and on the timing and rate of seeding for conversion.

Dant will complete his work in the spring of 2004.



Luke Dant is studying the conversion of conventional creeping bentgrass to Roundup Ready bentgrass.

Photo: Iowa State University

## Removal of creeping bentgrass from Kentucky bluegrass roughs

Creeping bentgrass has become popular as a fairway species in the Midwest during recent years. The roughs on these

courses are generally Kentucky bluegrass. The contamination of the bluegrass roughs by the bentgrass from the fairways has

grown to become a common problem. There are few herbicides that can remove a cool-season grass from a cool-season grass selectively.

Marcus A. Jones is in the first year of his master of science program and is working on this problem.

The objectives of his works are: 1) to determine the best time of application that provides for selective post-emergence control of creeping bentgrass in Kentucky bluegrass; 2) to determine the rate of application for selective post-emergence control of creeping bentgrass in Kentucky bluegrass; and 3) observe any detrimental effects to the Kentucky bluegrass from the herbicide applications.

Presently, Jones is concentrating on mesotrione, a herbicide from Syngenta that appears to have significant activity on the creeping bentgrass without doing serious damage to the Kentucky bluegrass.

Jones will complete his work in December 2005. GCN



Marcus Jones is studying the contamination of bluegrass roughs by bentgrass from fairways.

Photo: Iowa State University



# THE GLOVES ARE OFF.

Because of activists, extremists and misinformed politicians, consumers are questioning whether the products and resources (such as water) used to care for their lawns, landscapes and other green spaces are a waste—or a harm to the environment. Yes, legislation and regulations have been throwing the green industry some rough punches. And we're about to start fighting back.

Project EverGreen is an alliance of green industry associations, companies and professionals dedicated to educate the public, protect the green industry and grow our business. It was created in response to unfavorable regulations in many parts of the United States and Canada. If the services our industry professionals offer are restricted, regulated or made illegal, everyone will lose revenue and customers.

Help Project EverGreen educate consumers on the environmental, economic and lifestyle benefits of green spaces. To make a contribution, volunteer your time or find out more information, call **1-877-758-4835** or visit **[www.projectevergreen.com](http://www.projectevergreen.com)**.



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*Aquatrols*

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### Groom Master II bunker groomer

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- Power steering and 3-wheel-drive traction
- Low-profile tires improve stability and control
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*Jacobsen*

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- Can be applied as a broadcast application or a mound treatment
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*DuPont Professional Products*

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### Outdoor water cooler

- Available with a 220- to 240-volt/60 hertz option
- Can tap into 220-volt irrigation wiring when supplying power to the unit
- Available in a free-standing or wall-mounted unit
- Underwriters Laboratories listed for outdoor service
- Comes with stainless-steel finish, vandal-resistant bubbler and frost-resistant option

*Halsey Taylor*

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### Landscaper

- Reclaims land, forms and maintains drainage ditches, spreads rocks and gravel, removes snow
- Features 6-inch-high carbon steel cutting edge with hubs/bearings that are interchangeable with company's standard wagon
- Has 3-inch lift cylinder, 15-inch standard rims and a tongue constructed of square tubular steel
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*Westendorf Mfg. Co.*

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### Valhalla floating fountain aerator

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- Underwriters Laboratories listed

*AquaMaster Fountain and Aerators*  
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### Aqua Series fractional aerator

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*Otterbine Barebo*  
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### Lily display aerator

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*Aqua Control*  
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### Pyramid fountains

- Ideal for ponds as big as 2 acres
- Available from ½ hp to 2 hp
- Stainless-steel motor shaft prevents corrosion
- Comes with 50- or 100-foot oil-resistant power cords
- Easy one-person installation

*Pyramid Technologies Industrial*  
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### Decorative fountains, aerators

- Enhances water quality and aesthetics of ponds, lakes and shallow reflection pools
- Commercial floating aerators are available with 1-hp to 3-hp motors
- Designed to establish continual pond turnover, introduce oxygen to water appropriately and in the proper quantity, eliminate or prevent algae growth, and control insect infestation
- Fountain packages include one of eight different nozzle spray patterns, 100 feet of cord, a propeller guard, a control panel with a time clock and a three-year limited warranty
- Fountains are available in ½-hp to 5-hp models

*Air-O-Lator Corp.*  
Circle 209 on reader service form



### Dual propeller fountain with lighting accent

- FD1000DP model
- 1-hp unit is available in 110 or 220 volt, 50/60 cycle
- Comes with 100 feet of power cord
- Produces more than 1,200 gallons of aerated water flow per minute
- Each lighting accent comes assembled on a black float with four 20-watt clear lights, a built-in timer and four lenses in each color (blue, green amber and red)

*The Power House*  
Circle 210 on reader service form

### Electric Workman e2050

- Based on the Workman mid-duty 1100/2100/2110 platform
- Regenerative braking provides efficient operation
- Fuel gauge displays current level of battery power; when the battery levels become significantly low, the unit limits top speed and acceleration, alerting the operator to find a charging location
- Includes several safety features, such as a plug detector that stops the unit from operating when plugged in for recharging
- Run-away-protection indicator applies brake and sounds off if unit rolls down hill without the operator depressing the accelerator
- Supervisor switch controls maximum speed employees can drive

*The Toro Co.*

Circle 211 on reader service form



### Gator TX Turf

- Four new models: Gator TS, Gator TX, Gator TX Turf and Gator TH 6x4
- More powerful than the previous Gators; improved braking capabilities, increased payload and enhanced operator comfort
- 13-hp/401-cc Kawasaki FJ400 engine
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*John Deere*

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### Antonio Carraro TigreCar 7700

- Short wheelbase; 4-wheel drive
- 64-hp turbo diesel engine
- Actio suspension
- Gearbox provides 16 speeds – eight forward and eight reverse
- Large turf tires keep ground compaction to a minimum even when fully loaded
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*Redexim Charterhouse*

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### Carryall 294 4x4

- IntelliTrak system delivers automatic 4x4
- Senses driving conditions and automatically engages and disengages 4-wheel drive without the driver having to stop and shift gears or lock differentials
- Available with a 20-hp, 614-cc Honda gas engine or a 20-hp, 719-cc Kubota diesel-powered engine
- No levers, buttons or switches for 4x4 engagement, front/rear differential lock or high-low range
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*Club Car*

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# Attracting kids with golf to better their education

**T**wenty years ago, Jay Miller was vacationing with his wife, Barbara, in Hawaii, and she told him to write down what he would do if he had all the money in the world.

"I said I would try and help as many kids as possible by hooking them on golf," Miller says. "I put my plan in my desk, and it ended up in there for 13 years."

Miller is co-founder, president and c.e.o. of the privately operated Get a Grip Foundation, which was founded in 2000.

Miller is a golf aficionado. He started playing the game at age five, worked at a golf course when he was 11, was a high school all-American and went to Purdue University on a golf scholarship. He then tried to play on the PGA Tour, but failed. Eventually, he opened his own business of promotions, sales, marketing and fund raising.

"I did well because of golf," he says. "Back then (during the early to mid-1980s), the martini lunch was still in vogue. A lot of golf was played. I played 92 rounds of entertainment golf a year."

Shortly after Miller's father died on his 40th birthday in 1999, he was playing golf with friend Bob Hoff, who asked Miller the same question his wife asked when they were in Hawaii. Miller told Hoff about his program, which he called "Tee It High." It was renamed Get a Grip because Tee It High was taken already.

Miller and Hoff raised \$2.5 million to start the foundation. Then Miller and his wife sold their small business; he became c.e.o. and ran the foundation. Hoff became the chairman.

"My job was to write a blueprint, find a location and raise the money," Miller says. "We raised several million dollars, but didn't have a course. It took me one year to find the course, and I almost gave up finding it. A real-estate guy showed me a course that I couldn't afford, but the owner of the course directed me toward one that fit what I was looking for. It was a crummy course, but I bought the

leasehold on it for 35 years.

"The first thing I did was move 300,000 yards of cubic dirt," he adds. "I hired Superior Golf, but I had no design plans. I sat on a bulldozer with a guy and told him to form fairways the way I wanted. I never had to touch one green. Ted Horton (a California-based consultant) helped me oversee with *Poa annua* and aerated the greens an awful lot.

"When we finish redesigning the course, we did 3,000 more rounds - 39,000 - than the year before. In 2002, we did 42,500 rounds, and in 2003, we did 45,500 rounds. This year, we're on track for 47,000 rounds."

Miller says the course has a slope rating of 123, has six easy holes, six fun holes and six holes tougher than Chinese arithmetic.

Miller and his wife have owned the daily-fee Cresta Verde Golf Club in Corona, Calif., since Feb. 11, 2002, and the Get a Grip Foundation started to operate there March 1, 2002.

"For the foundation to be categorized as non-profit, we had to raise eight times the gross revenue of the golf course," Miller says. "In 2003, the course grossed 1.7 million, so we needed to raise 13.6 million."

The foundation's beginning seemed grim because only eight children showed up when the doors opened. But things got better quickly.

"We got up to 42 kids in two

months," Miller says. "And then 156 kids enrolled after a newspaper article about the foundation. Now,



For every hour of golf they play, kids in the program are required to spend 20 minutes in the learning center.

there are 525 kids in the program, but that number fluctuates yearly."

There is no monetary cost for parents and kids to participate in the program. The kids, age 7 to 18, receive 70 minutes of PGA instructions a week, a range pass and all the balls they want.

"The kids get to play the course after 10:30 for \$1, and they get all the practice time they want," Miller says.

The foundation continues to grow. A practice center opens in late November this year and a tutoring center is expected to open in the spring of 2005.

"There is education every day, and kids do homework with certified teachers and accredited tutors," Miller says. "For every hour on the

golf course, the kids owe us 20 minutes in the learning center. Golf is our hook, education is our mission.

We're not trying to produce the likes of Tiger Woods."

Miller says his foundation, which has a mandatory life skills program and a voluntary bible study, helps kids stay out of trouble, which is what can happen when they get bored.

"The kids were on the golf course property 39,000 hours during 2003 - that's 39,000 hours off the street - and hit over 478,000 range balls. In 2004, we're

projecting them to be on the course property 47,000 hours."

There were 1,750 rounds played at Cresta Verde in 2003, and there's more than 2,000 projected this year. Equipment for the kids is donated by Roger Dunn Golf Shops. Titleist and Taylor Made also donate clubs.

The foundation, which has a budget of \$400,000 on which to operate, has four junior tournaments a year that cost the kids nothing. Miller sees the tournaments as building a base of loyal customers. A large part of the fund raising is The Esteban Toledo PGA Tour Pro-Am. Toledo is the ambassador for Get a Grip.

"We now have 150 parents that play golf because of their kids," he says. "That's \$20,000 in potential revenue a year."

Miller also says kids return as adults to play the course to give back what they've received from the foundation.

"I'm building my own base of loyal golfers instead of participating in the golf discount wars," he says.

Miller wants to grow the program to 1,000 kids by the end of next year.

The foundation can be summed up by the two tag lines it has: "Making golf and education accessible to all children" and "Bringing golf back to the people starting with an owner who cares." For more information, visit [www.getagripfoundation.org](http://www.getagripfoundation.org), GCN



With the help from Superior Golf, Jay Miller, founder of the Get a Grip Foundation, redesigned the Cresta Verde Golf Club.