



# Turfgrass Talk Show Spotlights Wetting Agents



Who needs Leno, Letterman or Conan when you have Nikolai? BY MARTY WHITFORD, EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

**W**etting agents have earned their place in the golf market, according to the GC-SAA's Turfgrass Talk Show at the GIS.

Hosted by Thomas Nikolai, Ph.D., a turfgrass academic specialist with Michigan State University, the Turfgrass Talk Show on wetting agents embodied "infotainment."

Although guests of the Turfgrass Talk Show varied in their use and support of wetting agents, all agreed it's more a question of when, where, how and how often to use the solutions.

Guests of GCSAA's Turfgrass Talk Show on wetting agents included:

- ▶ **Rodney Tocco Jr.**, a research assistant and doctoral student at Michigan State University;

- ▶ **Douglas Karcher**, an associate professor in the Department of Horticulture at the University of Arkansas;

- ▶ **Matthew Taylor**, CGCS, director of golf for the Royal Poinciana Golf Club; and

- ▶ **Michael Morris**, CGCS, a golf course superintendent with the Crystal Downs Country Club.

**Turfgrass Talk Show participants from left to right: Thomas Nikolai, Ph.D., Rodney Tocco Jr., Douglas Karcher, Matthew Taylor, CGCS and Michael Morris, CGCS.**

Naples, Fla.

Taylor said wetting agents help golf course superintendents combat localized dry spots and deal with drought conditions and related water-use restrictions.

Morris agreed, noting he is somewhat skeptical of *some* of the water- and money-savings claims made by some wetting agent manufacturers.

"On greens, wetting agents serve as a bridge between waxy sand coatings and water — improving water droplet penetration," Karcher notes.

Tocco and Karcher agreed that several applications of a wetting agent can help control localized dry spots and enhance soil moisture levels.

"Wetting agents clearly are one of the many tools we have to enhance turf quality," Nikolai concluded. ■

"I haven't bought into the need for a full-blown wetting agent program yet, but we do use wetting agents on our greens during certain times of the year," said Taylor, who oversees 36 holes in



**George and Scott Kinkead are all smiles with Turfco's new 40-inch TriWave Overseeder.**

Overseeder with resounding success," says Scott Kinkead, Turfco's executive vice president. "Frankly, it was like pulling teeth to get some of the supers to part ways with the new machine — but that's a good thing." ■

## Seed with Speed

Turfco unveils new 40-inch seeder designed for golf course greens and spot seeding on the links.

The Turfco TriWave 40-inch Overseeder features a dynamic design duo — 1 1/2-inch seed spacing and two independent floating heads. The design combination enhances germination by empowering the TriWave to closely follow contours of all types of course terrain for consistent seed depth.

"The TriWave's patent-pending floating heads ensure superintendents don't miss low spots or destroy high spots or unmarked sprinkler heads," said Turfco President George Kinkead.

The seeder's WaveBlade technology — counter rotating blades twirling at 900 revolutions per minute — creates clean, optimal slit widths for improved seed-

to-soil contact and keeps turf disruption to a minimum. The TriWave's delivery system places seed directly into the slit, reducing waste and further boosting germination.

"Nearly 20 golf courses tested our 40-inch TriWave