

My buddy recently welcomed his third son to the world. “That completes the foursome,” Steve proudly announced shortly after the birth of bouncing Brady. He envisioned his three boys and himself teeing it up someday soon on a breezy, sunny Sunday afternoon.

Steve also has a daughter, 7, who’s his oldest child. But five is a crowd in a foursome. Besides, Steve figures his daughter, Shannon, would rather stay at home with Mom and play with her “Winnie the Pooh and Tigger, Too” dolls.

But what makes Steve so sure that his daughter wouldn’t rather hit the links and pretend she’s “Tigger” Woods? The National Golf Course Owners Association wants to know.

That’s why NGCOA has instituted April 24-28 as “Take Your Daughter to the Course Week” to coincide with “Take Your Daughter to Work Day” on April 27. NGCOA wants to get more girls interested in golf.

“While there are many unique and effective junior golf programs in the market, the majority of participants in these programs are boys,” says Mike Hughes, NGCOA’s executive director. “Although 22 percent of all golfers are female, only 13 percent of junior golfers are girls.”

As NGCOA’s director of the Get Linked/Play Golf promotional program, Anne Lyndrup is striving for golf to be viewed as an inclusive sport. “It’s not just for the good-old boys and their male children,” she says.

That includes Steve and his boys.

“We’re going after people like him,” Lyndrup adds. “We’re going after people who think golf is for middle-aged white men of a certain economic range — because the game is going to die if we think like that.”

But what makes Lyndrup so sure that girls, whether 7 or 17, will enjoy golf? She admits it will be a challenge. The objective is to get girls to believe that golf can accommodate them.

“As long as they’re not told they can’t do it, then they’ll do it,” Lyndrup says. “We’re pushing the message that golf needs to be fun.”

NGCOA sent marketing kits to its member courses at the end of February. The kits contained press releases for the courses to send to local media advising them of Take Your Daugh-

Time to Take Your Daughter Golfing

BY LARRY AYLWARD



THE OBJECTIVE IS
TO GET GIRLS
TO BELIEVE
THAT GOLF CAN
ACCOMMODATE
THEM

ter to the Course Week. “We’ll do what we can on the national level, but our members need to promote what they’re offering on a local level,” Lyndrup says.

That could be a free round of golf for girls ages 7 to 17 if they’re accompanied by a parent. Or it could include free instruction clinics or a complimentary hour on the driving range.

“Some courses are talking about putting together a nine-hole parent/daughter scramble to make the experience quick, easy and fun,” Lyndrup adds.

Take Your Daughter to the Course Week is about more than teaching girls how to play and enjoy golf. Lyndrup urges superintendents to conduct short seminars to teach the girls how to respect and maintain golf courses.

“That should be a part of any beginners’ clinic,” Lyndrup says. “We’re stressing that young people — girls and boys — understand that caring for the golf course is an intrinsic part of the game. They need to know you’re suppose to repair divots.”

The short-range goal of NGCOA’s initiative is to get more young girls interested in golf. The long-range goal is to produce more women golfers.

“Any sport you take up as a child, you’re going to play as an adult,” Lyndrup says. “There’s no better way to develop players than to start them playing young. If they feel the golf course is a fun place to be, then they’ll want to come back.”

I will alert Steve to Take Your Daughter to the Course Week. And maybe, 10 years from now, she’ll be teaching her little brothers and her dad a few things about driving for accuracy and pitching on to a green from 50 yards out.

Larry Aylward, managing editor of Golfdom, can be reached at 440-891-2770 or l aylward@advanstar.com.

Case Study

■ MAINTENANCE

Honk If You Hate Geese

When screamers didn't work and dogs proved too expensive, Sweetbriar GC turned to an innovative sprayable repellent to keep geese off the course

BY FRANK H. ANDORKA JR.,
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



FLIGHT CONTROL

Problem

Geese left their smelly droppings on the course, causing an odor problem as well as creating a new "hazard" for golfers to avoid.

Solution

Spray **Flight Control** on high-traffic geese areas to confuse them into leaving the course.

Superintendent Bill Prest's course, Sweetbriar GC, is located a mere five-minute drive from the south shore of Lake Erie in Avon Lake, Ohio. It's lovely if Prest wants to eat his lunch by the beach, but it's also in the flight path of Canadian geese.

Each spring, a pesky group of 100 or so geese settle on his course, and Prest devotes a lot of time to chasing them off. While Prest's geese problem is not enormous, it's still urgent, since the geese will pair up to nest if they aren't forced off the course.

"Geese don't forget where they've come from once they've nested in a place," he says. "It's imperative for us to make sure we remove them from the course before they get comfortable."

The problem

The first year the geese landed on his course, Prest used screamers to control them. That worked for a while, but Prest says geese learned to avoid the noise.

"When they saw our cars pulling up, they would fly away," Prest says. "That solves the problem temporarily, of course, but as soon as the cars leave, they come back. We didn't even shoot the screamers off because the geese discovered a way to avoid them."

Prest investigated using a dog, but he discovered dogs were expensive both to purchase and maintain. With his small goose population, he decided it wouldn't be a smart investment.

So Prest agreed to become a test course for Flight Control, a new sprayable goose repellent that confuses the geese by making it

These nasty, noisy little feces factories are the bane of many a course.

appear that grass treated with the substance looks as if it's not edible. Flight Control absorbs ultraviolet light and sends a visual warning to geese that something is wrong with their food supply, according to the company. If geese eat treated turf, they experience a harmless — though effective — digestive irritation that reinforces the message.

Without a viable food source, geese choose to leave, says Ken Ballinger, president of Environmental Biocontrols, the Wilmington, Del.-based company that manufactures and markets Flight Control.

"The object is to make your course a place where geese don't want to be," Ballinger says.

If geese don't see a viable food source, they will not breed in the area, Ballinger says. Goslings need food immediately upon hatching, and geese are extremely protective of their young.

"I've been out on courses shortly after Flight Control has been sprayed, and I've had adult geese come after me because they sense I've had something to do with making the course unlivable," Ballinger says. "Frankly, I was surprised at the violence of their reaction."

The solution

Ballinger says the key to Flight Control's success hinges on a superintendent knowing where the geese congregate on a course. On average, superintendents should only have to spray the substance four times a year on about four acres of their course. Flight Control costs about \$200 per gallon, depending on the distributor. That may sound pricey, but the application rate is only a half gallon per acre. Its effects usually last four weeks.

"One superintendent told me he was going to put it through his irrigation system and I dropped the phone," Ballinger says. "I begged him not to do it. It's designed to be used on small areas of the course where the geese are most prevalent."

In case a superintendent isn't sure which areas need to be sprayed the most, Ballinger says his distributors undergo training on those issues and are willing to survey a course with the superintendent so they can work out an effective treatment plan.

Ballinger says the final results on his product's effectiveness aren't in yet, but initial results have been encouraging. Flight Control received its initial label for from the Environmental Protection Agency in December 1998 for geese control, and the company is seeking a supplemental label concerning other bird control as well.

It's true that Flight Control gradually disappears as superintendents

mow, but EBI is researching what products mix with Flight Control to keep it around longer. Ballinger says the company is also testing different rates.

Prest says he sprays Flight Control once in the spring and once in the fall, and has been pleased with the re-

sults. He sprays Flight Control in 20-foot to 25-foot bands around his ponds and creeks and it does an effective job of keeping the geese away from the water. He also sprays it near tees and greens where geese are a problem. He's anxious to continue being a test course for EBI. ■

The Word is Spreading

FAST

Coast to Coast, Superintendents are Enhancing the Performance of Pesticides with



ORGANOSILICONE SPREADER ADJUVANT
DEW CONTROL AGENT

Reduce the surface tension of spray solutions and improve the coverage of foliar applied pesticides.

Water Droplet



Conventional
Surfactant



- Maximize Spreading of Spray Solutions
- Increase Rainfastness
- Control Dew for 5 - 7 days

from the the makers of:

AQUATROLS

5 North Olney Ave.
Cherry Hill NJ 08003
856-751-0309 800-257-7797
Fax: 856-751-3859
www.aquatrols.com






Grass From the Past

Bandon Dunes borrowed a bit of history
with its focus on fescues

BY LARRY KASSELL

As golfers step onto Bandon Dunes in Bandon, Ore., history overwhelms them. The course's design calls to mind the links courses along the Scotland shore.

If Bandon Dunes seems as if it has always existed, then Scotsman David McLay Kidd, the course's architect, achieved his goal. The fine fescue grass Kidd chose for the course add to that sense. But he didn't choose the grass alone.

Superintendent Troy Russell worked for a seed company prior to becoming the superintendent at Bandon Dunes. The experience allowed him to specify fine fescue mixtures planted in turf trials at the course with the help of Jimmy Kidd, director of turfgrass maintenance for Gleneagles' three courses in Scotland; Eric Nelson, formerly with Jacklin Seed Co. and now with Scotts Co.; and Tom Cook, an associate professor in the turfgrass program at Oregon State University. Between them, they arrived at a mixture of

slender creeper, Chewings type and hard fescue selected for use on the course's seeded areas.

"This is a magnificent piece of ground," Russell says. "The fact that I grew up a few miles away makes coming to Bandon and its sandy dunes extra special for me. Since I'm a native Oregonian, it was important to me that the seed was also grown in Oregon."

The same fine fescue mixture is cut at varied heights around the course. Deep roughs grow long, seed and turn golden. Intermediate roughs are cut at 1 1/2 inches. Long roughs were seeded at 100 pounds per acre, while short roughs were seeded at 6 pounds per 1,000 square feet.

Tees, fairways and greens are 80 percent fine fescues mixed with 20 percent colonial bentgrass for a tight-knit, sand-stabilizing surface. The fine fescue/colonial bent mix was seeded at 8 pounds per 1,000 square feet on greens, and 6 pounds per 1,000 square feet on fairways and tees.

Tees are cut at three-eighths of an inch, fairways are nine-sixteenths, and greens are cut at three-sixteenths.

"The fine fescues add more than the Scottish links look and feel to Bandon Dunes," Russell says. "When certain diseases occur, as often happen with young bentgrass, fine fescues survive to fill in the trouble spots."

Russell says his crew takes particular care when mowing the fescue grasses. The crew walk-mows the greens, tees,

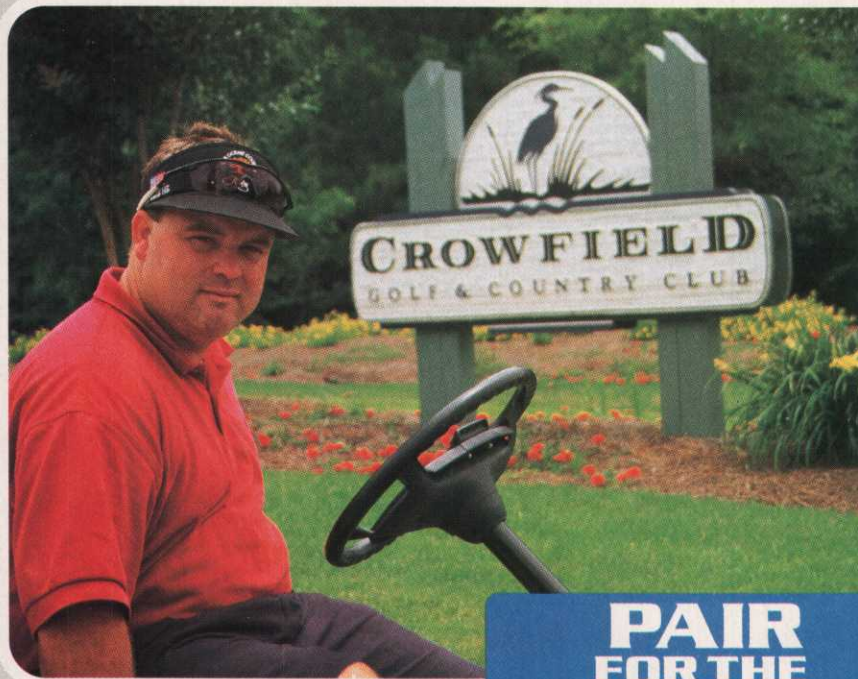
Continued on page 76



Fine fescues add more than the Scottish links look and feel to Bandon Dunes. When certain diseases occur, as often happen with young bentgrass, fine fescues survive to fill in the trouble spots.

LARRY KASSELL

OVERSEEDING? READ ON...



'Awesome Results' with Focus...

"FOCUS™ Biostimulant did an awesome job for us this past season on our fall-overseeded greens and fairways. The rapid stand establishment and excellent winter color of our triple-blend of *Poa trivialis* brought lots of favorable comments.

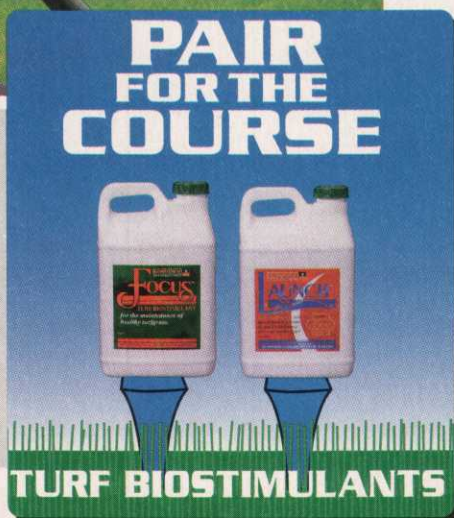
We have continued to apply Focus to our greens, with exceptional improvements in our bermudagrasses (419 and Champion), especially in rootmass development. Also, you know your grass is loaded with chlorophyll when your mowers come in with green juice dripping off the bedknives!"

*Bart Miller, GCS
Crowfield Golf & Country Club
Goose Creek (Greater Charleston) SC*

ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW LABEL DIRECTIONS.

G pbi/gordon
corporation
An Employee-Owned Company

Questions? Let's talk:
1-800-821-7925
www.pbigordon.com

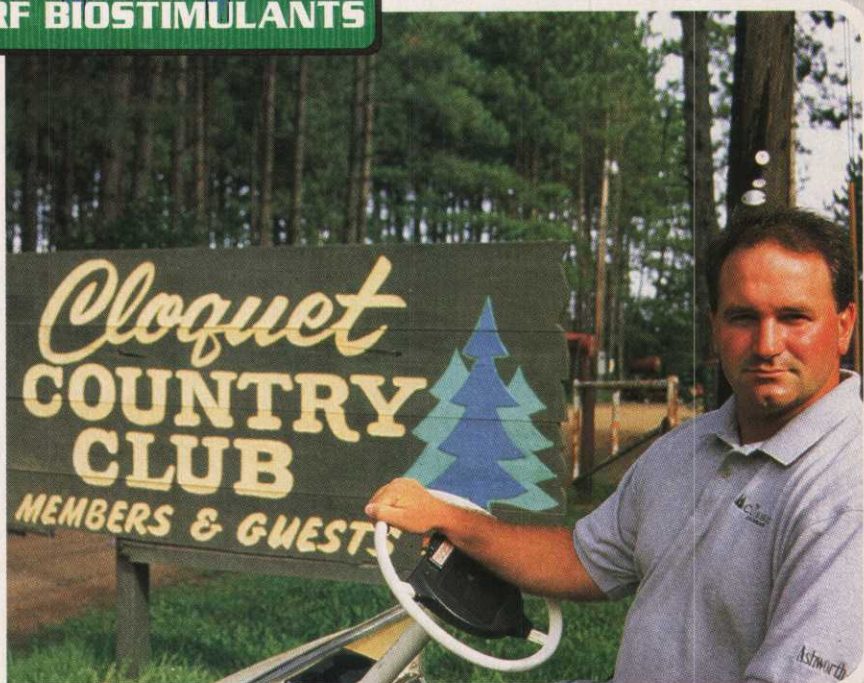


'Miracle Worker' (Launch, that is)...

"LAUNCH™ Biostimulant is a miracle worker, in my opinion. A severe ice storm hit Cloquet in February, 1997. When I started here in March of last year it was still a mess. The No. 2 green didn't have a blade of grass left and No. 1 was almost as bad.

When we seeded these greens (partially sodding the shadiest area of one), we figured it would be mid-July or August before the new Pennncross could be played. But, thanks to Launch, we were putting on them by the first of June!"

*Jud Crist, GCS
Cloquet Country Club
Cloquet, MN*



Grass From the Past

Continued from page 74

and greenside bunkers. Lightweight triplexes are used as fairway and trim mowers because of their quality of cut and minimal impact on turf. Closely cropped approaches are important to the game plan here.

"Our greens are firm and resist spin, so it's advisable to bump-and-run when the pin's placed forward," Russell says.

The low maintenance fine fescues require no special treatment.

"It's a dream to work with — less water, less fertilizer and less headache than other cool-season grasses," Russell adds. "It established quickly in our native sand course. No amendments were added to the sand — not even on the greens."

The course, which opened last May, needed little shaping because Kidd utilized the areas' dunes and extreme rough. The 40 acres of fairways are wide and the greens are large (averaging 8,300 square feet), but miss one of the ample targets and recovery could be from unmown mature fine fescue and extreme rough consisting of European beach grass, salal, common bermudagrass, native strawberries, huckleberry and gorse imported years ago from Bandon, Ireland.



Superintendent Troy Russell says fine fescues require no special attention.

There are no water hazards, but a right hander's duck hook on No. 6 could fly a 90-foot cliff and tumble to the sandy beach below. Shore pine is sparse, and doesn't impose on play, but 63 strategically placed pot bunkers — some of the sod wall type — can penalize errant shots.

Bandon Dunes has received accolades from golf publications as well as satisfied golfers.

"We've nearly doubled our projected rounds this year," Russell says. "The course draws people to the quaint town of Bandon. The positive response has encouraged the design and forthwith groundbreaking of a second course adjacent to this."

The second course will be designed by Tom Doak, also a proponent of fine fescue. Doak's first design was High Pointe, near Traverse City, Mich., and was one of the first all fine fescue courses in the United States.

"Bandon Dunes has everything Scottish links courses have — everything but the history," Russell says. "But we're earning that every day." ■

Kassell is a freelance writer from Silverton, Ore., in the heart of grass-seed growing country.

INFORM ♦ INTRODUCE ♦ INFLUENCE ♦ INSTRUCT

REPRINTS

Reprints of *Golfdom* articles, advertisements, news items or special announcements are available through Advanstar Marketing Services. Customized to meet your specific needs, reprints are highly effective when you use them to:

ARTICLES

NEWS ITEMS

ADVERTISEMENTS

♦ Develop direct-mail campaigns ♦ Provide product/service literature ♦ Create trade show distribution materials ♦ Present information at conferences and seminars

Extend your coverage to your website. Custom reprint packages include an E-Print of the same article to post on your website.

For immediate reprint assistance contact:

ADVANSTAR MARKETING SERVICES

MARCIE NAGY

1-800-225-4569 ext. 2744 • 440-891-2744

Fax: 440-891-2740

Email: mnagy@advanstar.com

Golfdom

Invented for people who think of
nothing else. Revolutionary new Scotts®
Premier Fairway™ Fertilizer.

Made to work in any climate, any time of year.

In Premier Fairway™ Fertilizer, Scotts® combines both new and proven technologies to establish a new threshold in consistent nutrient release. Exacting blends of new Extend™, exclusive Poly-S®, or time-proven IBDU technologies deliver the most accurate fertilizer release rate you can buy for

excellent initial greening with minimal surge and fewer clippings. Looking for the ultimate fairway fertilizer? This is the only one that should ever cross your mind. Contact your Scotts distributor today. Or call toll-free 1-800-543-0006.



Professional Turf Products
...The Scotts Difference®
www.scottscompany.com

Circle No. 158



The Icelandic term for computer is Tölva, which is a fusion of number (tala) and prophet (volva). Cool, you say, but what's the point? Well, Iceland currently ranks No. 1 in Internet connections per capita in the world simply because there's an Internet and a World Wide Web to connect to — and Icelanders love the innovation.

The Icelanders turned toward their number prophets and dialed up the world because a few interesting and forward-thinking Americans thought there should be a new way to communicate and share research documents. I guarantee no thoughts were on those programmers' minds about changing the world when they created those first Web pages. Now it's dot-com history, and Iceland is better for it.

It's not as crazy in our beloved agronomic world as it is in the silicon zone, but we have seen tremendous change in the last few years. I'm constantly being told that most superintendents have never before been asked to condition their facilities to such high levels. The pressure to keep up with the guy down the street and to conform with standards is overwhelming.

Yet, every local area has at least one superintendent who marches to his or her own drum while doing unbelievable things to the golf course and creating excellent playing conditions. You know this person. He or she is the one who always has a different twist, is working with something new or is reputed to be reinventing the wheel — again. Inside your secret office with your private thoughts, this person may even be you.

The people I'm talking about may not always show up at local meetings — but to be sure, when they make an appearance, they're usually willing to talk about the latest out-of-the-ordinary things they're working on. You may not understand the conversation, but you do know you've never quite heard it like that before.

Being different like this is a sport for some in a Jerry Springer shock-value kind of way. For others, however, it's a way to greatness.

But so many times turfgrass professionals are afraid to stray from the norm. It may be

Here's to Daring to Be Different

BY DAVE WILBER



GREATNESS AND
FAILURE ARE
CLOSER TOGETHER
THAN YOU MAY
THINK. TO SEEK ONE,
YOU HAVE TO DANCE
WITH THE OTHER.

that they feel more comfort in the status-quo crowd. It may be that they feel safety lies in going with the tried and true. But I have unfortunate news: Greatness and failure are closer together than you may think. To seek one, you have to dance with the other.

Innovation challenges us to be different and to seek the fine line between distinction and catastrophe. The innovators are poles apart, diverse and seeking answers to the specific problems they face.

A superintendent may share a crisis or a concern with me. The conversation usually leads down a road of trying all the usual and normal stuff. However, if we turn on to the more experimental road or discuss thinking outside the box, this becomes uncomfortable ground, untested by others.

But when that great personal Number Prophet on your shoulders gets put to good use, there's usually a valuable and different solution at hand that no one else may have ever dreamed. That's prominence. That's when the startling, outstanding discoveries are made.

In this time of high expectations, where we're asking the most of turfgrass professionals, the real challenge is in daring to be different — not trying to cut a new shadow in the same mold. The next time you have the possibility to go out of the usual and try something new, think of the Icelanders being changed by the Internet. Imagine that your bold, new idea evolves into something that can change an entire business. Believe it because it can happen.

So here's to weirdness, forward thinking and the daring to be different. A little Tölva can go a long way.

Dave Wilbur, a Sacramento, Calif.-based independent agronomist, can be reached at dave@soil.com. He won't be logging in from Iceland in the near future.

THE POWER OF ONE.

RAIN. SUN. RYAN.



For over 50 years, at least one has been predictable.



With all the variables that affect the condition of your turf, it's nice to know there's at least one bright spot. Since 1946, more turf professionals have depended on Ryan aeration equipment than any other brand. Ryan delivers superior hole quality, fewer maintenance hassles and long-lasting durability. To alleviate soil compaction, stimulate root growth, reduce thatch and improve the overall health of your turf, count on Ryan for predictable performance time after time. Call **1-888-922-TURF** or visit our web site at www.ttcsptextron.com for more information and the dealer nearest you.

RYAN

RYAN CUSHMAN JACOBSEN RANSOMES

ARY-0100 © 2000 Textron Turf Care And Specialty Products.

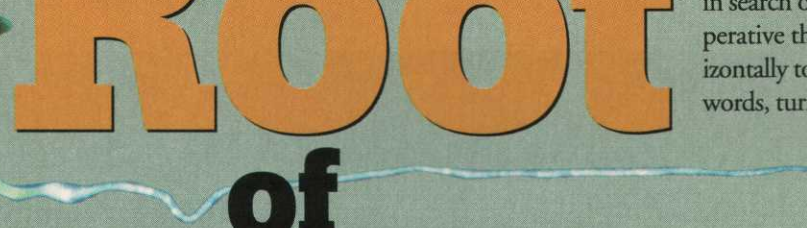


TEXTRON
TURF CARE AND SPECIALTY PRODUCTS

Circle No. 159

Scientists have tried for years to understand how plant roots grow downward. Now, MIT geneticists have isolated the gene responsible, suggesting the potential for new herbicides that will wipe out weeds without hurting the environment.

BY DOUGLAS PAGE



Getting to the Root of Weed Control

Science may be digging deeper to the root of the weed problem.

Geneticists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology recently isolated a plant gene that plays a critical role in the ability of roots to grow properly. Their ongoing research suggests that genetics could help scientists save time and money developing a new generation of more effective and safer herbicides.

Researchers at MIT's Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research located the gene (called Ethylene Insensitive Root 1, or EIR1) while working with a tiny weed, *Arabidopsis thaliana*. When this gene is removed from *A. thaliana* weeds, the mutant roots lose their ability to grow downward. Hence, the weeds perish.

"These findings provide important new insights into age-old mysteries about root growth," states Gerald R. Fink, a founding member and director of the Whitehead Institute.

The finding could eventually lead to herbicides designed to alter the gene.

Scientists have tried for more than 200 years to understand exactly how plants direct roots downward in search of the earth, at the same time sending their shoots upwards in search of the sun. So great is the plant's imperative that if a root is reoriented to lie horizontally to the surface of the earth — in other words, turned 90 degrees with respect to gravity — it responds by altering

its direction of growth, curving downward again until it finds its way into the earth.

Scientists have known that during root growth, the redistribution of a plant hormone called indole acetic acid (IAA) to the root tip is responsible for gravitropism,

the organism's reflex in response to gravity. When roots are oriented horizontally, IAA accumulates along the lower side of the elongating zone. Cells on the top part of the root