

Invested in nature's stewards, the...

Keepers of the Green

"Floratine made a believer out of me"

There are so many vendors out there pushing "quick fixes" that it breeds skepticism, so I had serious doubt about Floratine products performing as well as advertised.

However, after getting on a consistent program, the results were astonishing. Our greens recovered much faster from aerification and stress. Root depth dramatically increased. Leaf color was enhanced, and the greens were much healthier and uniform without excessive growth.

The Floratine approach is certainly more than just a good product. It is a system of testing to determine specific needs, application of great products, and personal involvement by Floratine.

While they may not be a cure all, I am firmly convinced that, along with a solid cultural program, the products can make greens healthier and jobs less stressful.

Floratine has made a believer out of me.

- Fred Theus, Superintendent
Ocean Forest Golf Club
Sea Island, GA (Walker Cup, 2001)




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Committed to her custodians, the Keepers of the Green.



Real-Life Solutions

Continued from page 60

Charlton said RTJ II International has used this simple system on a dozen projects with great success.

"We take the site's native hydric soils — those that stay wet most of the time — strip them and stockpile them for as short a time as possible," he says. "You create a depression, wetland, marsh or

linear hazard that you want to become a marsh, then put this hydric topsoil back down, about 1 foot deep. Typically, if you can do it within a month you're more successful, depending on how hardy the [transplanted] seeds in the soil are. The shorter the stockpile sits, the more active those seeds will be."

With that complete, Charlton, Jones



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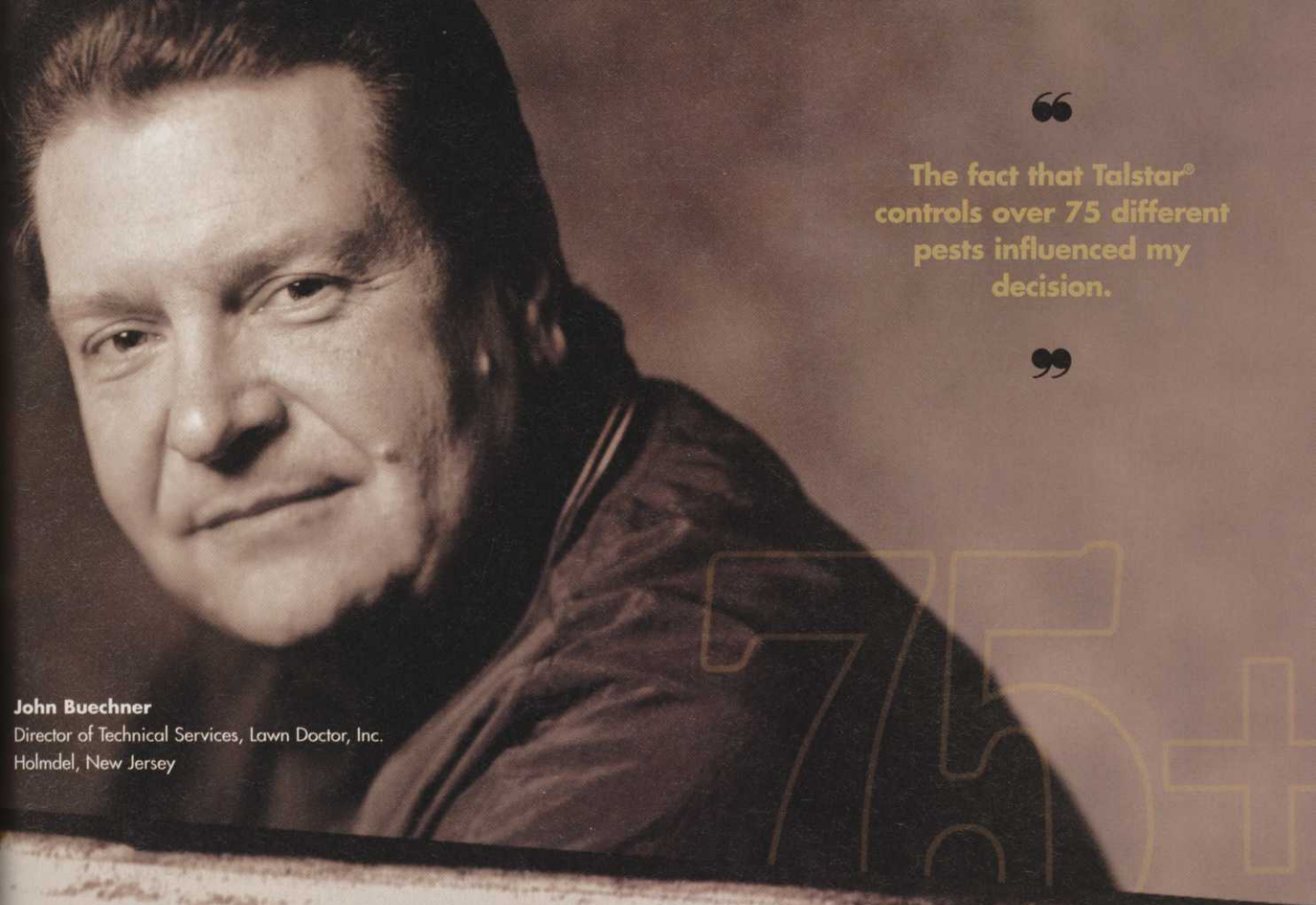
Engineer Murray Amirault and his company ASL Golf Course Construction filled the fairways, tees and greens to make playable high ground. Then they reconfigured and re-established wetlands adjacent to golf holes.

and ASL can look over a canvas that is now fully framed and ready for presentation to the public. The Marshes GC opens June 1, and the word is it's already being eyed for major competitions.

That would fit perfectly into the portfolio of the owner. Matthews is the developer of Celtic Manor in Wales, a RTJ II design that will host the Ryder Cup in 2010. ■

Leslie is a free-lance writer from Monmouth, Maine.

**Read another
Real-Life Solutions
on page 67**



“

The fact that Talstar® controls over 75 different pests influenced my decision.

”



John Buechner

Director of Technical Services, Lawn Doctor, Inc.
Holmdel, New Jersey

The only things smarter than our products are the people who use them.

Lawn Doctor is the largest franchise lawn-care company in the United States. John Buechner, Director of Technical Services, has been with them for 18 years. "With 415 franchises in thirty-eight states, I need an insecticide I can count on. The fact that Talstar controls over 75 different pests influenced my decision, but I selected Talstar because it won't harm sensitive turf and ornamentals."

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John Buechner has recommended the new granular formulation for use at all Lawn Doctors. "Talstar EZ will be popular with the

franchisees, because it enables us to offer services we can be proud of and helps us deliver on our promise of quality." Lawn Doctor's trained and licensed staff care for more than a billion square feet of America's turf. They are a proud supporter of the Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA), and we at FMC couldn't be prouder to support their great work with our great products.

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*See Guarantee Program Guidelines for details. This guarantee does not apply to termiticide products.

CIRCLE NO. 132

Prevent Weeds Before They Bloom

Now's the time to treat summer annuals, but make sure you have a plan

BY DAVE KOPEC

Many weed problems can be avoided. That is, you can prevent weed problems by controlling weed emergence.

This applies mostly to annual-type weeds, which are defined as those that germinate, grow vegetatively, flower, produce seed and then die. The cycle then repeats itself year after year. The time when annuals emerge and grow determines their classification. Because of this, there are basically two types of annual weeds: winter and summer annuals. This article focuses on controlling summer annuals before they germinate.

Summer annuals are weeds which germinate in the spring (or late winter in southern locations) when soil temperatures start getting warmer. This type of annual grows, flowers, produces seed during the summer and perishes in the following fall. Examples of summer annuals include grassy weeds such as crabgrass, goosegrass, stinkgrass, foxtails, and broadleaves such as spurge and knotweed.

Pre-emergent herbicides can be used to prevent seeds of summer annuals from becoming established in golf turf. It's better and easier to control these annuals from a pre-emergent standpoint instead of treating weeds after they are established.

Getting rid of weeds before they start is smart, but make sure you follow these four steps:

- Know what weeds are (have been) present.
- Know the most probable time of weed germination.
- Know the tolerance of the existing turf that is present.
- Be aware of reseeding restrictions, which may prevent new turfgrass seedlings from germinating as well.

The first point is critical, since not all pre-emergent herbicides control all weed seeds. The most familiar type of pre-emergence herbicides include the dinitroaniline group. These herbicides provide excellent control of grassy weeds, like crabgrass and southern



cupgrass. They may not provide as high a level of control on broadleaf weeds, like spurge, unless applied at the highest label rate listed.

Since not all summer annual weeds emerge at the same time, it's important to pinpoint when your weeds will start to grow. For example, crabgrass and cupgrass germinate earlier (55 degree F soil temperature)

than goosegrass, which germinates at higher soil temperatures (62 to 64 degrees F). Most spurges germinate at a soil temperature higher than that of crabgrass. Therefore, you may need to apply products in split applications (usually three weeks apart), or apply another product later.

It's also important to understand that not all turfgrasses react the same to the same pre-emergent product. For example, Surflan can be applied to dormant (spring) bermudagrass, but not to overseeded bermudagrass because it would be detrimental to ryegrass overseeding.

Another example is pendimethalin. If you seeded cool-season grasses in the fall or spring (as permanent grasses), this product could be harsh on the younger seedlings of turf, as opposed to the older and fully mature grass plants in the turf. Also, certain pre-emergent herbicides may be fully usable on cool-season grasses, but not be safe at all for bermudagrass.

If you're considering seeding additional permanent grasses into the turf (ryegrass, bluegrass or fescues) to cover bare areas, you need to understand what restrictions that will place on your choice of herbicides. All pre-emergent products will stop the desirable turf seed from germinating as well. In the southern United States, where bermudagrass is overseeded with ryegrass in the late summer/early fall, make sure the pre-emergent application for summer annuals is far enough away from the planned overseeding date. This information is printed on most product labels.

Kopec is an extension specialist in plant sciences for the University of Arizona.



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PALMER III	6.3
SECRETARIAT	5.6
LINN	4.0
LSD	0.2

GRAY LEAF SPOT

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PIZZAZZ	5.7
BRIGHTSTAR II	4.3
PALMER III	3.7
LINN	2.3
LSD	1.5

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PIZZAZZ	5.4
PALMER III	4.8
SECRETARIAT	4.8
LINN	3.8
LSD	0.5

WINTER COLOR

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PIZZAZZ	7.7
PALMER III	6.7
SECRETARIAT	6.5
LINN	4.2
LSD	0.7



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New 'Strobie' Tests Well

Insignia 'will undoubtedly become a strong component in an integrated disease-management program,' Penn State professor says



Gray leaf spot, whose symptoms include leaf lesions with a tan center and an outer margin of brown, has devastated many golf course fairways in the Midwest, Southeast and North. Superintendents are banking on Insignia to help control it.

There's a new fungicide coming to town. BASF Professional

Turf expects the Environmental Protection Agency to soon register and approve Insignia fungicide, a new strobilurin broad-spectrum fungicide. BASF says research on Insignia shows it will effectively control at least 15 major pathogens.

Pyraclostrobin, the active ingredient contained in Insignia, is the third strobilurin to come to the market. Others are azoxystrobin (Syngenta's Heritage) and

trifloxystrobin (Bayer's Compass). Strobilurins feature low use rates and longer application intervals.

"Control of a wide range of turfgrass diseases caused by fungi from various classes is a major strength of pyraclostrobin," Wakar Uddin, assistant professor of plant pathology at Penn State University, wrote in a recent issue of *TurfGrass Trends*.

"The extraordinary broad-spectrum nature of this new strobilurin will undoubtedly become a strong component in an integrated disease-management program when the product becomes available to the market."

BASF and university researchers have been testing Insignia since 1996. Re-

search on the product indicates excellent performance across several turfgrass diseases, including brown patch, gray leaf spot, anthracnose and Pythium blight, BASF states.

Henry C. Wetzel III, BASF's biology project leader of fungicides and nematocides, says he's excited about Insignia because it will be the first "strobie" with "proven efficacy" against bentgrass dead spot, a turf disease that seems to be more severe on newly established greens under 4 years old.

"Bentgrass dead spot is a new emerging disease in golf turf," Wetzel says of the disease, whose initial symptoms appear as small red-

dish spots about 1 to 2 centimeters in diameter. "We're seeing it more when golf greens are constructed. So if we have a fungicide with strong biological activity on bentgrass dead spot, we would feel much better about the use of Insignia on newly constructed golf greens."

Several superintendents tested Insignia on their courses last summer, including Bob Zuercher, certified superintendent of the Blackmoor GC in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Zuercher, who says brown patch is a regular turf disease in the area, sprayed Insignia on July 10, Aug. 3 and Aug. 24 on four Tifdwarf bermudagrass greens.

Continued on page 68

Problem

Got brown patch, gray leaf spot, anthracnose, Pythium blight or bentgrass dead spot?

Solution

You might want to try Insignia, a new strobilurin broad-spectrum fungicide, as soon as it's registered and approved by EPA.

Real-Life Solutions

Continued from page 67

Insignia applications were made in strips with a check plot for comparison.

"Any place we used Insignia, we didn't have the disease," Zuercher says. "There was a noticeable difference in the spray area vs. the check-plot area."

Zuercher uses Primo plant growth regulator on his greens. He suspects there's a brown patch strain that's attracted to heavily managed greens.

"You can see it in the underlayer and the thatch," Zuercher says. "I think Insignia will clean it up. It might be a good match with Primo."

Another strong feature of Insignia is that research shows it can suppress dollar spot.

Steve Potter, certified superintendent of Woodholme CC in Pikesville, Md., was impressed with Insignia's activity against dollar spot on a bentgrass

Another strong feature of Insignia is that research shows it can suppress dollar spot.

fairway. He made several test applications to the fairway, cut to seven-sixteenths of an inch.

"The dollar spot came right to the line and quit," Potter says. "I know it was the Insignia working. I got about about 90 percent control."

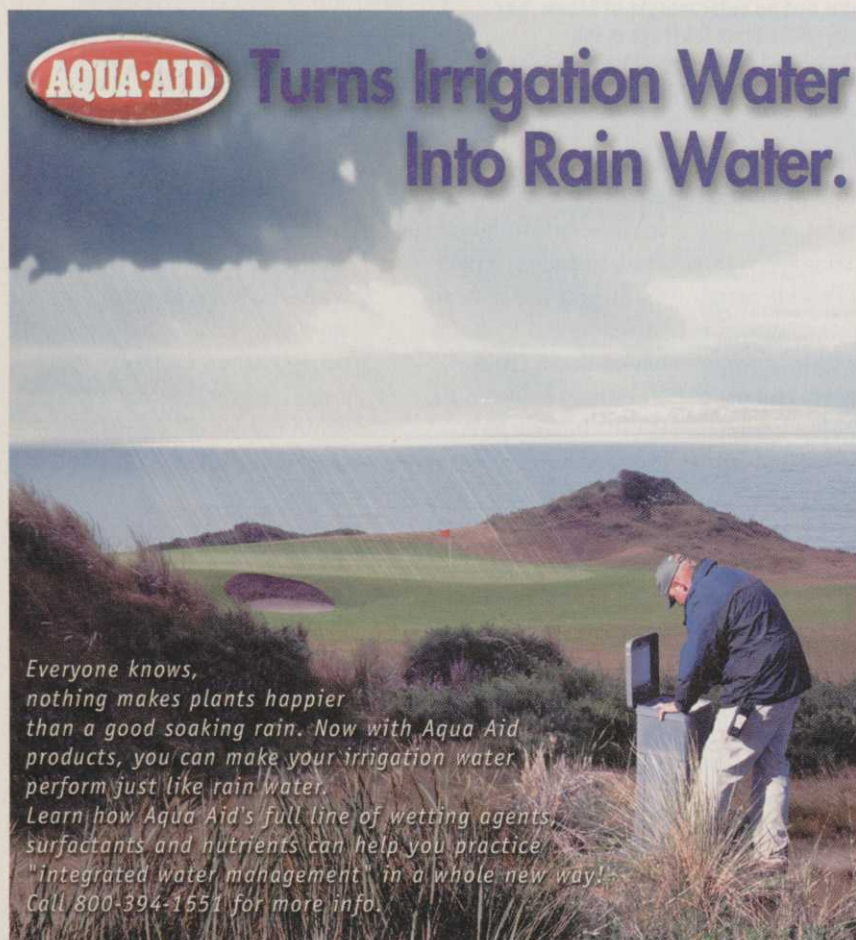
Potter also set up trials in his roughs for gray leaf spot, but the dis-

ease did not hit hard last year so the trials were not conclusive. Potter says he'll use Insignia again this year, either as an experiment or part of his regular fungicide maintenance program.

Wetzel suggests superintendents work Insignia in as part of a rotation program with other non-strobilurin fungicides to treat dollar spot.

"If you're in an area that doesn't have significant dollar spot pressure, you'll get control," Wetzel says. "But if you're located from the northern edge of the transition zone to further north where dollar spot is a big problem, you'll get significant pressure of the disease, but you won't be able to control it." ■

Golfdom Editor Larry Aylward contributed to this story. He can be reached at larylward@advanstar.com



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Chillin' with Wayne Otto

...another Golfdom fan

What do you do all winter?

"I'd tell you...
but then I'd have to kill you."

Alma Mater: Penn State.

What do you think when you look at your golf course?

"This could be really nice."

How does your lawn look?

"Not as good as my golf course!
I bought my wife a \$4,000 mower,
which she only used once, so
now I have to mow the lawn.
She says if it had a drink holder,
she'd reconsider."

About your course:

"Built in 1921 by Langford and Moreau,
it's known for undulating & quick greens.
I run a staff of 25 in summer, and five in
winter with an annual budget of
\$700,000. We are the first fully certified
Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary in WI."

What course would you most like to play?

Pine Valley.

Favorite smell:

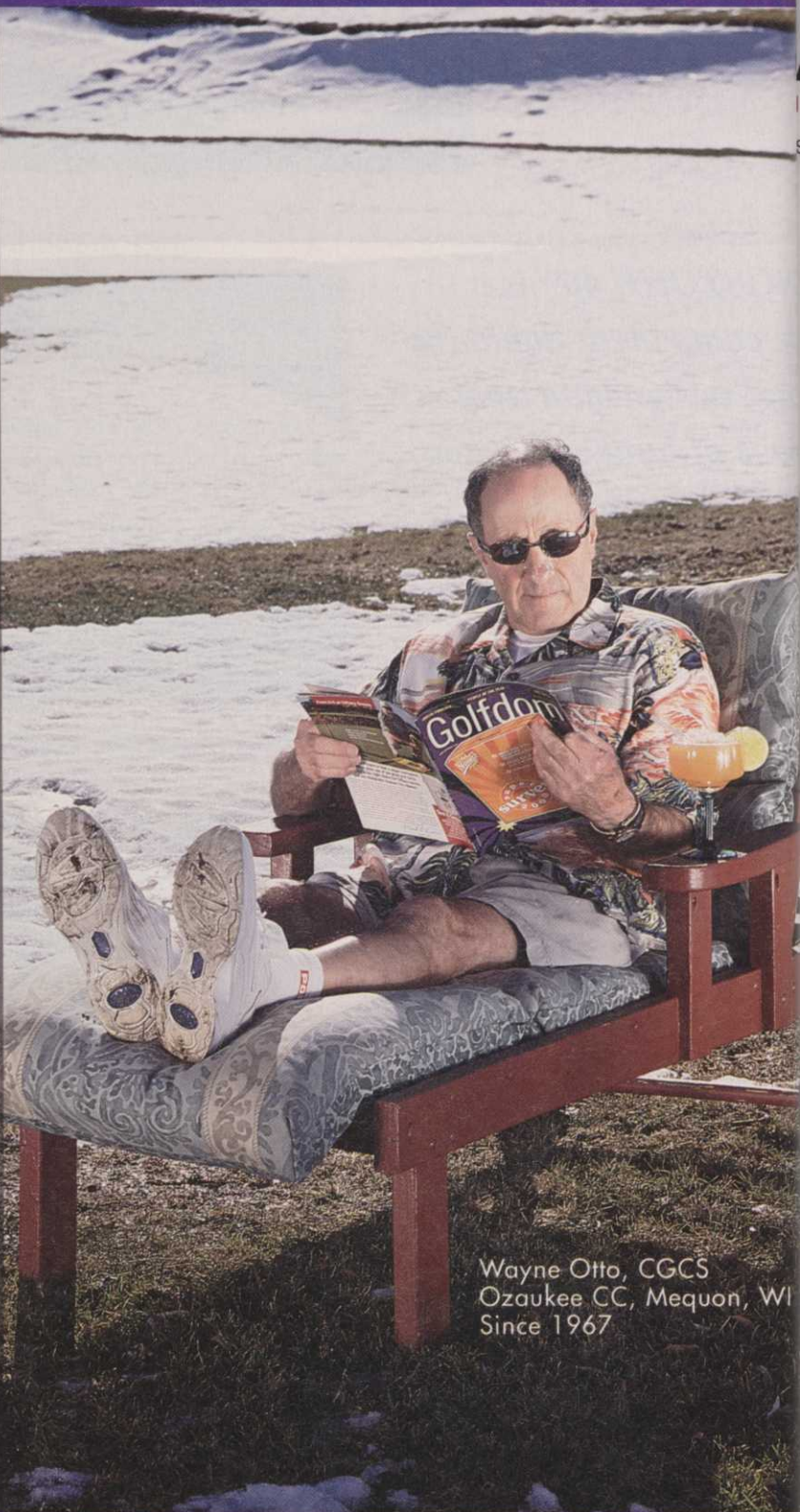
Charcoal Grill.

Favorite activities:

"Camping, gardening, and football
(spelled 'Green Bay Packers'). I like the
song they play when the Packers score.
'I don't want to work, just want to bang
on the drums all day!'"

Favorite magazine:

"Golfdom. I can really relate to the
articles, and I like to read it at home
in the evening. I have a lot of respect
for the writers. They cover the hottest
topics and aren't afraid to address
controversial issues."



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