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# Golfdom

NOVEMBER 2002 • VOLUME 58 • NO. 11

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# Events

## SEMINARS & CONFERENCES

### NOVEMBER

#### 15 GCSAA Seminar: Weed Control

Dallas  
[www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org)

#### 18-21 Carolinas GCSA's 36th Annual Conference and Show

Myrtle Beach, S.C.  
[www.cgcsa.org](http://www.cgcsa.org)

#### 18 GCSAA Seminar: Integrated Environmental Management

Westchester, N.Y.  
[www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org)

#### 19 GCSAA Seminar: Turfgrass Traffic Stress – Physiology and Management

Providence, R.I.  
[www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org)

#### 19 GCSAA Seminar: Turfgrass Stress Management

St. Louis  
[www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org)

#### 20 GCSAA Seminar: Irrigation Scheduling Techniques

Providence, R.I.  
[www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org)

#### 21 GCSAA Seminar: Golf Course Safety, Security and Risk Management

Bolton, Mass.  
[www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org)

#### 21 GCSAA Seminar: The Microbiology of Turfgrass Soils

Centerville, Ohio  
[www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org)

#### 22 Eastern North Carolina Turfgrass Association's Business Meeting and Golf Tournament

Rocky Mount, N.C.  
[www.cgcsa.org](http://www.cgcsa.org)

### DECEMBER

#### 2-4 Texas Turfgrass Institute & Trade Show

San Antonio  
[www.texasturf.com](http://www.texasturf.com)

#### 2 GCSAA Seminar: Strategic Planning for Golf Course Operations

Albuquerque, N.M.  
[www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org)

#### 3 GCSAA Seminar: Golf Course Safety, Security and Risk Management

Albuquerque, N.M.  
[www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org)

#### 3 GCSAA Seminar: Maximizing Turfgrass Disease Control

Williamsburg, Va.  
[www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org)

#### 4-6 Rocky Mountain Regional Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show

Denver  
[www.rmrtg.org](http://www.rmrtg.org)

#### 4 GCSAA Seminar: Golf Course Drainage – Application and Design

Williamsburg, Va.  
[www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org)

#### 4 GCSAA Seminar: Managing Turfgrass Root Systems

Albany, N.Y.  
[www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org)

#### 4 GCSAA Seminar: Management of Localized Dry Spots and Water Repellent Soils

Albany, N.Y.  
[www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org)

#### 5 GCSAA Seminar: Communication Skills to Get You to the Top and Keep You There

Phoenix  
[www.cactusandpine.com](http://www.cactusandpine.com)

#### 7 Central California GCSA's Annual Christmas Event

Pismo, Calif.  
[www.gcsaa.org/cgcsa](http://www.gcsaa.org/cgcsa)

#### 9-12 Ohio Turfgrass Conference and Show

Columbus, Ohio  
[www.ohioturfgrass.org](http://www.ohioturfgrass.org)

#### 9 GCSAA Seminar: Bermudagrass Greens Management

Slidell, La.  
[www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org)

#### 9 GCSAA Seminar: Developing a High-Performance, People-Oriented Golf Course Management Staff

Atlantic City, N.J.  
[www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org)

#### 9-10 GCSAA Seminar: Spanish for the Golf Course Superintendent

Rockford, Ill.  
[www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org)

## DON'T MISS Weed Control Seminar



**THE GCSAA** has scheduled a weed-control seminar in Dallas on Nov. 15. For more information, visit [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org).

DALLAS CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

#### 10 GCSAA Seminar: Lake and Aquatic Plan Management

Ames, Iowa  
[www.iowaturfgrass.org](http://www.iowaturfgrass.org)

#### 10-12 New Jersey Turfgrass Expo 2002

Atlantic City, N.J.  
[www.njturfgrass.org](http://www.njturfgrass.org)

#### 10 GCSAA Seminar: Golf Course Drainage – Application and Design

Annapolis, Md.  
[www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org)

#### 10 GCSAA Seminar: Lake and Aquatic Plant Management

Ames, Iowa  
[www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org)

#### 10 GCSAA Seminar: Management Strategies for the Turfgrass System

Fond du Lac, Wisc.  
[www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org)

#### 11 Turfgrass and Landscape Institute

Buena Park, Calif.  
[www.turfgrasscouncil.org](http://www.turfgrasscouncil.org)

#### 11 Intermountain GCSA's Monthly Meeting

St. George, Utah  
[www.igcsa.org](http://www.igcsa.org)

#### 11 Turfgrass and Landscape Institute

Buena Park, Calif.  
[www.turfgrasscouncil.org](http://www.turfgrasscouncil.org)

#### 11 GCSAA Seminar: Managing Turfgrass Root Systems

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[www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org)

#### 11 GCSAA Seminar: Understanding Biostimulants

Oklahoma City  
[www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org)

#### 19 GCSAA Seminar: Management Strategies for the Turfgrass Systems

New Brunswick, N.J.  
[www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org)

### JANUARY 2003

#### 6 GCSAA Seminar: Advanced Weed Management

St. Louis  
[www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org)

#### 6 GCSAA Seminar: Maximizing Turfgrass Disease Control

Indianapolis  
[www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org)

#### 7 GCSAA Seminar: Managing Turfgrass Root Systems

Pleasanton, Calif.  
[www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org)

#### 8 GCSAA Seminar: Fundamentals of Turfgrass Management I

Pleasanton, Calif.  
[www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org)

Let us know about your events. Send information to Frank Andorka at 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, 44130. Fax information to 440-891-2675 or e-mail to [fandorka@advanstar.com](mailto:fandorka@advanstar.com).



**T**he other day, as I desperately searched the cupboard for something remotely healthy to feed my two young sons for lunch, I came across a can of my old childhood favorite, alphabet soup.

I cracked it open, dumped it into a bowl and was just about to stick it in the microwave when I noticed something odd: The soup's letters seemed to be forming into recognizable words.

Gradually, the letters came to a halt and there they were, the acronyms of three of the industry's most important but least understood organizations: RISE, ITODA and ASIC. Clearly, this was a sign from the Soup Gods that I should try to help you better understand these key groups.

RISE is alphabet soup for Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment, the national association that represents the interests of pesticide manufacturers and users, like you. RISE has a pretty simple message for environmental activists, concerned citizens and others who view pesticides as a problem: It's the pests that are the problem. This summer's West Nile virus outbreak illustrates that as vividly as any pest-borne health threat we've experienced in recent times.

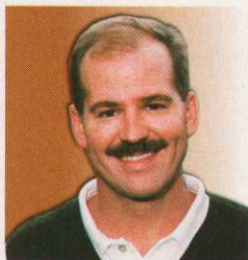
RISE lobbies and communicates on the federal level, but it also is active on the state and local battlegrounds where the real war over your use of pesticides and combination products is fought.

Unfortunately, many superintendents tend to ignore the threat of products being withdrawn or cancelled, thinking the manufacturers will just come along with something new. That is rapidly becoming a myth as consolidation, R&D costs and the downturn in the ag market — which traditionally drove secondary-use products into turf — have narrowed the new product pipeline dramatically.

To help RISE in its battle to keep current products on the market, superintendents must make the organization aware when local problems flare up, and use its resources and information. Finally, when you're asked by RISE, write and speak out in support of your right to responsibly use products that are unfairly threatened by overzealous attempts to "protect" the public.

## Soup Gods Spurred My Mission

BY PAT JONES



IT WAS A SIGN THAT  
THEY WANTED ME  
TO HELP YOU  
UNDERSTAND THE  
ORGANIZATIONS  
ACTING ON YOUR  
BEHALF

ITODA is alphabet soup for the Independent Turf & Ornamental Distributors Association, the organization for local and regional businesses that — along with national suppliers — support your agronomic needs with products and services.

Distributors are sometimes viewed as a nuisance ("Those \*\$@%! salespeople!"), but ask yourself where you'd be without that local rep who delivers a case of fungicide at 5 a.m. because you're facing a pythium outbreak. Or how about the distributors who underwrite a lot of the costs of chapter meetings and activities? ITODA members and their national distributor counterparts are the backbone of the industry, and you should recognize them and show them your appreciation through your customer loyalty.

Finally, ASIC is alphabet soup for the American Society of Irrigation Consultants, the organization of experts who design, plan, fix and otherwise show mastery of one of your most expensive capital investments. Why should you get in touch with ASIC when you're considering a new system or a revamp?

I've lost count of the number of times superintendents have told me that good irrigation consulting will pay for itself over and over by avoiding common design and installation problems. As great as today's irrigation systems are, they're also extremely complex, and the advice and experience of an expert is a small price to pay.

Now that I have pleased the Soup Gods by heeding their message and helping shed light on these organizations, I have but one thing to add: I'm sticking to chicken noodle from now on.

---

*Pat Jones is the publisher/editorial director of Golfdom. He can be reached at 440-891-3126 or [pjones@advanstar.com](mailto:pjones@advanstar.com)*

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**I**t's November, and I couldn't be happier with cloudy skies, cool rain and daytime highs in the low 40s. No, my last name isn't Munster. I just still need to cool off from the sweltering weather that accompanied the Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Days held at turf farms in central New Jersey late last summer. The sun beat down on those days, with temperatures around 100 degrees. I was feeling the heat, all right. I felt like a wilted strand of *Poa annua*.

But I learned a lot, and I thought I'd share what I heard from the Rutgers' turf experts with you. Here goes:

## Vantage velvet

Several Rutgers University/Cook College turf researchers were raving about velvet bentgrass during the golf and fine turf segment of the program. How do Rutgers' researchers love velvet bentgrass in the Northeast? Let them count the ways.

They say that velvet bentgrass:

- has more of a vibrant green color than other bentgrass varieties;
- is more competitive against weeds;
- is more dollar-spot resistant than creeping bentgrass and more brown-patch resistant than colonial bentgrass;
- performs well during drought;
- holds up well under heavy traffic; and
- has dense growth and fine leaf texture.

Karen Plumley, who helps operate the school's two-year turfgrass management program, said several velvet varieties performed well in the 1998 National Turfgrass Evaluation Program bentgrass study. She cited SR 7200, which has been commercially available for several years, and Vesper 2001, an experimental variety that recently became available. "We've been working with velvets for about eight years, and we believe they have many advantages over creeping bentgrass," she says.

Plumley scanned the many varieties of turf comprising the bentgrass test plot on the farm. She said the velvet varieties are the perennial favorites of visitors throughout the year.

"If I told you to stand on your favorite plot, you would without a doubt be standing on one of the velvet bentgrass plots," she says.

# Velvet Is Smooth, Researchers Say

BY LARRY AYLWARD



"I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY [VELVET BENTGRASS] HAS NEVER BEEN POPULAR HERE," SAYS RUTGERS' TURF EXPERT

OK, velvet bentgrasses aren't perfect. "They do get a disease called copper spot, which looks like dollar spot, but it's not," Plumley said.

They also can get root pythium in the fall if they're not treated with a fungicide.

Velvets haven't performed well in Southern and Midwestern states, which could be attributed to a high soil pH.

"Velvets don't like high pH," said William Meyer, a Rutgers/Cook College pathology professor. "That may be the reason they're not performing as well across the country as they are here."

Minor problems aside, Rutgers researchers are intrigued by velvet bentgrass.

"It's amazing how bright the velvets look," said Steve Hart, an extension specialist at Rutgers/Cook College. "I don't understand why they've never been popular grasses here. I think it's a matter of not having the information on how to manage them properly."

## About those well-kept greens . . .

Bruce Clarke, director of the school's Center for Turf Science, warned superintendents who are core aerifying, topdressing, verticutting and double-cutting their greens that they're risking an outbreak of anthracnose basal stem rot and — yikes — he says "you're really going to have a hard time getting it under control."

"The key is — and this is sacrilegious but I'll say it anyway — you need to raise the height of cut slightly," Clarke says. "You also need to pump up your nitrogen levels."

## You've come a long way, baby

The first turf-type ryegrasses were produced and released in the 1960s. One of the earliest landmark varieties developed by Rutgers

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