



Talking Herbicides

Manufacturers discuss need for reduced-risk herbicides



Russ Mitchell, Product and Marketing Director, Quali-Pro • I would think everyone wants to use the most efficacious product that is very safe for the environment. That's a complex topic, though. Herbicides that had issues with ground water are being phased out. We can argue, that when properly used, some of these products didn't have an issue. But when you combine certain soil types, the best applicator couldn't help but have some issues with some of the old chemistries and certain conditions. Today's modern herbicides have been thoroughly tested for these types of issues and many new labels have precautions and setbacks from water to ensure that no contaminations occur.



Question: Do you think most superintendents want reduced-risk herbicides from an environmental standpoint? Why or why not?

Editor's note: In September, October and November, Golfdom features a three-part question-and-answer series on herbicide technology. In each segment, representatives from the industry's vast number of chemical companies will be asked one question in regard to herbicide technology. The representatives' answers will be listed along with their photos.



Todd Bunnell, Turf and Ornamental Research Manager/Golf Market Manager, SePRO • All superintendents want to be better stewards of their golf courses and the environment, so any tools they can use to minimize active ingredient load, reduce frequency of applications, etc., while maintaining the same level of weed control will be desired.

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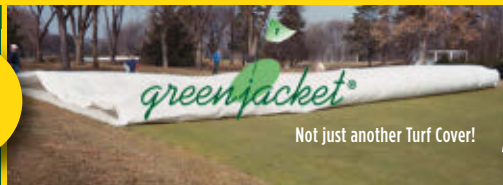
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Talking Herbicides

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Nancy Schwartz, Marketing Manager of Turf and Ornamentals, DuPont Professional Products • Absolutely.



Superintendents want to be good stewards of the environment and are actively making a difference by creating more natural habitats for wildlife, conserving water, and by choosing chemistries that are environmentally favorable and have lower application rates.



Scott Cole, Golf Market Manager, Syngenta •

The focus on reduced-risk herbicides will likely remain one of the main drivers in pesticide development for the golf industry for many years to come. Developing products that receive the Reduced Risk classification is important, but a product has to be efficacious and deliver good value if it's to be relevant to the superintendent.

Kyle Miller, Senior Technical Specialist, BASF Turf & Ornamentals •



I think most superintendents would like to incorporate as many reduced-risk and environmentally friendly products as possible. However, they're concerned with maintaining turf quality at a certain level, so it's important that those products meet their expectations from a performance standpoint. Otherwise, these products may see limited use in many situations.



Doug Houseworth, Technical Service Manager, Arysta LifeScience North America • One-hundred percent of superintendents will say yes. However, when it comes to paying more, getting less control and having to deal with less user-friendly application techniques, they'll have a different answer. The majority of superintendents want performance at a reasonable price with flexible application conditions, and they take the position that if the EPA has approved a product for use as directed, it poses no unreasonable risk to applicators, other persons, the environment or animals.

Adam Manwarren, Product Manager of Turf & Ornamental, FMC Professional Solutions • Yes, superintendents are true stewards of the environment, and will continue to want reduced-risk products. This can mean the environmental profile of the product as well as overall turf safety, flexibility of use, and even how the products are packaged (i.e., less plastic, less cardboard, etc.).



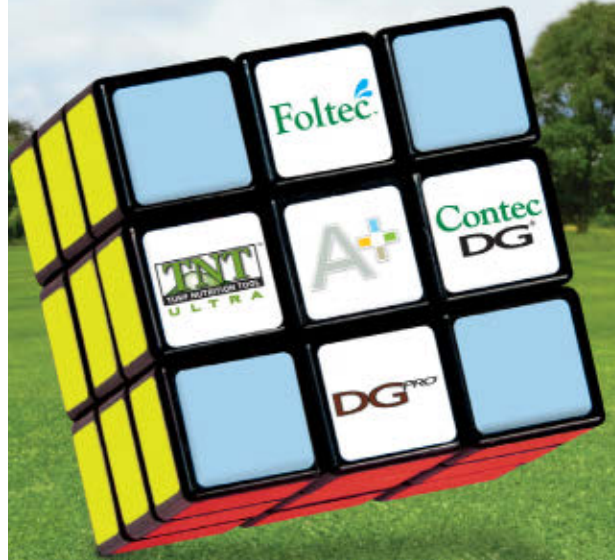
“Products that are safe to the applicators and don't have any off-target effects are almost becoming mandatory.”
 — MATT BRADLEY

Matt Bradley, Herbicide Marketing Manager, Bayer Environmental Science • Products that are safe to the applicators and don't have any off-target effects are almost becoming mandatory when bringing a new product to market. This can be done by introducing new active ingredients that use less active ingredient per acre or by simply changing formulations of current products that have less of an environmental and worker exposure impact.



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Owen Towne, President, Phoenix Environmental Care • The primary reason for using herbicides is for weed control. Performance being equal, most superintendents would choose the environmentally friendly product. Of course, the devil is in the de-

tails. Is a low-rate, persistent herbicide more environmentally friendly than a high-rate, short-lived product? And what's considered environmentally friendly in one ecosystem may be viewed as a toxic product in another ecosystem. For example, a herbicide that's viewed as environmentally friendly in Arizona may be viewed as posing unacceptable risk in Florida due to fish toxicity or mobility in water. The inconvenient truth, however, is that superintendents need to decide what product provides the combination of performance, value and environmental safety that they want for their golf courses.

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Mark Urbanowski, Portfolio Marketing Leader of Turf and Ornamental, Dow Agrosciences • Everyone needs to remember that the currently registered products are, in general, not damaging to the environment, thus the registration of 200-plus studies by EPA to be able to sell. With that said, both manufacturers and superintendents will continue to seek out products that reduce any potential risks.



Jason Fausey, Regional Field Development Manager, Valent Professional Products • Yes, all superintendents have an interest in reduced-risk pesticides and products that provide a smaller load on the environment. While the overall interest in reduced-risk herbicides tends to be less than other pesticides — especially insecticides, which generally have a higher risk associated with them — these types of products are top of mind for many superintendents. ■





New Mode Makes an Impression



Dollar Spot



Anthracnose

Superintendents get good control with fungicide

BY ANTHONY PIOPPA, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

DeMarco says a salesman introduced him to Civitas and he decided to give it a go, even though he admits he's rarely the first to try any new product.

"I [prefer to] wait until

things are tried and true and tested," DeMarco says.

Powelton Golf Club traces its beginning to 1892. Sixteen of the greens are old and of the push-up variety. All 18 greens are a mix of bentgrass and *Poa annua*. The oldest greens have a healthy

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Fungicides, until recently, have had the same modes of action to protect a plant; they're either of the contact or the systemic variety and directly attack the pathogen. Now, though, Petro-Canada has introduced Civitas fungicide that the company says is different from other conventional fungicides. According to the company Web site, Civitas has "a proprietary mode of action called Induced Systemic Resistance (ISR) — a plant defense activator that turns on the natural defenses of the plant to fight off fungus."

The Civitas label shows the product is 98 percent mineral oil and 2 percent "other ingredients." The company says the fungicide is effective against a multitude of problem pathogens such as dollar spot, anthracnose, gray snow mold and red thread.

Bob DeMarco, superintendent of the Powelton Club in Newburgh, N.Y., and Joe Noppenberger, superintendent of Wedgewood Golf and Country Club in Powell, Ohio, have been using Civitas since last year.

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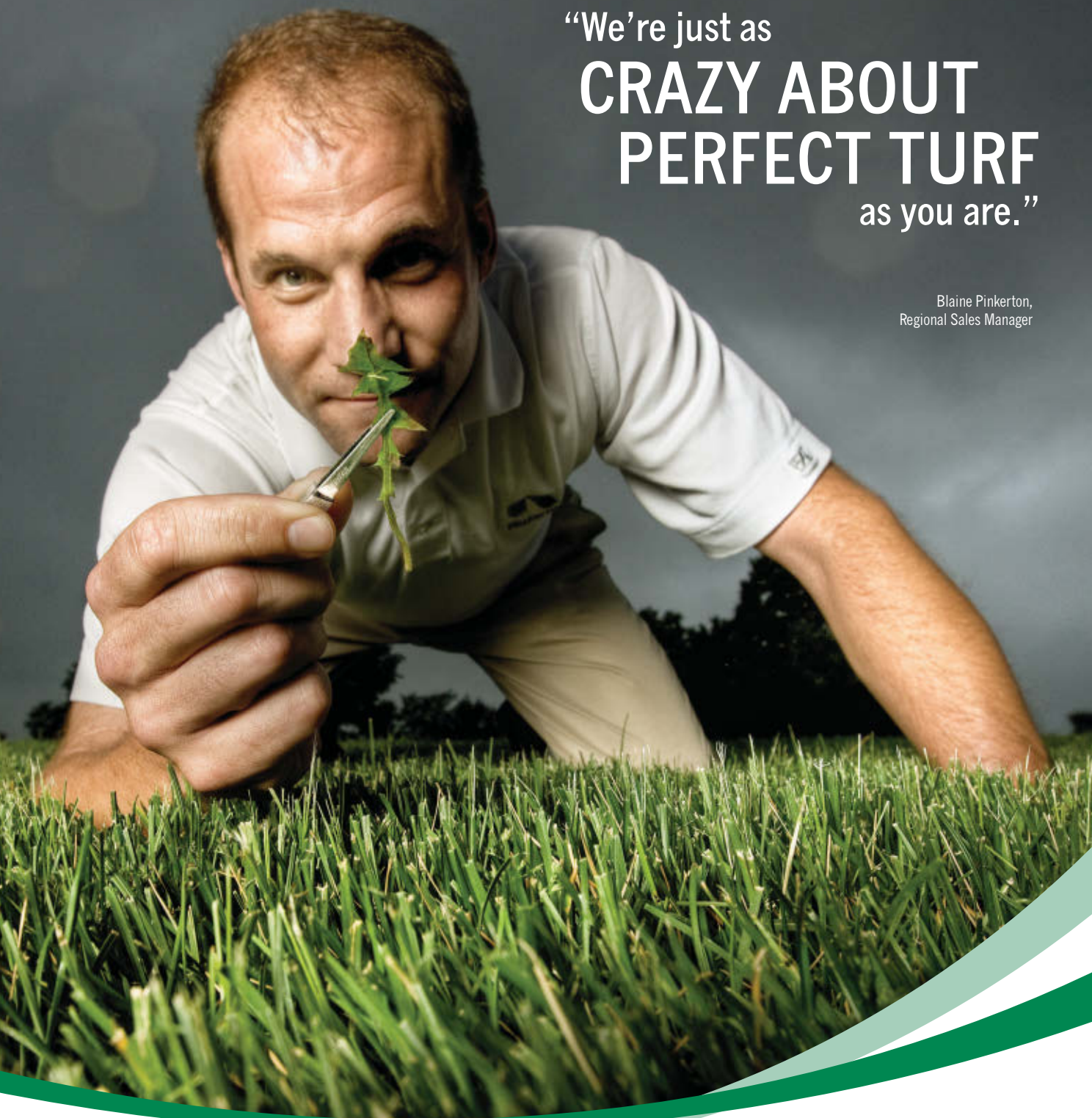
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New Mode

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percentage of South German bentgrass. The tees were rebuilt in recent years and are 90 percent bentgrass. The fairways, thanks to a dedicated overseeding program, are as much as 60 percent bentgrass with *Poa* making up the rest.

Convinced Civitas might work, DeMarco made an application to combat dollar spot and anthracnose from tee to green — applying at a rate of 14 ounces per acre mixed with propiconazole at a 1-ounce rate. DeMarco wanted control that lasted at least 21 days, which he did get. He made another application in 2009 to combat snow mold and was happy with that result, as well.

This year, DeMarco put down an application before the dollar spot really hit, and then will make another application in November to thwart snow mold.

DeMarco says it was the best dollar spot control he's had in years. He's been at the club for 33 years, 29 as superintendent. It's the way Civitas works that enticed DeMarco to try it.

"That's what did attract me; it's a whole new mode of action," he says.

At Wedgewood Golf and Country Club, Noppenberger is also using Civitas but in a slightly more cautious approach than DeMarco. Last season he put down an application on two fairways, one that stands up well against disease and one that gets high disease pressure.

Wedgewood is a 20-year-old Robert Trent Jones Jr. design that Noppenberger grew in. Greens and tees are Penncross while the fairways are Penn Eagle.

"It did a pretty good job," Noppenberger says.

It's in one specific area that Noppenberger saw his best outcome.

"On tees we have a dollar spot problem and it was doing really well," he says. "There was better healing of divots."

He, like DeMarco, mixed Civitas with propiconazole. Noppenberger also added fertilizer at a mix of 26-0-19.

Noppenberger says Civitas interested him as soon as his salesman brought it up because it's billed as an environmentally friendly product. ■

Pioppi is a contributing editor to Golfdom.

The Company Line ■ PRODUCT ROUNDUP

Underhill International offers Water Dex, a palm-sized remote that adjusts sprinkler run times without reprogramming the irrigation controller. Called a "shortcut to seasonal adjustments," Water Dex includes a mini-transmitter (3 inches by 2 inches by 2 inches) with a 200-foot, line-of-sight range and micro-receiver that hard wires into the irrigation controller. By dialing up or down on the Water Dex transmitter, end-users can immediately increase or decrease sprinkler run-times for any zone throughout their system, without affecting the programming cycle.

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Kochek also offers the GH Series Irrigation Hose, a high-quality hose that has a smooth black PVC inner tube. The cover is smooth opaque green PVC compound reinforced with high-tensile strength yarn and is abrasion resistant.

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