



PROTEIN HELPS TURF DEAL WITH IT.

Turf leads a pretty stressed life. It has to withstand daily attacks by machines, UV rays, wildlife and extreme weather conditions. And if all that wasn't enough, there's always the constant threat of pathogens. New Daconil Action™ fungicide combines the power of Daconil® fungicide with a revolutionary Turf Protein Booster that helps turf activate its own natural production of PR proteins. The result is turf that is stronger, healthier and better able to defend itself against fungus and environmental stress like drought. Learn more at DaconilAction.com.

 **Daconil Action**™
Fungicide

syngenta®

Golfdom S1

MAY 2012 • VOLUME 68 • NO. 5

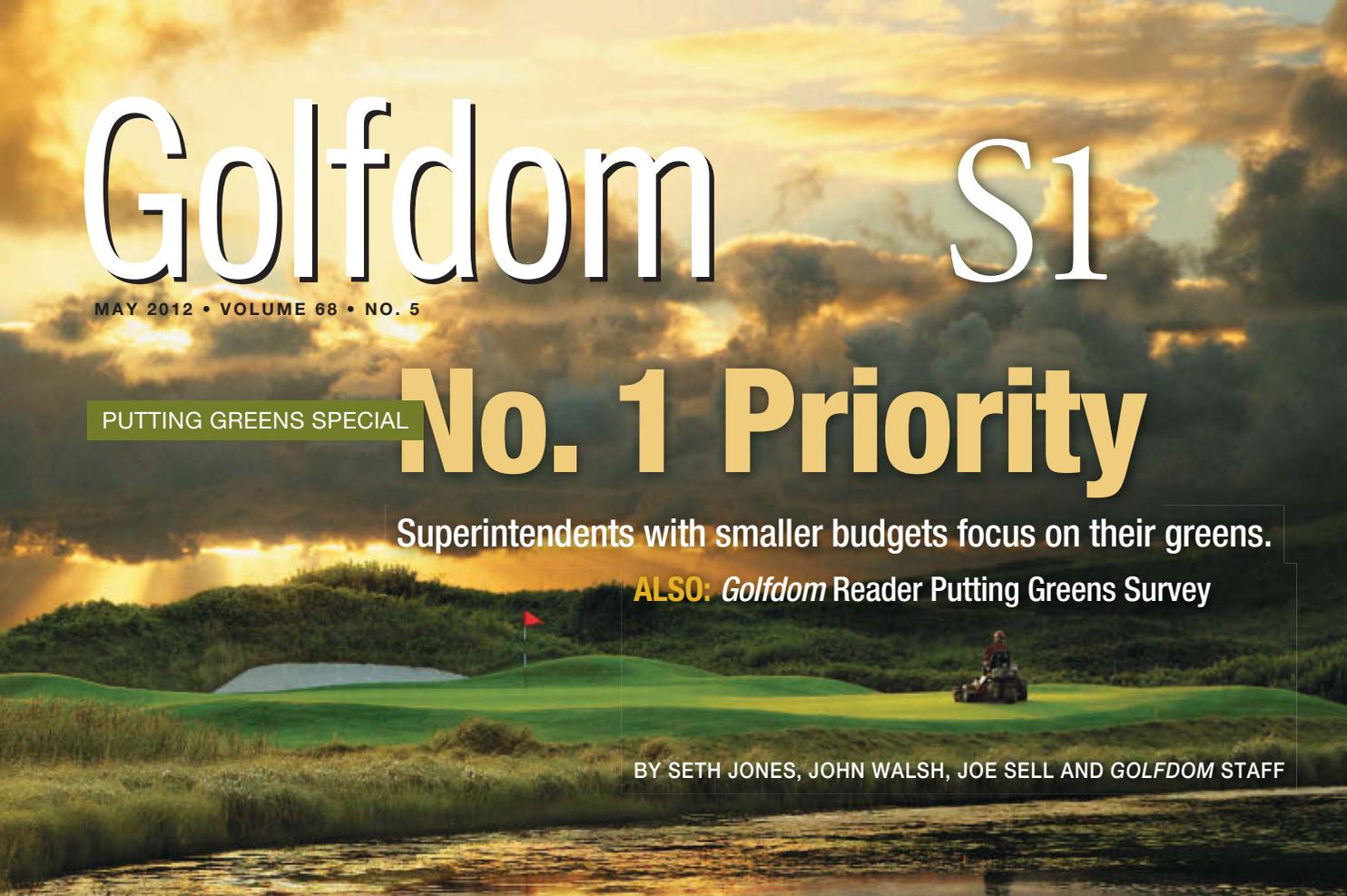
PUTTING GREENS SPECIAL

No. 1 Priority

Superintendents with smaller budgets focus on their greens.

ALSO: *Golfdom* Reader Putting Greens Survey

BY SETH JONES, JOHN WALSH, JOE SELL AND GOLFDOM STAFF



17



Plant Health Success Stories

Part 2 of our three-part Plant Health Series. **By Ken Mowm**

25

Enemy at the Gates

Fire ant control products stock supers' arsenals.

By Stacie Zinn Roberts

30

Hendo's Hot List

The K.C. super dishes on his favorite GIS products.

By Matt Hendren

columns

- 12 **Reading Greens**
Three Cheers for GCSAA
- 14 **From the Back Tees**
Closing the Gap
- 16 **Turf M.D.**
Embracing Ecological Changes
- 6 **Off the Fringe**
Golf's comeback; David Phipps joins GCSAA team; Syngenta's Margaret Bell retires; Jacobsen, Becker Underwood expansions





35

Sectioned Off

Section maintenance gives staff ownership and supers a well-groomed course.

By Steven Tingle

38

CGC-yeS!

GCSAA changes requirements for certification, renewing interest in the program.

By Seth Jones

Online Exclusive

Stop by the *Golfdom* Daily (www.golfdom.blogspot.com) to see more than 1,000 responses to our putting greens survey.

About the cover

Aaron Ripplinger of the Toro Co. snapped this shot at Town & Country Club in St. Paul, Minn., where Bill Larson is the CGCS.

departments

40 **Clark Talks Turf**
Clark Throssell, Ph.D., discusses Daconil Action with Mike Agnew, Ph.D.

46 **The Company Line**

48 **The 19th Hole with...**
Cecil Smith, superintendent, Eagle's Landing CC, Stockbridge, Ga.

Turfgrass Trends

This month, *Golfdom's* practical research digest discusses the dos and don'ts of managing glyphosate-tolerant perennial ryegrass.

See pages 41-44.

Spray Twice in One Pass!

Coverage

Penetration

Drift Control

800-881-4832
www.turbodrop.com

GREENLEAF
TECHNOLOGIES

GCSAA
AFFILIATE MEMBER



Highest pure dye
content of all EPA
registered lake
colorants!

THE CLEAR CHOICE



ADMIRAL® BLUE LAKE COLORANT Algae and Aquatic Vegetation Control

Control algae and nuisance plant growth with Admiral lake colorant while enhancing the aesthetics of your course. Admiral lake colorant adds a natural-looking blue shade with the highest pure dye content of all EPA registered lake colorants. For your convenience, both liquid and WSP® (water soluble packets) formulations are available.

For a clean, clear and healthy pond add our complete line of aquatic products to your management program: Admiral, Lake Colorant WSP® and Black Onyx™ colorants, plus LakePak® WSP® biological lake clarifier and deodorizer.

BECKER 
UNDERWOOD
Inventing the Future

800-232-5907 • beckerunderwood.com
801 Dayton Avenue, Ames, IA 50010



THE TURFCO CR-10 MAKES IT HAPPEN!



Whether you're topdressing your fairway, renovating bunkers or relocating material, the Turfco® CR-10, with a four cubic-yard hopper, is the workhorse you've been looking for. Its patented three-position switch, cross-conveyor flow control and self-cleaning hopper make it the most effective material handler available. And now the CR-10 is available with WideSpin™ technology—allowing you to deliver light or heavy topdressing applications at unprecedented widths and depths. All this—plus a three-year warranty. The CR-10. Don't start a project without it.

Call 1-800-679-8201 for a **FREE on-site demonstration or video.**

WWW.TURFCO.COM



THE LEADER. SINCE 1961.

Golfdom

www.golfdom.com

Seven-time winner of the national Folio Award for editorial excellence

EDITORIAL STAFF

Marty Whitford EDITORIAL DIRECTOR 216-706-3766 mwhitford@questex.com
Seth Jones EDITOR IN CHIEF 785-690-7047 sjones@questex.com
Beth Geraci SENIOR EDITOR 216-706-3756 bgeraci@questex.com
Carrie Parkhill Wallace ART DIRECTOR 216-706-3780 cparkhill@questex.com
Joel Jackson CONTRIBUTING EDITOR flgm@aol.com
Anthony Pioppi CONTRIBUTING EDITOR apioppi@earthlink.net
Clark Throssell RESEARCH EDITOR clarkthrossell@bresnan.net
Anthony Williams CONTRIBUTING EDITOR anthony.williams@marriott.com
John Walsh CONTRIBUTING EDITOR jwalsheditor@gmail.com
Karl Danneberger SCIENCE EDITOR danneberger.1@osu.edu
Mike Klemme PHOTOGRAPHY mike@golffoto.com

BUSINESS STAFF

CLEVELAND HEADQUARTERS

600 SUPERIOR AVENUE, EAST, SUITE 1100 CLEVELAND, OH 44114, FAX: 216-706-3712

Patrick Roberts VICE PRESIDENT, SALES 216-706-3736 proberts@questex.com
Jason DeSarle ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER 216-706-3758 jdesarle@questex.com
Kevin Stoltman VICE PRESIDENT 216-706-3740 kstoltman@questex.com
Petra Turko SALES ASSISTANT 216-706-3768 pturko@questex.com
Ryan Bockmuller MARKETING MANAGER 216-706-3772 rbockmuller@questex.com

Krystal Mayne PRODUCTION SPECIALIST 218-206-2209
krystal.mayne@superiormediasolutions.net

Jamie Kleist PRODUCTION DIRECTOR 218-206-2107
jamie.kleist@superiormediasolutions.net

Carol Hatcher AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT 216-706-3785 hatcher@questex.com

MARKETING/MAGAZINE SERVICES

Reprints 800-290-5460 ext. 100 golfdom@theygsgroup.com
Gwen Coryell CIRC. LIST RENTAL 609-275-2900 ext. 118 gwen@krolldirect.com
Subscriber, Customer Service 866-344-1315; 847-763-9594 OUTSIDE THE U.S. hatcher@questex.com

CORPORATE

Kerry C. Gumas PRESIDENT & CEO **Tom Caridi** EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT & CFO
Tony D'Avino EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

American Society of Irrigation Consultants P.O. BOX 426
 ROCHESTER, MA 02770; 508-763-8140; WWW.ASIC.ORG

Golfdom does not verify any claims or other information appearing in any of the advertisements contained in the publication, and cannot take any responsibility for any losses or other damages incurred by readers in reliance on such content.

Golfdom welcomes unsolicited articles, manuscripts, photographs, illustrations and other materials but cannot be held responsible for their safekeeping or return.

Questex Media Group LLC provides certain customer contact data (such as customers' names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses) to third parties who wish to promote relevant products, services and other opportunities which may be of interest to you. If you do not want Questex Media Group LLC to make your contact information available to third parties for marketing purposes, simply call 866-344-1315; 847-763-9594 if outside the U.S. between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. CT and a customer service representative will assist you in removing your name from Questex Media Group LLC's lists.

GOLFDOM (ISSN 1526-4270) is published monthly (12 issues per year) by Questex Media Group LLC, 306 W Michigan Street, Suite 200, Duluth, MN 55802. Corporate office: 275 Grove St., Suite 2-130, Newton, MA 02466. Accounting, Advertising, Production and Circulation offices: 306 W. Michigan St., Suite 200 Duluth, MN 55802-1610. **Subscription rates:** One year \$48, two years \$69 (U.S. and possessions), one year \$70, two years \$101 (Canada and Mexico) and one year \$105, two years \$152 (all other countries). Air expedited service is available in countries outside the U.S. and Canada for an additional \$75 per year. Current issue single copies (prepaid only) \$5 (U.S. and possessions), \$7 (Canada and Mexico) and \$8 (all other countries). Back issues (if available, prepaid only) \$10 (U.S. and possessions), \$14 (Canada and Mexico) and \$16 (all other countries); add \$6.50 per order shipping and handling for both current and back issue purchases. Periodicals postage paid at Duluth MN 55806 and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to *Golfdom*, P.O. Box 1268, Skokie, IL 60076-8268. Canadian G.S.T. Number: 840033278RT0001, Publications Mail Agreement number 40017597. Printed in the U.S.A. **Copyright 2012 by Questex Media Group LLC.** All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher. Authorization to photocopy items for internal or personal use, or the internal or personal use of specific clients, is granted by Questex Media for libraries and other users registered with the Copyright Clearance Center, 222 Rosewood Dr., Danvers, MA 01923, phone 978-750-8400, fax 978-750-4470. Call for copying beyond that permitted by Sections 107 or 108 of the U.S. Copyright Law. For those not registered with the CCC, send permission request to questexpermissions@theygsgroup.com or 800-494-9051, ext 100.

www.kochek.com
 P: 800-420-4673 F: 800-772-0255

An Employee Owned Company
KOCHEK CO. INC.
 Water Movement Solutions

HAND WATERING SOLUTIONS & TURF CARE PRODUCTS

KOCHEK'S OWN

Flexible - No Kinking

360°

NEW

NZ033 Residential Nozzle

NZ036 Fixed Gallonage Nozzle System

For Full Details Visit:
www.kochek.com

IRSQCK-100-55K QC Key w/ Relief Valve

-Applicator Systems

-Irrigation Hose

-Wetting Agents

-Nozzles

$$E=mc^2$$

You might not find a formula that puts you in the history books.



But you can find a formula that makes fungus history.



Need to solve a serious disease problem? Make **Trinity® fungicide** part of the equation. **Trinity** helps control anthracnose, dollar spot and brown patch. You can also apply it seasonally for snow mold and patch diseases including summer patch, take-all patch, zoysia patch and bermudagrass decline. And **Trinity** suppresses algae. A true stroke of genius.

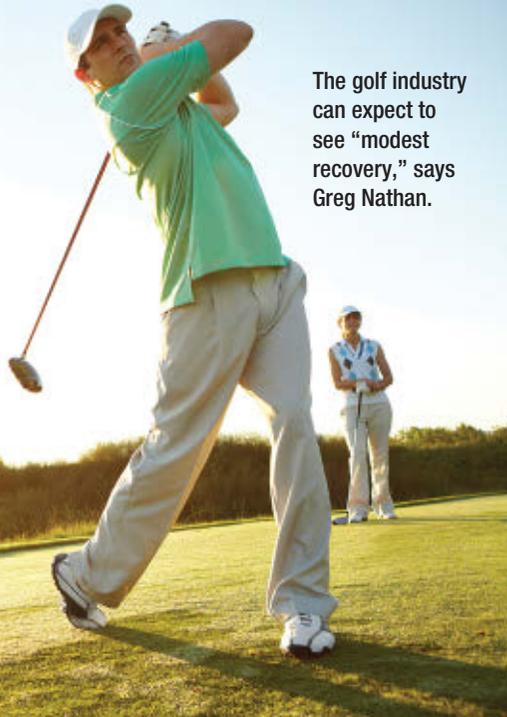
betterturf.basf.us



The Chemical Company

Off The Fringe

On Its Way Back



The golf industry can expect to see “modest recovery,” says Greg Nathan.

mass exoduses of 2008-2009 and 2009-2010, when the game lost 1.5 million and 1 million golfers, respectively.

Equipment manufacturers also are noticing improvement. “2009 fell off the map — for everyone,” said Grant Young, Toro’s Director of Marketing. “Since then, things have rebounded, simply because sooner or later, people have to buy or replace equipment.”

At Jacobsen, meanwhile, “more than 80 percent of our territories are reporting a year-over-year increase in sales,” says Jacobsen Vice President of Sales Ric Stone. “We are cautiously optimistic about the rest of the year.”

Also “cautiously optimistic” is John Deere Marketing Manager Mark Ford. “A lot of courses have been deferring maintenance well, and they now have

Superintendents and manufacturers have held their breath for an economic recovery for five long years. Now, they can begin to exhale, ever so slightly, as the industry starts to show signs of a comeback.

National Golf Foundation (NGF) Senior Vice President Greg Nathan is encouraged by the positivity he’s hearing from leaders in the industry. And, thanks to the mild winter, the past four months have shown double-digit year-over-year rounds gains, he said.

Mild weather definitely has helped, said Keith A. Ihms, CGCS, the director of grounds and maintenance at Country Club of Little Rock. “But I also think people are starting to feel like they can get out there and play,” he asserted.

ECONOMIC SIGNS FINALLY POINT TO A LONG-AWAITED TURNAROUND FOR THE GOLF INDUSTRY. BY BETH GERACI

Ihms, who’s also secretary/treasurer of the GCSAA Board of Directors, said Country Club of Little Rock has kept records on play since he arrived in 2006. This year, he said, “we experienced the biggest January and February of any of those years. There’s been more activity out on the golf course, and encouraging to me, more interest in our junior golf program for the summer.”

Another positive sign, golf attrition finally is tapering off. According to the NGF, the game’s losing players at a much slower rate than in the recent past. In 2011, NGF stats show, golf lost 400,000 players, a 1.5 percent drop from 2010. That’s a mere shadow of the

the reassurance to seriously consider purchasing,” he said.

“It’s a little early to draw any definite conclusions,” Ford continued. “But we’re encouraged. There was a positive feeling at the Golf Industry Show that everyone felt, and we don’t feel that was a mirage.”

NGF research “has shown that golf has emerged from previous recessions pretty quickly,” Nathan said, “and there are good reasons to expect a similar pattern this time.”

Whether golf is making a lasting comeback is “TBD,” Young said. “The key to the future will be getting players into the game and keeping them.”

INTRODUCING: GreenPig™

PIGment Additive



- **Highly Concentrated**
 - **Long lasting, affordable turf colorant.**
- **Improves the visual quality and presentation of turf.**
- **Reduces oxidative stress during exposure to high heat.**
- **An excellent, cost effective alternative to overseeding.**

**University Research has shown that tank mixing GreenPig™ with Grigg Brothers Fairphyte® can improve turf performance and quality during summer stress.*



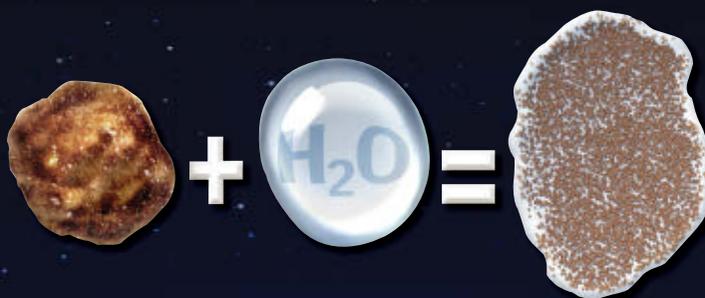
Toll Free (888) 246-8873 • Fax (208) 673-6342

P.O. Box 128 • Albion, ID 83311

[facebook.com/griggbros](https://www.facebook.com/griggbros) • www.griggbros.com

FASTEST DISPERSING GRANULE ON EARTH*

NO MOWER PICKUP | NO BALL PICKUP | NO PARTICLE MOVEMENT



The 
Andersons

AndersonsTurf.com

*Among granular fertilizers when watered in

Contec DG is a combination of premium turf nutrients and our patented dispersing granule technology designed to optimize applied turf nutrition.

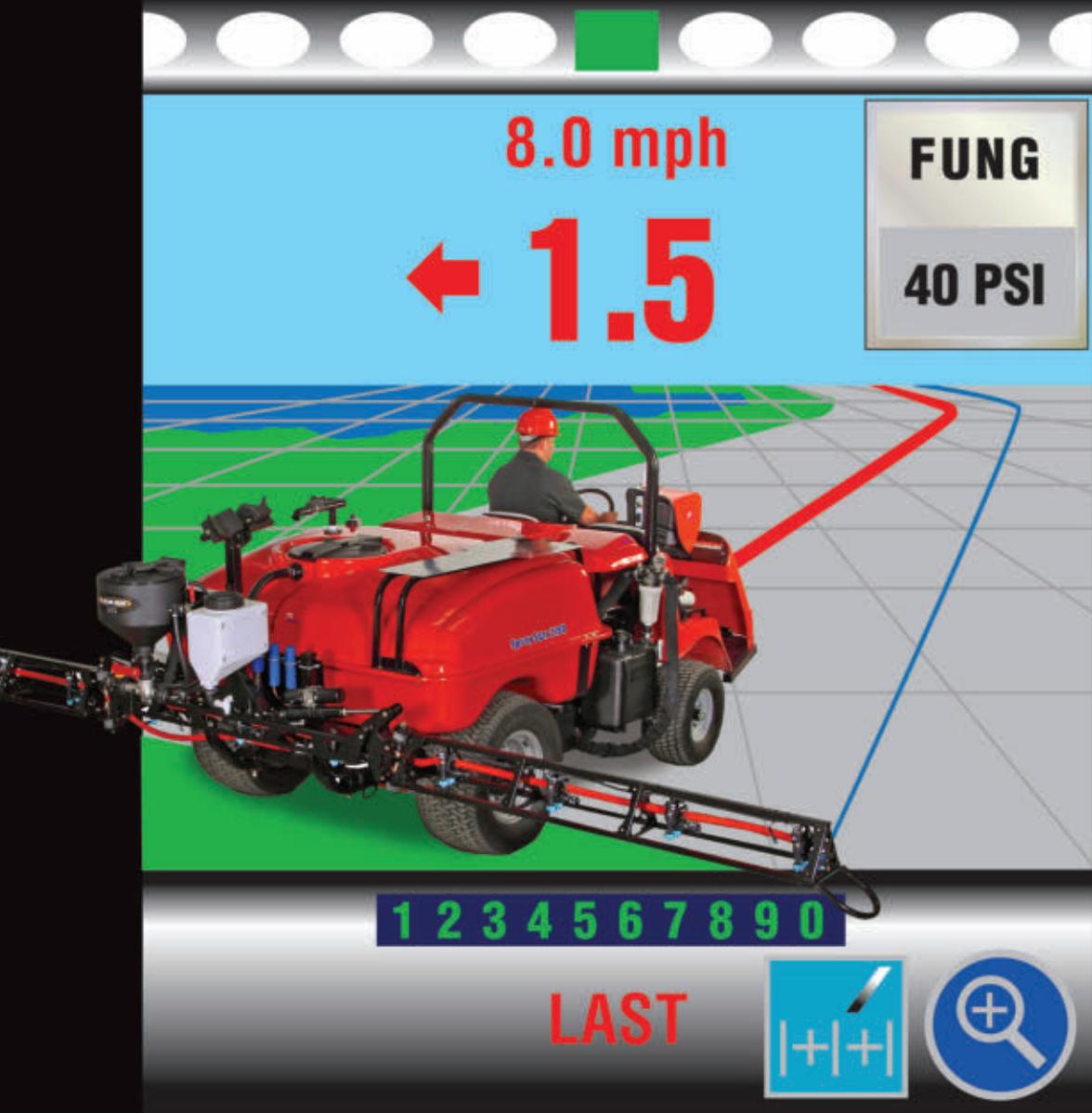


©2012 All rights reserved. ®™
The Andersons and Contec DG
are trademarks of The Andersons, Inc.

Contec DG®

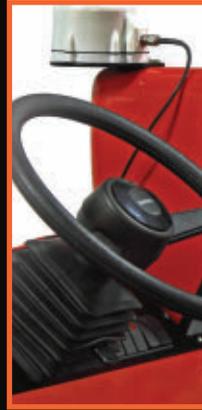
Part of The Andersons  Turf Health System

This is what the future of spraying looks like.



And only *Smithco* has it. *NOW!*

Forget everything you know about spraying. The new Smithco **Star Command System** changes everything.



MODULE 1

The Spray Star 2000 and 3180.

Advanced Platform Spray Vehicles.

Spray Star 2000

- The lowest center of gravity ever built into a spray vehicle.
- Simple and reliable hydraulic drive.
- Built to maneuver everywhere, outside turning circle is only 17 ft/5.2 m diameter, hydraulic power steering.
- Two ground speed control systems, one for short distances, one for long fairway drives.
- 31 hp twin-cylinder air-cooled engine. More power than anyone.
- 200 gal/757 liter tank, constructed of chemical-proof fiber reinforced polystyrene, chemicals kept in suspension by the Smithco Quad-Jet Agitation System.



Spray Star 3180

(Identical to the Spray Star 2000 except for the tank size and engine.)

- The tank is low and sleek and has a capacity of 318 gal/1,203 liter tank, constructed of chemical-proof fiber reinforced polystyrene, Smithco Quad-Jet Agitation System.
- 35.5 hp/26.6 kW three-cylinder diesel engine. Power to spare.



3 integrated modules make the hard-to-believe happen.

- *Speed no longer matters. Spray from 2 to 10 mph.*
- *Never overspray between passes again.*
- *Save up to 30% on chemicals annually!*

MODULE 2

The brains behind the Star Command System is the Smithco-Capstan® SharpShooter® plus...

the SharpShooter Electronic Control, two nozzles and solenoid valves at each nozzle location **TO LET YOU SPRAY FROM 2 TO 10 MPH**. You can realize significant reductions in spraying time without compromising quality.

INSTANT ON AND OFF BOOM TIP CONTROL

SharpShooter controls the “ON” and “OFF” spraying function **RIGHT AT THE TIP**. Shut off is instantaneous. The flow and pressure are retained in the boom at the tips so there is instantaneous flow at the proper pressure when the boom is turned on.



ON-DEMAND DRIFT CONTROL

Operator selects a lower pressure providing bigger droplets and fewer driftable fines. Application is maintained independent of this pressure change.



**See the video at
Smithco.com!**

MODULE 3

A Raven Envizio GPS Pro® shows the application as it's applied and Raven Switch Pro® controls each nozzle.



You'll see on the monitor an “As-Applied” map of the application as it is being created by the GPS-guided sprayer's individual nozzles. They will automatically and instantly shut off over areas that have already been sprayed and automatically and instantly turn back on over unsprayed areas. “As-Applied” maps can be created and named for each fairway.

Then each map can later be downloaded to the office computer as a permanent record of the application.

- Reduces chemical costs up to 30%.
- Improves consistency of chemical coverage leading to better turf health and appearance.
- Delivers greater spraying operation efficiencies.

Turn the page for
big savings.

When's the last time you bought a product with a return-on-investment like this?

Projected Annual Savings on \$50k Chemical Budget			
Low Speed Over Application	Overspray Savings	Overlap Savings	Total Potential
(up to) \$1,250	(up to) \$12,500	(up to) \$1,250	\$15,000

The **Star Command System** overcomes
many of the hard-to-solve
turf problems you're familiar with.

- Overcomes single tip spraying limitations.
- Overcomes conventional rate controller limitations.
- Addresses operation limitations.
- Provides "As-Applied" mapping that can be saved as permanent file.
- Provides on-demand drift control.
- Reduces spraying time significantly.
- Reduces chemical costs up to 30%.
- Improves coverage and turf appearance.
- Delivers greater spraying operation efficiencies.
- All in a manner that's better for the environment.

A spray system so good it'll pay for itself.

Smithco.com

Off The Fringe

At GCSAA, Phipps most looks forward to connecting with people.

Phipps Joins GCSAA Staff

BY BETH GERACI

David Phipps rises every day at 4:15 a.m., as he has for years. It's hardly an unusual ritual for a golf course superintendent. The thing is, Phipps isn't a superintendent anymore.

After 20 years in golf course management, and an impressive 12-year run as Stone Creek Golf Club superintendent, Phipps has joined the GCSAA as its Northwest Region field representative.

"As I weighed my career options, I thought it would be a logical next step for me professionally," Phipps said. "It just seems to fit with what

I'm so passionate about."

In his new position, Phipps takes one of his most notable passions — the environment — to the doorstep of chapters throughout the region. Phipps won the GCSAA's 2011 President's Award for Environmental Stewardship and is a five-time winner of the GCSAA/*Golf Digest* Environmental Leaders in Golf Award.

Now, he advises superintendents throughout the Northwest on environmental initiatives. He's also responsible for promoting the association, reaching out to members and empowering chapters to connect with their communities.

Phipps was impressed by the GCSAA on a 2004 business trip and



in 2008 began contemplating a career with the association. "Being in Lawrence, you buy in really quick," he said. "Because you realize how strong the association is, in terms of friendliness and organization. I think our leadership at GCSAA is phenomenal right now."

But for Phipps, saying goodbye to Stone Creek wasn't easy. "Stone Creek is my baby," he said. "I built that thing."

He'll be back, often — as a guest.



A DEER IN THE HEADLIGHTS

Joe Stribley, superintendent at Yellowstone CC in Billings, Mont., recently spotted an unusual sight. "It was dark, I thought, 'what the heck is that?'" he says. "I shined my headlights on her... it's the first time I've ever seen an albino deer."

Syngenta's Bell Retires

It was a stellar run, but after 35 years at the company, Syngenta marketing communications manager Margaret Bell retired May 4.

Bell launched her Syngenta career in the Chemicals Group, switching to Ag in 1980. She'd worked in marketing communications in Syngenta's Lawn & Garden Group since 2001.

Bell "has been a trailblazer in our industry in many ways, and her business savvy, contacts and knowledge of the golf, lawn care and landscape markets will be difficult to replicate at Syngenta," said Syngenta Turf and Landscape Territory Manager Lee Bloomcamp.

"You always enjoyed working on a project with Margaret," added Walt Osborne, Syngenta's key account manager for national golf accounts. "She has a great sense of humor, and you knew you could count on her to get the job done — and done right."

Bell was active in many Green Industry associations, especially the Turf and Ornamental Communicators Association (TOCA), of which she served as vice president for nearly 12 years.

She will savor most the camaraderie she felt in the golf industry. "A lot of times I've been the only minority and only woman in the group, and I didn't even notice it," Bell said. "That's pretty good, to know you're around people who are all good folks. I will miss that more than anything."





GET FASTER SEDGE RESULTS

STOP FUTURE POPULATIONS

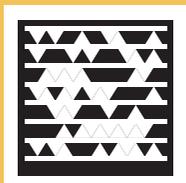
Nothing puts you in control of sedges like Dismiss® herbicides.

Professionals across the country who selected Dismiss® herbicides for their sedge control last year have been amazed by the fast visible results they achieved. But they're also experiencing an exciting and unexpected difference this season: a significant reduction in new sedge populations.

That's because Dismiss fights yellow nutsedge, green kyllinga and purple nutsedge underground, impacting the weeds' reproductive structures to help reduce future generations of sedges from appearing. With Dismiss, you're getting the industry's fastest visible results PLUS a noticeable reduction of sedges next season, saving you time and money.



To find out which Dismiss formulation is right for your turf, visit www.fmcprosolutions.com or contact your FMC Market Specialist or local FMC Distributor.



Scan this tag with the Microsoft Tag Reader app on your smartphone to view an exciting video on Dismiss herbicides.

Need the mobile app? Get it free at <http://gettag.mobi>

FOLLOW
@FMCturf
ON TWITTER

FMC
TURF

FMC

FMC Professional Solutions

1-800-321-1FMC • fmcprosolutions.com


Dismiss
TURF HERBICIDE


Dismiss CA
HERBICIDE


Dismiss
South
HERBICIDE

Always read and follow label directions. FMC and Dismiss are trademarks of FMC Corporation. ©2012 FMC Corporation. All rights reserved.