

The GRASS ROOTS

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ABOUT THE COVER

The 6th hole at Green Lakes Lawsonia Golf Club, Host of the May WGCSA Meeting. The 6th plays 439 yards from the back tee.

The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking.

**By German Theoretical Physicist
Albert Einstein, 1879-1955**

This quote by Einstein can remind us to open our minds to new processes, people and activities in golf and life.

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THE GRASS ROOTS

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Life Lessons

By Jim Van Herynen, Certified Golf Course Superintendent, South Hills Golf and Country Club

The profession of being a Golf Course Superintendent or Assistant Golf Course Superintendent has many challenges as we all know. As you age and gain wisdom the challenges seem to not bother you as much and although things are always hectic and sometimes you feel like you're walking a tight rope. As the manager you have to keep it together to deal with the golfing public, members and most importantly your staff as you are the leader and more importantly the example setter. There are many ways to instill a work ethic, morale, productivity and a general pleasant atmosphere for your employees and yourself as well. We pride ourselves on being mentors to those who want to take up the profession but we have to remember we are mentors to every employee regardless of their background or future endeavors.

To me one of the most enlightening ways to accomplish the aforementioned is to start early. I would like to share a story with you as an example. In 2014 we had the opportunity to hire about a half a dozen high school students due to many college students getting internships are simply starting their careers. Typically we try to stagger the hiring with regards to age however it just turned out this way.

Personally I was fortunate to have my son Mitchell at age sixteen start with this new group of green horns. The second week of their employment, knowing they were getting paid at the end of the week I put a red X by their name on the white board in the morning and announced, very seriously by the way, "If you have a red X by your name after morning jobs meet in the break-room for a meeting." They all looked puzzled and worried. When we all came together I started off by saying, "I just want to let you know what a great job you're doing and today, we, myself and Assistant Superintendent Jamie Mick, are going to teach you some life lessons. Again, they looked puzzled however this time

eager to listen. I started off by saying, "You are all going to get your check this Friday (all first checks of their working career) and I want you do yourself a favor and take your Mom and Dad out to dinner and thank them for everything they have done for you, treat yourself to something fun or something you have wanted for a long time and never received, within reason." "The next thing you should do is start paying yourself as if you were a bill or an invoice – in other words start saving for your future." Most of them, like myself, were never told this.

"We have the opportunity as managers to mold our crews and it is much more than cutting greens, raking bunkers, and servicing tees. Giving advice in a nurturing nature gains respect and with respect it is amazing how productive one can be. Motivation and morale is knowing there are rewards for their efforts being verbal or monetary and the fact that you care about their well-being as much as you care about their productivity."


I used the white board and described to them the rule of "72" i.e. if you invest your money properly with the help of the experts your money should double every seven years. At age sixteen they were blown away what \$1,000.00 turned into when they were 65. I then used myself as an example if I started in my late forties – they felt sorry for me (thankfully I started earlier than that). I stressed that time was in their favor.

The first paycheck my son received

I showed him how to cash it and because we hadn't set up a bank account yet he had the most cash in his hands he has ever had and was truly excited. As we drove home and discussed saving I saw a lemonade stand on the side of the street with two young girls and their parents in lawn chairs against the house eagerly watching for patrons. I pulled the car over and he said, "Dad what are you doing?" I said, "You're going to buy your Dad a lemonade and don't forget to tip them!" He nervously walked behind me and purchased two lemonades and gave a nice tip. The girls were thankful and excited, as well as the parents in the background, and we drove off. He told me the next day he was glad we got the lemonades.

During the meeting we also talked about work ethic with the basics like getting up early, working in the rain, helping coworkers, seeing the big picture etc., but we also told them how people notice good employees whether within coworkers or golfers and one day you may be working for or with them.

I described resume building and reference calls and described how honesty is the best policy and, "I am very honest." The season went on and as it unfolded these young men and women matured greatly and you could see their work ethic get better with every week. My son, in November, told me and my wife that he was ready to do what I said and deposited \$1,000.00 in two mutual funds and looks at his statement once a month with a smile on his face.

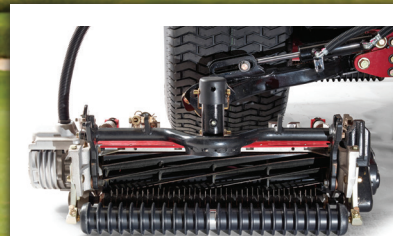
We have the opportunity as managers to mold our crews and it is much more than cutting greens, raking bunkers, and servicing tees. Giving advice in a nurturing nature gains respect and with respect it is amazing how productive one can be. Motivation and morale is knowing there are rewards for their efforts being verbal or monetary and the fact that you care about their well-being as much as you care about their productivity. 

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Chapter Manager Updates...

By Brett Grams, Chapter Manager, Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association

Spring “sprung” earlier this year than the past couple of seasons. I hope that you were able to take advantage of the more average spring, if there is such a thing?

By the time you are reading this you should have already received your copy of the Annual Members Handbook. This directory lists all members at the time of printing and is a great resource for all efforts and events that the WGCSA conducts on your behalf. Need to know who sits on a committee? Want to learn what members work at the course across the county? Want to learn the cell phone number for one of the many great supply companies that serve our industry? ALL can be easily found in the handbook. Please use it as a reference tool and please let the advertisers who sponsor our annual directory know that you appreciate the support!

My focus now turns to some mid-year projects that I will soon begin. The Standard Operating Procedure is now a priority along with a review of some website options. It is hard for me to believe that our “new” website is already 6+ years old. In addition I will assist at our monthly



meetings, help with committee efforts and responsibilities and start to plan for the end of year events and budget and planning for 2016.

I would like to challenge all members to attend at least one meeting this year! We have some great locations and courses. Please consider making it a point to attend your fellow superintendent's event. Somethings you cannot learn any other way then by networking and learning from your peers in person. We are all busy but grab a fellow superintendent or staff member or take up the invitation from your favorite salesperson to join him for a meeting or two...

I also want to make everyone aware that I am working with recently retired Bruce Worzella who is helping me organize a

Saturday November 7th Couples Dinner at Lombardi's Steakhouse. I have secured a special room rate at the Paper Valley Hotel next door, both in downtown Appleton. Historically the WGCSA has always held a couples event each fall. Long gone are the once popular dinner dances. We have decided to skip golfing this year and focus solely on a single evening event in the hopes that we can all grab our spouses and treat them to a great dinner and night of hospitality. Anyone wanting to help with planning or participation please let me know.

I hope your mid-season efforts are paying off for your facilities and golfers. If you need help with anything WGCSA related please let me know. I am here to assist all members as I can! ✓

WGCSA MISSION STATEMENT

The Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association is committed to serve each member by promoting the profession and enhancing the growth of the game of golf through education, communication and research.

WGCSA VISION STATEMENT

The Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association is dedicated to increase the value provided to its members and to the profession by:

- Enhancing the professionalism of its members by strengthening our role as a leading golf organization in the state.
- Growing and recognizing the benefits of a diverse membership throughout Wisconsin.
- Educating and promoting our members as leaders in environmental stewardship.
- Offering affordable, high value educational programs at the forefront of technology and service.
- Being key to enjoyment and the economic success of the game of golf.



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The Skeptical Plant Defense Activation User

By Dr. Paul Koch, Department of Pathology, University of Wisconsin – Madison

Remember the old days, when fungicides simply suppressed fungi? Now they reportedly provide a host of additional benefits including improved turf color, increased drought resistance, and a cure for baldness (I wish!). Arguably the most widespread claim about a host of fungicides currently on the market is that they are 'Plant Defense Activators.' In other words, they help prime the plant to defend itself rather than simply wipe out marauding invaders.

I am always skeptical of new products, especially ones claiming to promote difficult-to-measure variables such as 'plant defense.' The level of independent, peer-reviewed support of defense activation varies with each product, which makes it difficult to determine which products are truly improving plant defense responses and which are just good marketing. However, a paper recently published in *Plant Disease* by Araujo et al. (2015) investigated the impact of two primary 'Plant Defense Activator' compounds and also attempted to determine HOW they activated plant defense. What they found can be beneficial to superintendents both in selecting an effective product and in understanding how at least some of these products work.

What they found in mango

The researchers from Vicosia University in Brazil tested both acibenzolar-S-methyl (ASM) and potassium phosphite for their ability to suppress a fungal pathogen of mango (*Ceratocystis fimbriata*). Acibenzolar-S-methyl has been available outside of turf as the product Actigard for many years. More recently, Syngenta brought it to the turf market as a combination product with chlorothalonil (Daconil Action) and just this past spring as a combination with azoxystrobin (Heritage Action). ASM is similar in structure to salicylic acid, which is known to stimulate a particular plant defense reaction known as systemic acquired resistance (SAR). Other plant defense reactions are known as induced systemic resistance (ISR) and are stimulated by ethylene and jasmonic acid. Please see **Figure 1** for more information on the different defense activation pathways.

Potassium phosphite products have also widely been used in turf to suppress numerous diseases and are currently available in such products as Alude, Appear, and K-phite (to name only a few).

Previous research has demonstrated that potassium phosphite acts differently depending on the concentration present inside the plant: when phosphite in the plant is low then the compound acts by stimulating plant defense activity, however when phosphite in the plant is adequate then it acts directly on the pathogen in a fungicidal manner.

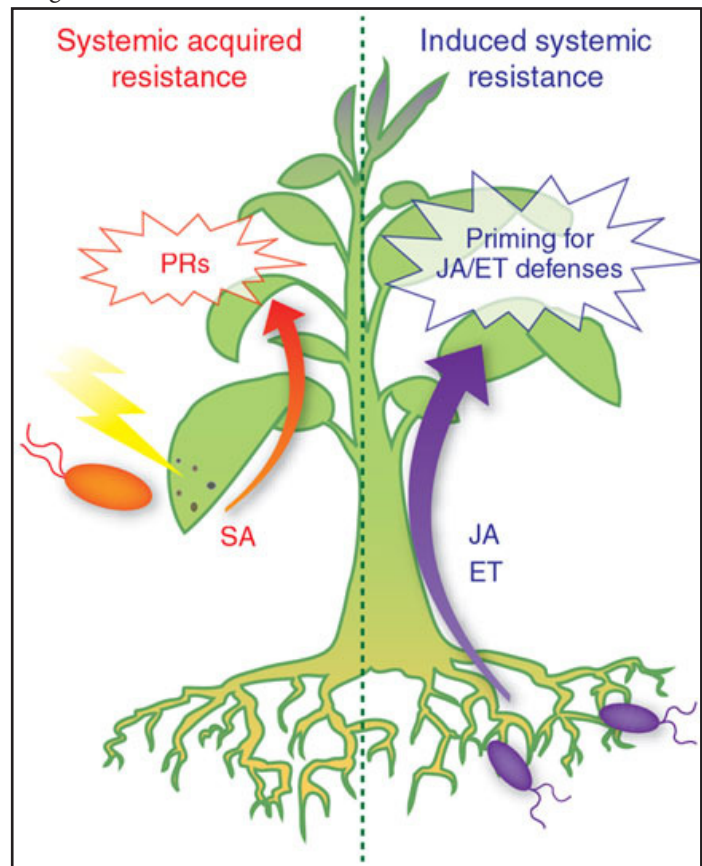


Figure 1: Comparison of the SAR and ISR pathways. SAR is typically activated following induction by certain compounds or following pathogen attack, with the signal then spreading to the rest of the plant to systemically increase resistance. ISR is typically activated following colonization of the roots by beneficial microorganisms, with the signal spreading to the rest of the plant to systemically increase resistance. Photo accessed from nature.com from the article 'Networking by small-molecule hormones in plant immunity' by Pieterse et al. 2009. SA = salicylic acid, PR = pathogenesis-related proteins, JA = jasmonic acid, ET = ethylene.



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WISCONSIN PATHOLOGY REPORT

What the researchers found was that BOTH compounds decreased the damage to mango caused by the fungus. Both compounds appeared to work in a similar manner: by increasing the concentration of small defense compounds in the plant's vacuole (which is sort of a storage compartment in the cell). Then right when the pathogen attacked the plant, the plant released its already-made defense compounds to blunt the pathogen's progress. In simpler terms, it's the difference between having an army at the ready BEFORE an attack and building one from scratch AFTER being attacked.

What does it mean for turf?

As I alluded to before, I believe all products should be looked at skeptically until they have proven themselves to be effective both in the hands of the end user and in university research. For several years the products mentioned above, and others like them,

have been touted by their manufacturers (and some users) as an effective way to stimulate the plant's natural defenses. Though slow in coming at times, the scientific evidence to support the claims of some products is now very clear in backing up the initial claims of the manufacturers. This scientific evidence started as simple field testing trials, which oftentimes showed both disease suppression and improved turfgrass quality (Figure 2). The final piece along the 'product acceptance pathway', in my opinion, has been the more recent advances in understanding more about how these products actually stimulate plant defense. There are now numerous papers from across the agricultural spectrum providing further insight into how these products work, which should finally shift the debate about whether these products work to how can we incorporate them into our programs most effectively. Is it healthy for the plant to



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be constantly stimulating their defense? Does fertility or plant growth regulator use need to be altered in the face of constant defense activation? How do these products fit with more traditional fungicides? These are all questions that remain largely unanswered and will likely be investigated more fully in the coming years.

Please note that there are additional plant defense stimulating compounds not discussed here that also have ample scientific research supporting their efficacy. In addition, please note that there are numerous products on the turf market today that claim to stimulate plant defense but have very little scientific research to back up those claims. While those products may very well produce all the benefits their manufacturers tout, until more peer-reviewed evidence is available...consider me skeptical.

References:

Araujo, L., Silva Bispo, W. M., Rios, V. S., Fernandes, S. A., Rodrigues, F. A. 2015. Induction of the phenylpropanoid pathway by acibenzolar-S-methyl and potassium phosphite increases mango resistance to *Ceratocystis fimbriata* infection. *Plant Disease* 99: 447-459. ✓

Pythium Blight July 25th, 2011

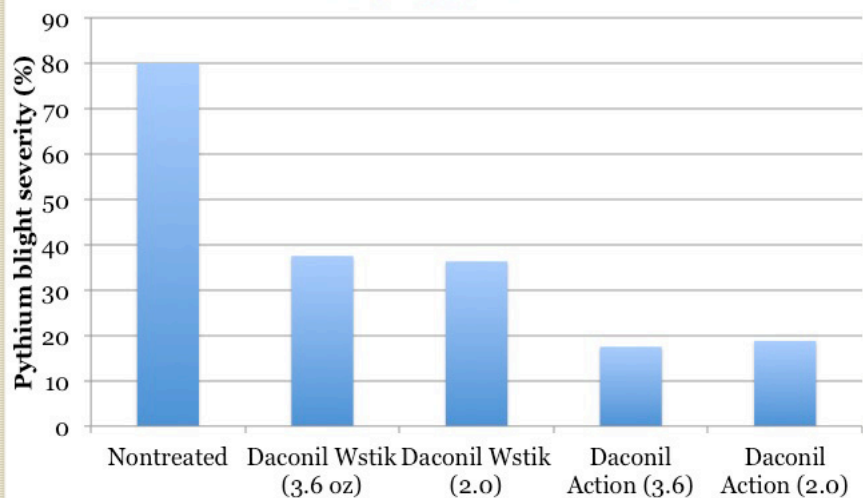


Figure 2: Increase in suppression of Pythium blight with acibenzolar-S-methyl in combination with chlorothalonil (Daconil Action) compared to chlorothalonil applied alone (Daconil WeatherStik). Study conducted at the OJ Noer Turfgrass Research and Educational Facility in Madison, WI in 2011.

Product Stewardship

By Dr. R. Chris Williamson, Department of Entomology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Product Stewardship encompasses a variety of topics including: 1) product selection; 2) product application; 3) personal protection; 4) preservation/protection of non-target organisms (including pollinators); 5) resistance management; 6) storage; and 7) disposal. All aspects of are critical in maximizing product performance and minimizing environmental hazards.

Proper product selection is essential to achieving the maximum level of pest control. In order to choose the appropriate product, you **MUST** know your pest(s) **BEFORE** you treat. Pesticides will not work on the wrong pest, costing you money and doing nothing to solve your problem.

The pesticide label is extremely important to every user. The label instructs you

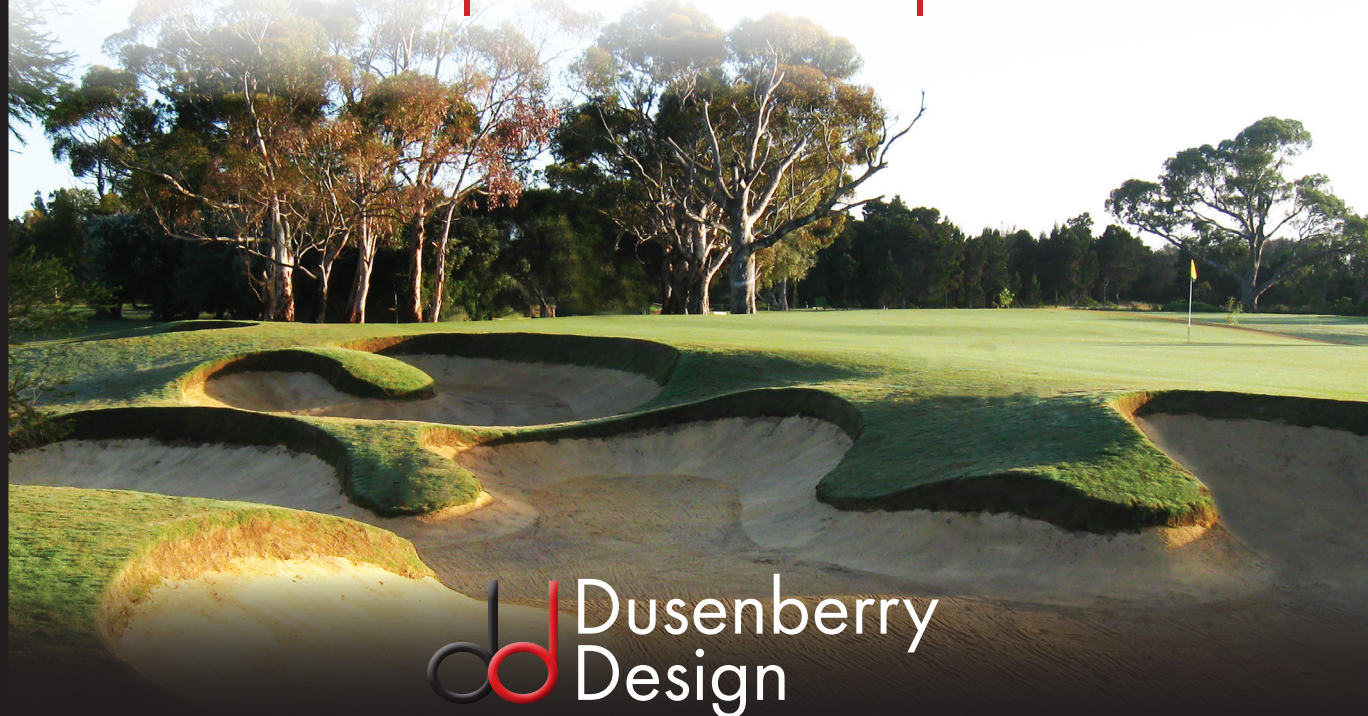
how to correctly use the pesticide. The label, when properly followed, provides protection for applicators, consumers and the environment. The label is the law, make certain to read it before purchasing and applying pesticides.

Correct application of a pesticide is accomplished by following the use instructions found on the label. The use instructions will tell you:

- The pest(s) that the manufacturer claims the product will control. (Federal law legally allows you to apply a pesticide against a pest that is not specified on the labeling if the application is to a crop, animal, or site which the labeling approves. Your state may not permit such a use.)
- The crop, animal or site the product is intended to protect
- In what form the product should be applied
- The proper application equipment to be used
- How much product to use
- Mixing and loading directions
- Compatibility with other often-used products
- Phytotoxicity and other possible plant injury problems
- Where the product should be applied
- When the product should be applied

Information regarding product application including dose or application rate, compatibility and phytotoxicity are stated on a pesticide label. Recommended doses (application rate) and directions for applying approved uses appear on every label. This information is important as it indicates the maximum dosage permitted by law.

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WISCONSIN ENTOMOLOGY REPORT

However, sometimes local conditions may not require a maximum dose to achieve effective control of the pest. You should use no more pesticide than is needed.

The label will usually state which other chemicals can be mixed with the pesticide. Often, either pesticides or fertilizers can be combined with the pesticide for one application. Sometimes the chemicals cannot be mixed without destroying their effectiveness. Check on compatibility before you mix. The label will often indicate what other products (chemicals) can be mixed with the pesticide, other pesticides or fertilizers can be

combined with the pesticide for one application. Sometimes the chemicals cannot be mixed without destroying their effectiveness. Check on compatibility before you mix.


The pesticide label also provides important information regarding the required personal protection equipment (PPE) necessary to safely handle (i.e., mix/load, apply and dispose) pesticides. Pesticide labels vary in the type of PPE they require. Some labels fully describe appropriate PPE, a few list the kinds of respirators that should be worn when handling and applying the product. Other labels require the use of a respira-

tor, but do not specify type or model to be used. And, some labels carry no statement at all.

You should follow all recommendations on PPE, the lack of any statement or the mention of only one piece of equipment does not rule out the need for additional protection. The best way to determine the correct type of PPE is to use the signal word, route of entry statements, formulation type, and specific action statements. Sensible selection of PPE depends on a thorough understanding of the pesticide, the intended application (site and target pest), the weather, the handler and the interaction of these factors.

It is imperative that we make every effort to protect our pollinators. Most pesticides are not toxic to bees, however insecticides are generally more likely to be toxic than fungicides and herbicides. When using a pollinator-toxic pesticide, make sure you know the proximity of commercial hives and native pollinator habitat, local pollinator visitation habits, and the blooming period of plants in the area, and follow all label directions and precautions.

Pesticides play an important role in controlling insects, weed and diseases. The areas treated for pests are often shared by pollinators, they include: honey bees, other bee species, butterflies, beetles, wasps, flies, birds and bats. Pollinators are attracted to numerous blooming flowers on crops, trees, shrubs, weeds, and native vegetation. They will visit multiple plant species for nectar and pollen throughout the growing season. Most pesticides can be used safely around honey bees and other insect pollinators when label directions are followed. Some pesticide labels require very specific practices and precautions to minimize pollinator exposure. In general, insecticides are more toxic to pollinators than fungicides and herbicides, but not all insecticides are toxic to pollinators. Proper pesticide use minimizes potential harm to pollinators and can serve to protect their food sources, water and habitat. Proper pesticide use begins with following the pesticide label. The use of IPM and good product stewardship practices will help reduce the potential exposure of pollinators to pollinator-toxic pesticides.





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Effective pest management depends upon pesticides that perform consistently on the target pests over time. Utilize proven resistance management techniques not only to prevent pest resistance, but also to manage it when it occurs. The greater the selection pressure on a pest, the more important the need for resistance management. Even with low selection pressure, resistance management strategies should be practiced to minimize the risk of resistance developing.

Resistance management strategies range from simple practices to very specific multi-product guidelines that consider factors such as product usage, pest mechanisms of resistance, alternative products and fit with integrated pest management (IPM) programs. Some general resistance management strategies include:

- Use pesticides only when necessary
- Rotate pesticide chemistries (mode of action)
- Apply a pesticide that is known to be effective
- Apply pesticide at optimal timing
- Apply pesticide using the recommended application equipment
- When possible, spot treat or target pests (minimize prophylactic or blanket applications)

All pesticide labels contain general instructions for the appropriate storage and disposal of the pesticide and its container. State and local laws vary significantly, so specific instructions typically are not included. You should determine the best storage and disposal procedures for your operation and location. These statements may appear in a special section of the label titled "Storage



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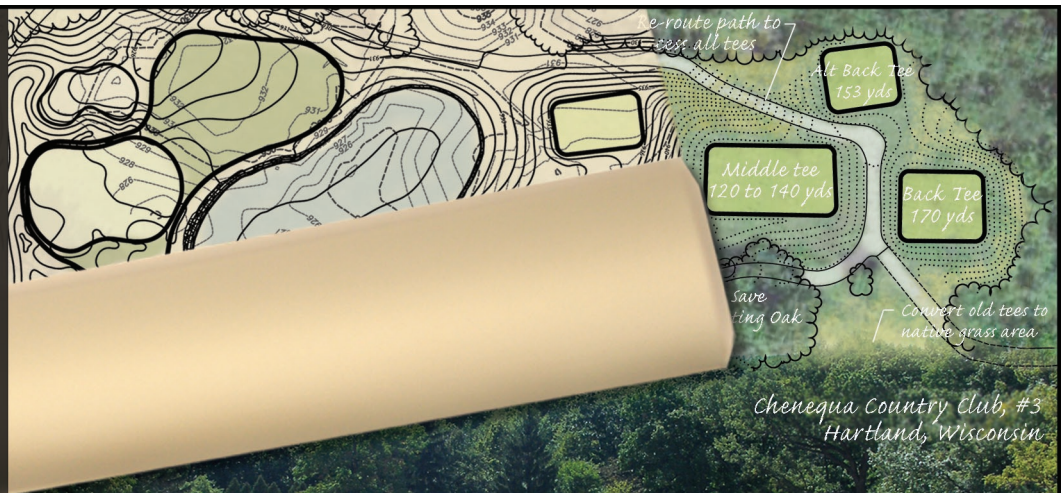
Turfgrass and Ornamental Entomology

and Disposal." For additional information on proper pesticide disposal and storage contact your state regulatory agency.

Numerous factors affect the potential impact of pesticides on man and the environment. Even though the government, industry and extension provide regulations, pesticide labels and educational outreach to promote judicious use and good product stewardship, success is ultimately contingent on the personal knowledge and diligence of everyone who handles a pesticide. The bottom line is that product stewardship starts with you, your actions can make a difference! The purpose of a pesticide is to kill specific pests, so read the label before you even purchase the product. The pesticide label is the law! You **MUST** read and follow the directions carefully, you are legally obligated to read the label. ✓

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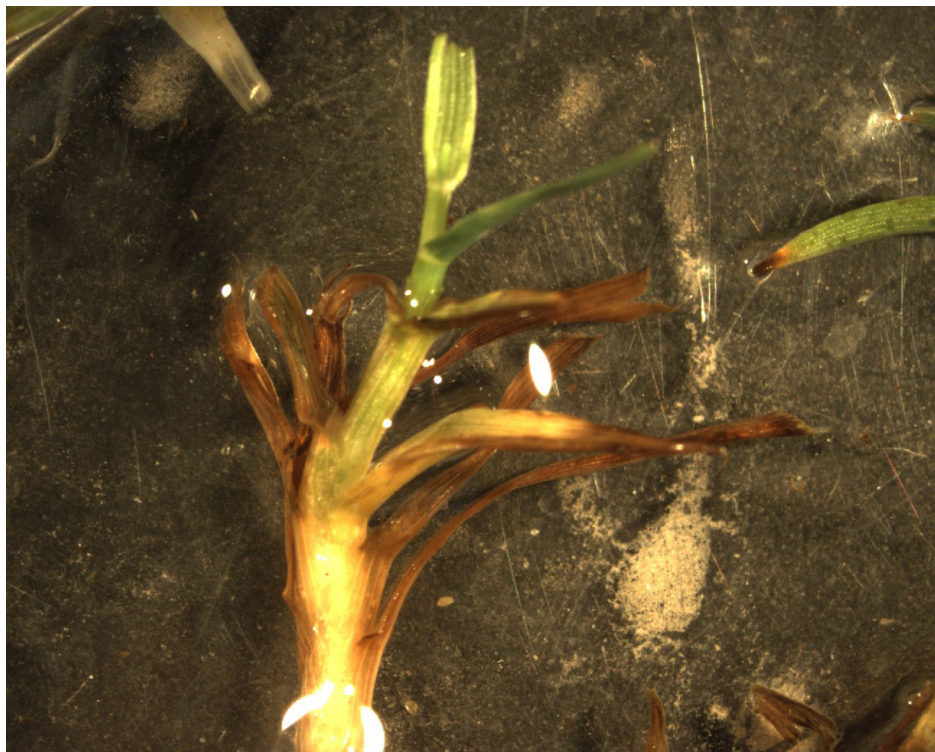
Spring Colors

By Bruce Schweiger, Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab Manager, O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility

Every year Spring arrives and everyone gets excited that the warmer weather is here and it is time to grow grass. This excitement also comes with golfers. The weather is warm and this means the grass should be as green, as it is on the Masters. This spring the snow started to melt in early March and for many of us the ground was bare early. Here it is mid-May and I had reports this week that when certain northern communities woke up to a light snow covering. This leads me to the most common issue being seen in the Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab (TDL) and that is abiotic damage. There are few common issues we have seen and continue to see in the lab this spring, like the past few springs.

The samples are all greens and they look terrible. They are growing but the color is off. During the early conversations with the superintendents the first question is always when did you make your *Poa annua* seed suppression application. Many Superintendents report that due to the amount of *Poa annua* in their greens this early application is crucial to happy golfers in June. The theory is that this application has to be made early to avoid allowing the seed to form and thus prevent it from emerging and turning the greens white and interfering with putting green quality.

The timing of these application is very often more miss than hit. Recently there has been good research into the use of Growing Degree Day models (GDD) to use various climate data to better time the first *Poa* seed head applications. These models have proven to very effective and it appears this approach is used by many in the industry. The only thing this does not take into effect is the future weather pattern and of course no one can, not even our local Meteorologist. Many years things move along just as expected but this year the temperatures have been varied. In the southern part of Wisconsin the targeted appli-



A bentgrass plant sample from off color turf shows older leaves have died but not gone through senescence. The older leaves cause a off-color appearance to the turf stand despite the green healthy new leaves.

cation date was around the middle of April.

According to the weather data the next 7 to 10 days the morning lows were in the low 30's. As we all know the turf does not respond favorably to these cold temperatures. During this same time the soils temperatures were having a difficult time reaching and maintaining 50F for aggressive turf growth. The daily high's were many times very pleasant but all the gains we made during the day were lost during the overnight low's in the 30's.

In late April samples started to arrive at the lab of off color turf, non-responsive and off looking turf. The soil temperatures warmed and the Bluegrass/ryegrass areas came on color and the greens did not. The question from

golfers were what is wrong.

The superintendents explained to the golfers the issue, but questions continued to mount to the point that doubt crept into the minds of a few superintendents. The samples began to arrive and as I examined them I found no pathogens causing the off-color appearance. What I did find on all of them was the leaf tips that were off color and one new shoot that was green and healthy.

The common thread was that the plants all had 8-11 leaves on them. This is not normal and the older leaves that had died had not gone through senescence. The picture above shows a bentgrass plant with all the older leaves. Following up with the samples last week had most superintendents reporting that the greens had recovered.

TURFGRASS DIAGNOSTIC LAB

The other issue this spring, as usual, was that even greens that were not under any growth regulators the color was poor. Patience was the key here since the issue was the cool soil temperatures.

At times I discussed the lack of color with superintendents that reported they had applied 0.5 to 1 lbs of nitrogen per 1000 sq ft and still not color response. Many of these application were with fertilizers with a high content of methylene urea (MU). The MU in these fertilizer are broken down to useable nitrogen from microbial activity and since the soil temperatures stayed cool most of the Spring the the microbes are moving slowly and the MU nitrogen is not available until the soils

warm. By this writing they have warmed and color is appearing everywhere.

The key to spring turfgrass maybe be patience so don't panic. If things are off send me a sample. This spring a few of your fellow superintendents found a diagnosis from the TDL can set their minds at ease and when shared with others can quiet



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many rumors.

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- WTA Summer Field Day at the OJ Noer Tuesday July
- WTA Fall Golf Outing Tuesday October 7th at Blue Mound Country Club

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Help Wanted

By Jake Schneider, LMD Production Manager, The Bruce Company

Authors Disclaimer: Some of the following discussion points are going to be political in nature. The author believes that both major political parties are full of morons and supports only his own opinions on matters. Enjoy.

Maybe I was spoiled during my time at Blackhawk Country Club, I'm not sure. But, we seemed to have three-quarters of our workforce returning on a yearly basis, and the only employees that we typically replaced from one season to the next were a few college kids. Most of the time, we didn't even have to advertise because people who were oftentimes acquaintances of current or former employees would stop into the shop and ask if we were hiring. Times were simpler then.

Fast forward to work as I know it, and life in the landscaping world isn't quite the same; maybe it isn't the same in golfland anymore, either. As of May 27, 2015, the landscape maintenance production department at The Bruce Company had fifty-six total employees, and for some odd reason, this number often drops by five on Mondays.

People seem more prone to getting 'sick' on the weekends. For twenty-two of these employees (about 40% of our current workforce), this is their first season with the company, and I am still looking for a handful of additional workers. If you want to talk about time lost due to re-training—not only of the specific tasks and processes but also of the 200 sites that we maintain throughout the Madison area and beyond—our business world is a prime example.

To say that comparing golf to landscaping is apples-to-apples is


untrue. At Blackhawk, about one-quarter of our employees were employed year round, but in my current gig, only two (counting myself) people in my department have year-round salaries. While there are consistent hours for several others, the vast majority of our staff is laid off, on call for snow removal duties that happen at all hours of the day, and collecting unemployment from December through March. Although we pay a decent wage to our crew leaders and offer at least 40 hours of work plus remarkably good benefits, it's not the life for everyone, and I get that. But, I can't understand why it is so difficult to find dependable, hard working people who take pride in the product that they produce.

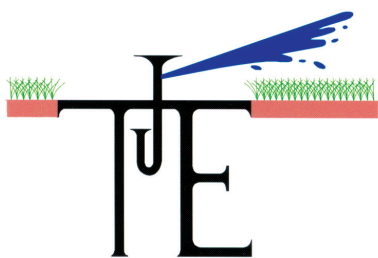
"I now sound like a grumpy old man espousing about how things were back in his day, but it's not all bad, no.."

I now sound like a grumpy old man espousing about how things were back in his day, but it's not all bad, no. We have many very good, dependable employees who have been with us for many years and several rookies that I have high hopes for, but with a metropolitan population of over a half-million people, you would sure think that we could find 60 folks willing to do the job.

In our company, we have one human resources specialist who spends the vast majority of her work-related time posting jobs on as many avenues as possible, providing a presence at job fairs, screening applicants, contacting job seekers, and doing more phone interviews in a day than I could tolerate in a year. And, yet, openings nearly constantly remain. Even finding candidates who are worthy of an initial interview are becoming few and far between. As many of you are well aware, one common saying in the golf world is that it'd be a great job if it weren't for the golfers. I'd kinda like to deal with those golfers again, but then, I'd have to work weekends.

Given all of the above, I chuckle when political candidates—both perspective and incumbent—bicker about the other party being unable to create jobs. Maybe I'm naïve, but I see jobs, lots of jobs. What I don't see are people willing to work them. My charge to our fine (cough, cough) elected officials would be to create the incentives for the able bodied to find and hold the jobs that have been created. Are these jobs likely to be glamorous and high paying? Probably not, but you have to start somewhere. I think that it's more fact than opinion that most younger people today have a sense of entitlement and questionable work ethics, and for the sake of my sanity, I hope that the trend does not continue.

Kids (and adults) these days. 



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May Meeting at Lawsonia Golf Club

By Brett Grams, Chapter Manager, Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association

The WGCSA gathered in Green Lake, WI on Tuesday May 19th for our monthly meeting. The day started out with our educational session. The majority of the attendees were able to hear an excellent presentation by Bryan Bergner, GCS of Westmoor CC who gave his presentation on his club's "Project Honey Bee". His presentation was titled "What the Buzz?" and centered on his introduction of honey bees to the golf course and how the bees are benefiting the course and surrounding community. In addition, the hive area is being utilized to teach and educate the club members and local youth. Bryan's passion about the importance of pollinators is very evident. Any members thinking about introducing honey bees to their facilities should use Bryan as a resource. He is quickly becoming the WGCSA Bee Guru!

At Westmoor CC the bee project has not been for honey harvesting but more about pollinator production. Bryan explained it has produced a lot of positive interest from the membership while bringing all the departments at Westmoor together. Bergner and

his staff have been giving 'Beesentations' to members and juniors.

To create 16oz of honey it takes 1,152 bees flying 112,000 miles and 5 million flowers. Honey bees are born to work and have little interest in humans. Each bee has a task and spends its life working by instinct without worry what other bees are doing.

Bryan often handles the bars and combs without protective gear and has not been stung yet. In reality most stings are from wasps and hornets while honey bee stings are usually due to accidental contact.

After a great Burger and Brat buffet lunch attendees hit the course to play our annual Two Person Best Ball Event. The wide ranging temperatures of May in WI were especially evident this year. Just a day prior much of WI was experiencing temps in the 80's. At tee off the high was in the mid 40's and did not warm up much throughout the round. The brisk weather did not dampen the spirits of the 55 golfers who were happy to play golf at one of our states most historic courses.



Brian Bergner sits calmly with a comb section from one of Westmoor Country Clubs honey bee pods. Brian gave an informative talk on his experiences with pods at the club and the great member response and interaction the hives have produced.

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Top: Hole 11,13,15 from 10 Green.

Middle: Holes 6,5 and 9 from 8 fairway.

Bottom Left: Hole 13 from behind the green with hole 15 to the right.

Bottom Right: Hole 15 is one of the few where a tree is hittable from the tee.





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TOP: Our Hosts - Superintendent Mike Lyons and Assistant Superintendent Jordan Mock.

MIDDLE: Our speaker Bryan Bergner, Golf Course Superintendent at Westmoor Country Club

BELOW LEFT: The winning teams from the two man best ball. Dan Wubbels and Peter Meyer won the Gross Division with a 74. Bruce Schweiger and Tom Schwab scored a 61 to win the Net Division by 6 shots.

BELOW RIGHT: President Jim Van Herynen shows off his cold weather bunker skills from one of the deep greenside bunkers.





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The Links Course which is the much older brother of the Woodlands Course at Lawsonia has a long and rich history in our states golf story. In the 1880's Victor and Jessie Lawson created a vast estate on the north shores of Green Lake. The Lawson estate was developed into a luxury resort by the H O Stone Company of Chicago in the late 1920's and 1930's. It was during the creation of the resort that William Langford was hired to design what is today known as the Links Course. Influenced heavily by his travels to Scotland with Theodore Moreau, Langford's Links Style Course stands as a great example of his work and remains a top golf course in our states fantastic line up of beautiful courses. The pot bunkers, striking berms and highly elevated greens remain as challenging today as when it was created thanks to a careful renovation by Ron Forse in the early 2000's. The course is expertly maintained by WGCSA Past President Mike Lyons, his assistant Jordan Mock, and experienced staff.

Following golf we all gathered in Langford's Pub for hors d'oeuvres, conversation, and some Wisconsinizing. The group appreciated a round of beverages from Mike Oliphant, President of Oliphant Golf Management who operates the Lawsonia Golf Courses.

Despite the challenging course and the cool weather some of the two person teams scored very well. In the gross division Peter Meyer and Dan Wubbels came in first place with an impressive 74. Second place went to the team of Mike Lyons and Jordan Mock by winning a score card playoff. Coming in third was Bob Lohmann and Todd Quitno. Both of these teams shot 79 in pretty tough conditions.

The net division saw the team of Bruce Schweiger and Tom Schwab on top with an impressive score of 61. Second and third was again decided by a score card playoff with Dominic Frese and Peter Killian besting Dave Kloss and Erich Lange, both teams shot 67's. In addition we also awarded our five flag events. The

JW Turf Long Drive winner was Chad Harrington on hole 5. The National Golf Graphics Long Drive winner was Peter Killian on hole 13. The Syngenta closest to the pin winner was Erin Goode on hole 7. The Clesen Pro Turf closest to pin winner on hole 14 was won by Scott Allsup. The longest putt event sponsored by Reinders on hole 18 went to Todd Quitno.

We would like to thank the staff at Lawsonia for a great day! We also need to thank the following companies for sponsoring the Prizes and Events for the day. Thanks to this support the WGCSA can hold our monthly meetings and control costs to our attendees. Please make sure to thank the following companies for their generosity and support!

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TOP: This picture from the Lawsonia website shows the back 9 during a dry spell with Green Lake in the background.

BELOW LEFT: The simple view of the 18th green shows the land forms that define the "Links Course" as designed by Langford and Moreau.

BELOW Right: The barn buildings along the third hole were built in 1916 and housed Guernsey and Jersey cattle herds for the Lawsons and later housed prisoners of war during WWII. It is referred to as the largest barn in Wisconsin.





TOP: The much talked about 7th green from the tee. At 146 yards the hole is all carry and players short, long, left or right face a steep second shot.

Below Left: On the course or in the clubhouse it's a good day!

Below Right: The 7th Hole from 8 tee shows the dramatic slopes around the huge green surface. It is rumored a rail-road car is buried under the green.



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Does The One-Third Rule Really Work

By Dr. Doug Soldat, Department of Soil Science, University of Wisconsin – Madison

The one-third rule is one of the most basic rules in turf management. It states that one should not remove more than one-third of the leaf tissue at any single mowing. For example if you mow your lawn at 2 inches, you should mow it before it reaches 3 inches. If you mow at 2.5 inches, then you should mow before it reaches 3.75 inches. In Dr. Turgeon's Turfgrass Management textbook, he writes that if more than one-third of the tissue is removed, the resulting imbalance between roots and shoots results in turf growth retardation. This sounds reasonable, and as many a practitioner will tell you following the one-third rule works.

Dr. Micah Woods of the Asian Turfgrass Center recently traced the origin of the one-third rule in a blog post (Viridescent, 30 Jan. 2015, www.blog.asian-turfgrass.com) back to a 1955 paper by Franklin Crider called "Root-growth stoppage resulting from defoliation of grass." Dr. Woods pointed out a few shortcomings of the research, and then suggested that while mowing properly is important, we could probably lighten up a bit when it comes to the rule.

Dr. Woods brings up a good point, it is important to reevaluate the conventional wisdom from time to time. Turfgrass management is a rapidly evolving practice, so things that may have been

true under one set of expectations and norms may not hold up as times change. Plus, it's fun to put those age old notions to the test. And that's exactly what former badger Dr. Bill Kreuser and his two graduate students (including Glen Obear) did last summer at the University of Nebraska. They grew tall fescue and mowed it at either 2 or 3 inches. Then they imposed mowing frequency treatments on each height. The tall fescue was mowed either following the one-third rule, the one-fourth rule (mowed more frequently than the one-third rule), the one-half rule (less frequent than the one-third rule, or weekly (regardless of growth).

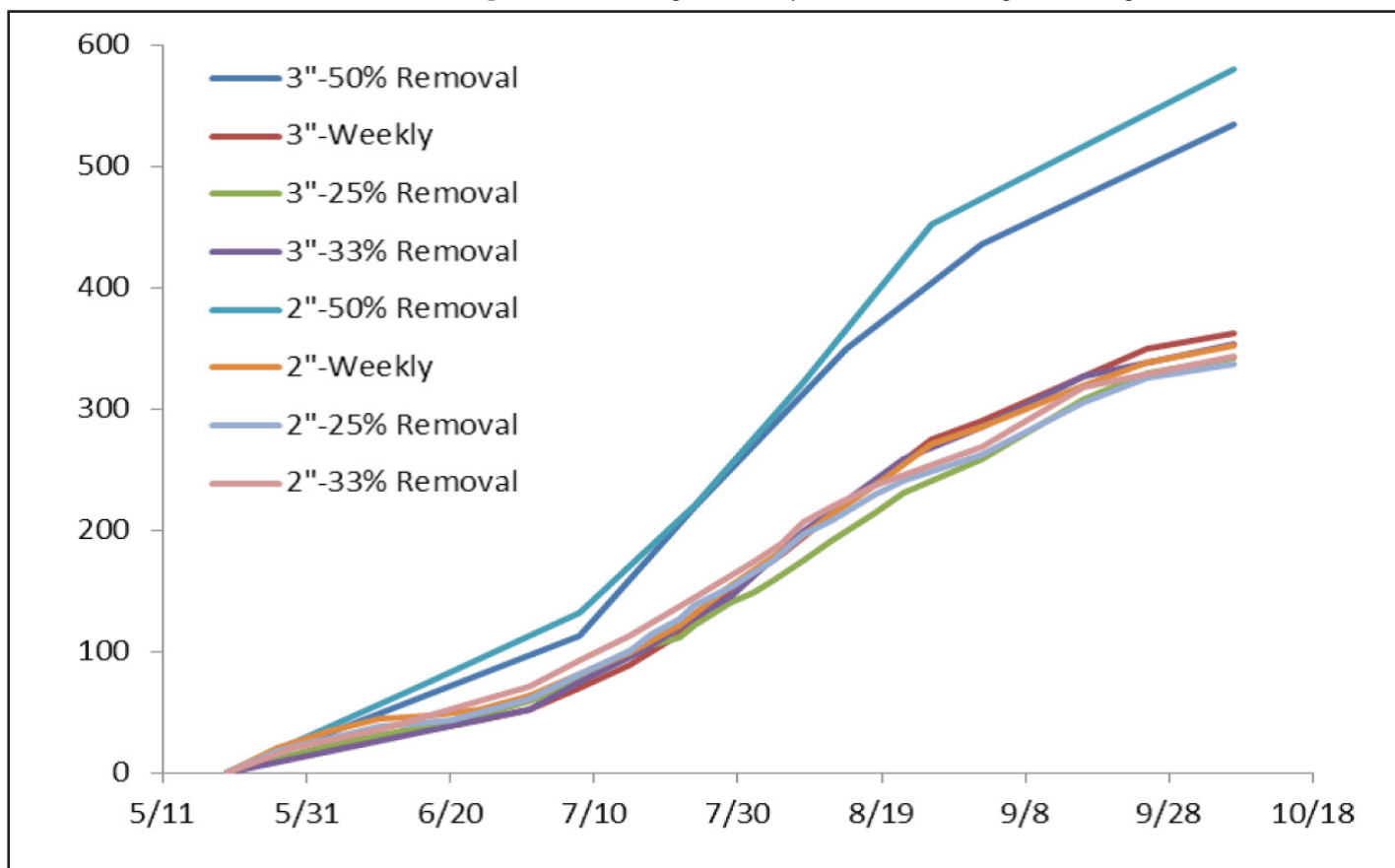


Figure 1: Mean cumulative tall fescue clipping yield of eight different mowing treatments during a 2014 University of Nebraska study. A steeper curve indicates enhanced growth rate. Data reproduced with permission from Dr. Bill Kreuser..

WISCONSIN SOILS REPORT

The first thing they noticed was that taller grass grows slower (which is something we have also observed at the O.J. Noer Facility with creeping bentgrass). The 2 inch tall fescue needed to be mowed 14 times to follow the one-third rule all year, while the 3 inch tall fescue required only 11 mowings when following the one-third rule. This is counter intuitive for many homeowners and professionals alike. The lower you mow, the faster the grass grows to replace the missing photosynthetic tissue – the effect is known as compensatory growth in the scientific community, it's basically a hormonal response to a severe defoliation stress. So tell your customers or members to think twice about shaving their lawns down low before heading out for vacation. It will actually be taller when they return compared to if they just left it at the normal height.

But the mowing frequency had an even bigger impact on growth than the mowing height in the Nebraska study. **Figure 1** left shows the amount of grass clippings collected for each of the treatments. The graph shows six lines grouped fairly closely together and two lines way above the rest. When the one-third rule was exceeded (mowing to remove half of the tissue) the grass grew almost twice as much as when the one-third rule was followed.

This effect also follows under the compensatory growth effect. Removing large amounts ($>1/3$) of tissue at one time increases the plants growth rate. This will have the effect of depleting carbohydrate supplies leading to shallower roots and eventually a thinner, weedier stand of turf. In contrast, it appears that there is little to no benefit of mowing more frequently than the one-third rule specifies, because following the one-fourth rule resulted in about the same amount of clipping production as the one-third rule.

So it appears the one-third rule is strongly rooted in reality. However, the explanation in the textbook mentioned in the first paragraph is backwards. The resulting imbalance between roots and shoots does not retard growth – but rather accelerates it which will eventually lead to a suite of negative impacts. The faster growing turf uses more carbohydrates and soil nitrogen and therefore runs out of those things faster. When the carbohydrates and nitrogen are depleted the turf thins. So for a thick rough, lawn, etc. the best thing to do is to mow high (3 inches) and follow that one-third rule like it's the law! You can read the full research report from Dr. Kreuser here:

<http://turf.unl.edu/research/2014research/OptionalMowingHeightFrequency.pdf>

“The 2 inch tall fescue needed to be mowed 14 times to follow the one-third rule all year, while the 3 inch tall fescue required only 11 mowings when following the one-third rule. This is counter intuitive for many homeowners and professionals alike.



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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Tim Adas, Randy Witt, Michael Skenandore

By Josh Lepine, Certified Golf Course Superintendent, Maple Bluff Country Club

NOTE: As a WGCSA Board member, I want to thank everyone who participated in the Membership survey this past fall. The information and feedback obtained was invaluable. The requests for more member spotlight stories inspired me to start this column. I hope to randomly highlight a few members each edition from all geographic areas, facility types and membership classifications. It may take me 20 years to get to everyone in the directory but please be ready for that phone to ring and be prepared to share stories, photos and information about YOU!

Individual commitment to a group effort- that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work.
-Vince Lombardi

Name: **Tim Adas**

Company Position: **Superintendent**

Years as WGCSA member: **10**

Membership Classification: **A**

18 holes with Tim Adas:

1. How did you get started in the turfgrass industry? I started working at Lake Ripley CC as a summer employee while attending UW-Stevens Point. After my second summer working with Superintendent Randy Staubli and Assistant Brandon Nebl, my career goal was established. I enjoy being outside, operating and repairing equipment, and doing what it takes to prepare a golf course to look and play its best. I spent a summer at Bristlecone Pines as an intern for Josh LePine. After graduation, I returned to LRCC as the assistant for 5 years. Randy moved on to a different job and I have now been the superintendent for 4 years.

2. What is the most rewarding part of your career? Compliments from golfers that play other courses and really understand what it takes to maintain a golf course always means a lot to me.

3. What would you consider to be your greatest career challenge? I find it challenging to explain turf maintenance issues to people without the background of knowledge on the subject. The average golfer doesn't have a clue about turf diseases and why we need to spend money to prevent them. Irrigation quantity is also highly misunderstood. Equipment prices shock them among many other things.

4. Which three adjectives describes you the best? Motivated, Understanding, Thankful

5. Tell us about your family. I met my wife Jenna 5 years ago and we were married in June of 2013. We are expecting a child in May and are very excited! Jenna is a 4K teacher in Cambridge so there are some comical stories shared over dinner or on our walks on the golf course or in the neighborhood adjacent to our house. My parents live in town and plan to retire in a few years. My sister Kim lives in San Francisco and is the nanny for a family with three girls. I also married into a great family.



Top: Tim and Jenna Adas enjoying time in Door County.

Bottom: Linus checks out the 14th green. Linus is a Shitzu Yorkie.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



ABOVE: 10 Green has been resized to original borders.

Lake Ripley Country Club is celebrating its 100 year anniversary this year. In 1915 5 holes opened for play, 2 more in 1917 and by 1931 the current 18 hole layout opened for play.

6. Any pets? We have a dog named Linus, a 4 year old Shitzu Yorkie. He weighs 18 pounds doubling the weight of his parents! He's got quite a personality and loves evening golf carts rides and golf course walks.

7. What drives/motivates you every day? Passion for producing a great golf course. I always want to keep the course looking good and continue to make improvements to the look of the course and its design and playability. I'm in the process of building target greens on the driving range. I'm also looking to add more middle and forward tees for the varying skills of the members. I'm hoping to get to the point where the board and I feel like the golf course is "complete" as far as the small design changes we've been working toward over the years.

8. Who do you admire? Anyone who has helped me in the industry and in life.

9. Who is the person in history you'd most like to meet? I think Thomas Edison would be interesting with his creative mind for all of his inventions.

10. What's a fun fact that people don't know about you? I have a basement woodworking shop where I make tables, dressers, hutches, benches, and decorations for our family.

11. What do you do in your spare time,

favorite hobbies? I love to play ice hockey. We have a small pond behind the shop on hole #14 that I keep cleared and skate whenever there is good ice. I use an electric pump, hose, and a pvc pipe wand to resurface when conditions get rough.

12. If you could go anywhere in the world on vacation, where would you go? Skiing in the mountains.

13. What is the one thing you would like to learn/accomplish someday? I want to learn to be a better, more versatile welder. As a superintendent without a mechanic, I spend a significant amount of time in the shop making repairs.

An employee gave me the nickname the "Cobbler" for my sometimes unique repairs to equipment or shop storage solutions that have saved hundreds to thousands of dollars.

14. What is your favorite turf management related tool or technique? Soil moisture meter. I've used it for a couple seasons and have found it to be a fantastic tool that tells me exactly what I always wondered or thought I knew. Visual dry signs are obvious at very low levels, but it makes irrigation decisions much more of a science versus an educated guess.

15. Favorites:

TV Show: Chicago Fire, Chicago PD

Movie: Shawshank Redemption

Food: Mongolian Beef & Crab Rangoon

Sports Teams: Green Bay Packers

16. Do you golf? Handicap? Best shot or golf story? I try to play weekly, but it varies a lot with weekend plans, family plans, ect. I am currently an 11 handicap. My favorite story is one I won't forget. We had a board meeting on a Monday night. I was the assistant and after the golf course discussions of the meeting, the superintendent and I would leave and the board would continue to discuss finances, clubhouse, ect. I started playing golf alone right after my portion of

the meeting. Four of the board members later came out to play a \$1/hole skins game. I had skipped around a bit due to other evening golfers and ended up on the 4th tee at the same time as the board. They invited me to get in on their game but I'm not much of a gambler and had a handicap at the time that doubled or tripled theirs, so I declined but decided to play that hole with them and walk in from there. They had previously pushed the first three holes, so #4 would have been worth \$16. I pulled my drive a bit. Next, I hit a 9 iron out of the rough, with a draw, which I rarely try, and landed on the green pin high on our steepest green. I end up sinking a 25' bender with about 3' of break from right to left! Everybody laughed and I walked back to my truck with a smirk on my face.

17. Top Bucket List items? Play more golf and different golf courses.

18. If you could provide one piece of professional advice, what would it be? Be prepared. Plan as much as possible ahead of time. Plan daily schedules the day before or even plan out the week. Look into multiple options before starting a project. Bring data and related articles to meetings to show your knowledge on the subject. Planning has saved me time, money, and stress.

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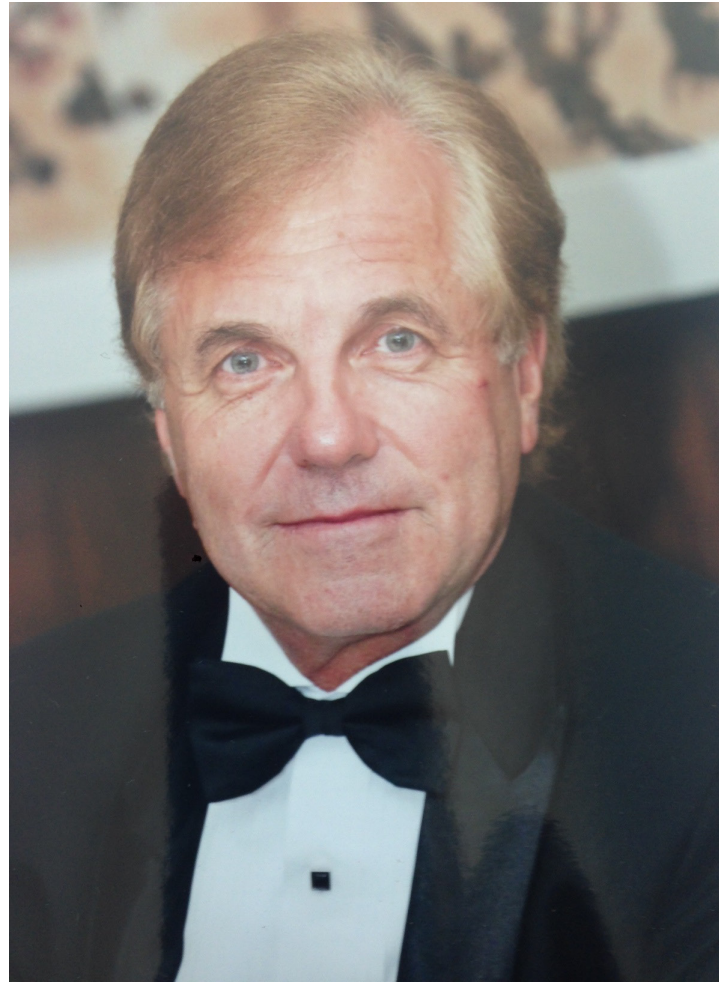
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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Name: **Randy Witt, Certified Golf Course Superintendent**
Company Position: **Courses Manager at Hong Kong Golf Club, Hong Kong**
Years as WGCSA Member: **40**
Membership Classification: **A**

18 holes with Randy Witt:

1. **How did you get started in the turfgrass industry?** I got started pushing a rotary mower and hand raking bunkers at Maple Grove Country Club in West Salem, WI. at the ripe old age of 14. Having been raised on a dairy farm, it sure beat milking cows.
2. **What is the most rewarding part of your career?** Driving around our 3 courses early each morning as the sun is rising and taking satisfaction in knowing that my team and myself are responsible for maintaining and producing three fine golf courses.
3. **What would you consider to be your greatest career challenge?** Having enjoyed and successfully adapted to a new culture and warm season grasses in a foreign country.
4. **Which three adjectives describes you the best?** Driven, motivated, quick to laugh.
5. **Tell us about your family.** Married to my bride, Patrice for 4 years. Son Ryan, stepson Jacob, stepdaughter Jessica.
6. **Any pets?** Dog named Winnie along with a cat named Bunker.
7. **What drives/motivates you every day?** The enjoyment and satisfaction I get from doing the best job I can for the Hong Kong Golf Club.
8. **Who do you admire?** My Wife.
9. **Who is the person in history you'd most like to meet?** Abraham Lincoln.
10. **What's a fun fact that people don't know about you?** I enjoy collecting Packer players memorabilia from the Lombardi years.



ABOVE: Randy Witt, Courses Manager at Hong Kong Golf Club

LEFT: Randy and Patrice at Lambeau Field.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

11. What do you do in your spare time, favorite hobbies? Outdoors activities when in Wisconsin and traveling throughout Asia and Australia when in Hong Kong. An avid reader, especially non-fiction on a daily basis.

12. If you could go anywhere in the world on vacation, where would you go? Looking forward to eventually traveling throughout Europe, especially Italy and Scotland.

13. What is the one thing you would like to learn/accomplish someday? I would like to lower my golf handicap.

14. What is your favorite turf management related tool or technique? Common Sense.

15. Favorites:

TV Show: Pro Football

Movie: Sniper

Food: Fresh Seafood

Sports Teams: All Wisconsin Teams

16. Do you golf? Handicap? I Golf, but not as much as I would like.

17. Top Bucket List items? There is a lot of my bucket list..... play St. Andrews is at the top.

18. If you could provide one piece of professional advice, what would it be? Enjoy each and every day. Today is a gifttomorrow is not promised.

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Name: **Michael J Skenadore**

Company Position: **Superintendent at Wanaki Golf Course, Waukesha County Parks & Land Use Department.**

Years as WGCSA Member: **16**

Membership Classification: **A**

18 holes with Mike Skenadore:

1. How did you get started in the turfgrass industry? I started out of school as foreman/supervisor for a construction company involved in various projects throughout the state of Wisconsin and Illinois in the late 70's and early 80's. The market was on the downside at this period in time and soon I realized I had to make a change. I had a strong passion for the game of golf and soon found an opening with Waukesha County in the Parks System in 1984 and furthered myself through work and educational opportunities through UW Madison and other. The rest is history.

2. What is the most rewardign part of your carrer? The friendly and professional interactions with our peers in Wisconsin and getting to know many of them over the years. Just truly great people and I've had really good times with all during my career and enjoyed every-one I've gotten to meet and talk with. The other item I find most rewarding is the fact as a member of the GCSAA, it was brought to my attention a few years back with a call from the GCSAA that I'm only one of two known Native American Indian Superintendents of Class "A" status in the United States. Quite exciting by that fact, however somewhat saddened knowing only a very small number emerged from that study by the GCSAA years ago. So, be honored Wisconsin...you have one of two out of whole Nation!

3. What would you consider to be your greatest career challenge? The winterkill of 2005. I had to come up with a game plan to regrow the course back in and come up with that plan and new money for the unexpected costs; there was nearly 70 percent of dead turfgrass on our course which included everything except some rough areas. Found out how much Poa we had in our greens and did it smell bad around here coming out of winter.

4. Which three adjectives describes you the best? Talkative, competitive and love to win with emphasis on fun now days. I have a very athletic family with lots of determination and drive to win, a never quit attitude. Did not matter if it was running, softball, golf, I played or worked to win, I'm more laid back now! Loyalty, is a high quality I stand on.

5. Tell us about your family. Well, I picked my wife Debbie from day one right off the dance floor in 1978 with buddies around me and declared to them my future wife to be was right there at that table, true story...danced her off her feet, got the first kiss, dated 6-years and tied the knot in 1984. She is amazing and strong for how small she is, the glue that holds everything together, she attended nearly every softball game and tournament in or out of the state. She is a Manager for Wheaton Health Care Radiology throughout the Milwaukee market. I have two children, a son Colton, a UW Madison grad and married just over a year ago to a great girl Rachel and was accepted to enter the UW Madison P.A. Program out of some 1,400 applicants, only 25 I think were accepted. My little girl, Vanessa, now attends UW Whitewater studying to be the owner of her own business in the near future. Both are quite amazing, competitive, strong and friendly kids..

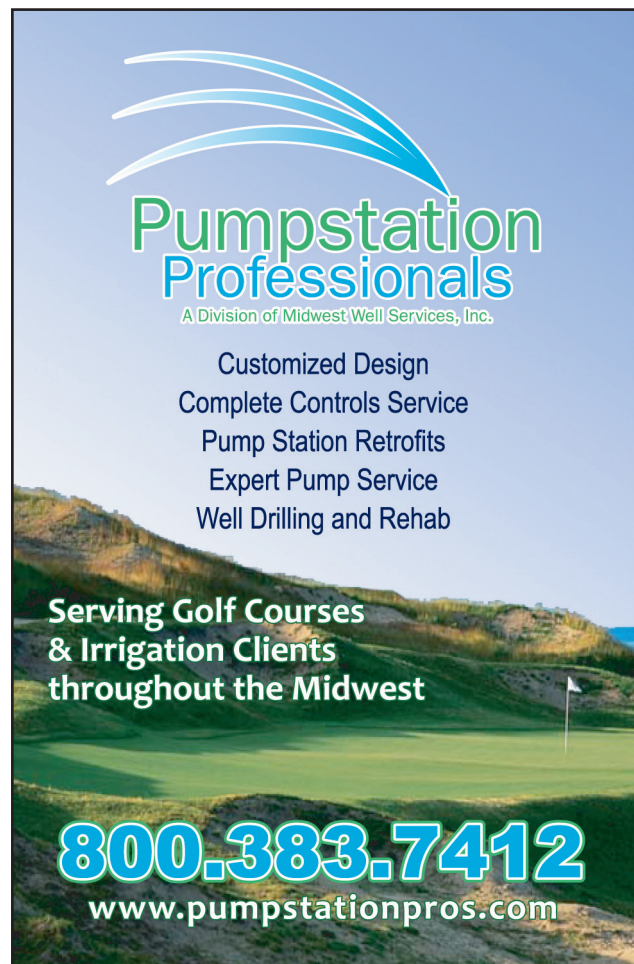
6. Any pets? 3-dogs...2-German-shorthairs and 1-very small Yorkie.

7. What drives/motivates you every day? To be the best and make our course a fair and fun place to play every-day by providing top conditions with tight budgets and low staff numbers. Our market has lost ground and we need to be creative in what we can do to still provide the best conditions, most fun and a good family atmosphere. I like to hear the fun and enjoyment from the guests that play Wanaki GC.

8. Who do you admire? My mother-in-law, she is the glue to the whole family having to hold down the fort. She's had many set-backs in life due to her husband's health when he suffered with several near death heart attacks, a heart transplant, a stroke, and then cancer that finally took him from us in 1996. I admire her determination, her strength and love for the family that endured so many set-backs, truly a warrior in life!

9. Who is the person in history you'd most like to meet? The King... Mr. Arnold Palmer, just thought about that the other day and said to myself. It would be truly amazing to meet him and even play a round of golf and listen to his stories. So, anyone out there that has that connection, I'll be truly waiting...ha! I'm serious!!! Call him....

10. What's a fun fact that people don't know about you? I have many... well, I was nearly a 4-minute miler in high school and loved softball playing with a one of the great teams in WI. I was very good... however, Rick over at West Bend CC was great! We got to compete once in a while against each other...he knows, he lost once! Great guy and player!



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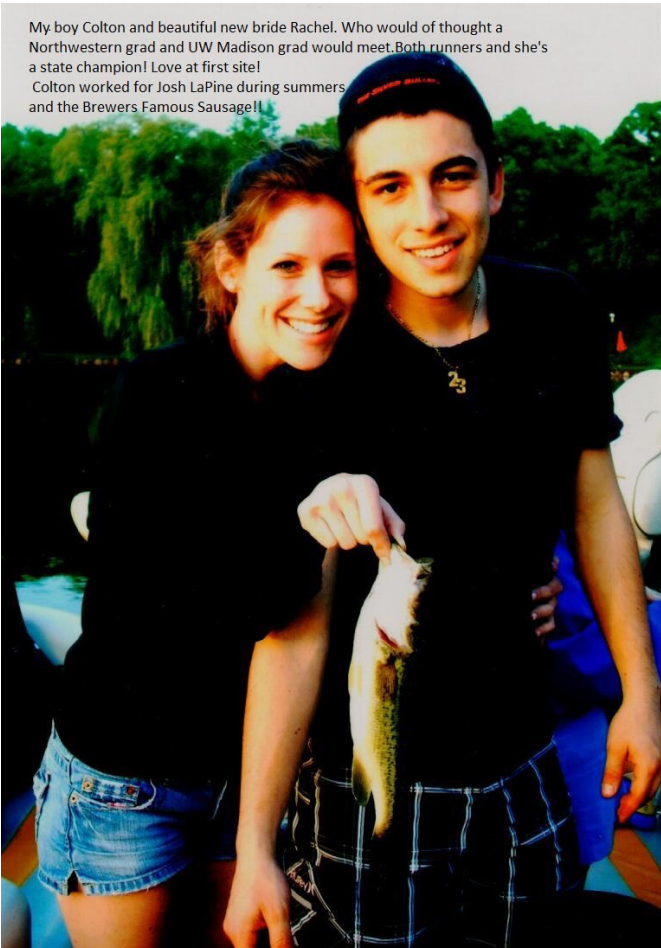
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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

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holds everything together
and couldn't do it without
her!
Thanks Babel



My boy Colton and beautiful new bride Rachel. Who would of thought a Northwestern grad and UW Madison grad would meet. Both runners and she's a state champion! Love at first site!
Colton worked for Josh LaPine during summers and the Brewers Famous Sausage!!



TOP LEFT: Mike and Debbie Skenandore

TOP RIGHT: Daughter Vanessa is a business student at UW Whitewater and wants to own her own business. She loves to fish and loves to hunt with the dogs.

LEFT: Son Colton with his wife Rachel enjoying some fishing.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

11. What do you do in your spare time, favorite hobbies?

That would be golf, did I mention golf... oh yeah! Love to fish on our boat with the family, hunting birds and deer, working out seems to have went backwards since I stopped playing softball...years ago, and love going to movies and spending time with the family.

12. If you could go anywhere in the world on vacation, where would you go? Hawaii

13. What is the one thing you would like to learn/accomplish someday? A great golf road trip across the country in 2-weeks. Make one big loop playing some of the best around the U S and right back into Wisconsin. I need three more golfers! Hello... that's an offer!

14. What is your favorite turf management related tool or technique? My putter is my favorite, it tells me a lot about the condition of the green for an event and on daily play. Event prepping for outings with mowing and rolling. We love to hear the fun the guests have when we really slick-up the greens for speed and the cupping spots. The staff just has a lot of fun doing the work for this and standing back to watch the action unfold.

15. Favorites:

TV Show: Impractical Jokers

Movie: Wow...so many, lets pick one that I just saw again, American Sniper...huge tear jerker at the end and amazing movie, saw it 3 times so far.

Food: Steak and potatoes

Sports Teams: Packers...who else! Then the Brewers!

16. Do you golf? Handicap? Best shot or golf story? Yes I golf... see above. That handicap, it jumps around now days 3 -4 mostly, and can go up or down without warning, age you know. A story...well. I thought about this, and well I just got my first ace last year and four birdies that day for 28 on a par 34, so a lucky day I had it really going great. However... back in the mid 90's I used to play a lot and practiced quite a bit. I had some Native American Tournaments I played in and one in Wisconsin at that time was in the Wisconsin Dells area that

really stands out for me. A two day event, big money, paid out low net and low gross for both days and overall total, combined with skins money for each day and total days so a lot of money. Shot a rough and terrible 78 the first day and was 6 shots back and pretty upset on the ride back to the hotel with my father. Of course my dad was not very comforting and told me to put up or shut up which I did deserve from my attitude during the drive back. Told him I'd have to shoot something in the 60's to have a chance to win and he bet me 5 - 1 on a \$100 that I wouldn't break 72. Long story short...poor dad and the \$500 he lost. I'm in the last group with 3 other dudes from all over and proceeded to shoot 2 eagles and 4 birdies on the front nine with 1 boggie. The second eagle was on the lip of the cup on the par 5 for near a net 2. No one in the group would talk to me and I thought they were pissed at me. Finally I asked one of the players, and he says man no one wants to mess you up and get you pissed off, just keep it going, we're just along for the ride and soon all the early finishers and guests flocked to the area of play like 150 or more to add to the excitement. Well... when the ride was over, I had scored 62 for low gross for that day and also the 2-days @ 140 and won the event and tons of money in the pocket. And yes... good old dad did get his \$500 back being the good son! God Bless you Dad, keeping hitting them straight up there!

17. Top Bucket List items? Back to school soon... to finish up maybe a PGA certification and teach on the Native American owned courses to enhance the game!

18. If you could provide one piece of professional advice, what would it be? To any of us young or old. Know what you did today may not be your best, do not let it eat you up. Live another day, life goes on and does not end. Things will get better some days, no worse the others, and then on occasion one will bite you in the ass... Roll with it, learn from it and move on. Every day is a learning process good or bad, it's how you get back up that matters most, and the family and friends that support you!



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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Well, a little about myself for those that do not know much about me. Born in Green Bay, WI and raised and so far lived in Waukesha my whole life. Graduated from the Waukesha North High and was heavily involved in athletics throughout my entire life to date. Running was my passion back then, track, cross country, in state and national events, and loved baseball. I was ranked 16th in the Nation in Cross Country at one point during high school and still hold school records to this day with an indoor mile 4:21, a 4:12 mile, a 9:39 in door 2-mile and had a Nationally ranked outdoor 2 mile High School relay team record for quite some time, still up there somewhere I heard. Still continued to run and compete in road races for some period and then soon moved onto the softball circuit for a few teams. I guess my best run came with the "New Berlin Grading/Tanel 360 Shoe Company/Easton Softball Team" for many years and made quite a name for ourselves over a period of time in the 90's and later. Even played against Rick once in a while from over at West Bend CC a few times when he was in town to play. I was good, however, not quite in Rick's beast mode caliber playing pro ball, we did beat his team that he played on when he played here for the championship...once. Sorry Rick!

Love fishing when I can with the family and friends and also hunting birds with my two German Shorthairs, Dakota and Kiva. In addition, love deer hunting on land out west in Richland

County we've owned for about 12 years now.

I've been here with Wanaki Golf Course for Waukesha County a long time like 30 years almost and can say I've had a great time. I'm seeing the end of a long career with a retirement in reach soon. My passion for golf is very strong playing and working and my next goal would be to either continue expanding on teaching golf to juniors and others for free and/or enhance the game on Native American Tribal Lands and other in some golf capacity to finish out my career and promote the game. We need more people in the game to keep it growing, we are losing ground.

My beautiful wife Debbie has been nothing but inspiring and supportive in me moving forward and cannot thank her and the family enough with the hours spent away doing the things we Superintendents do in carrying for our courses and still meeting the demands of being father, husband and friend. We all should feel thankful for that and blessed to have a strong partner to help us through the tough times, the demands on us and long days.

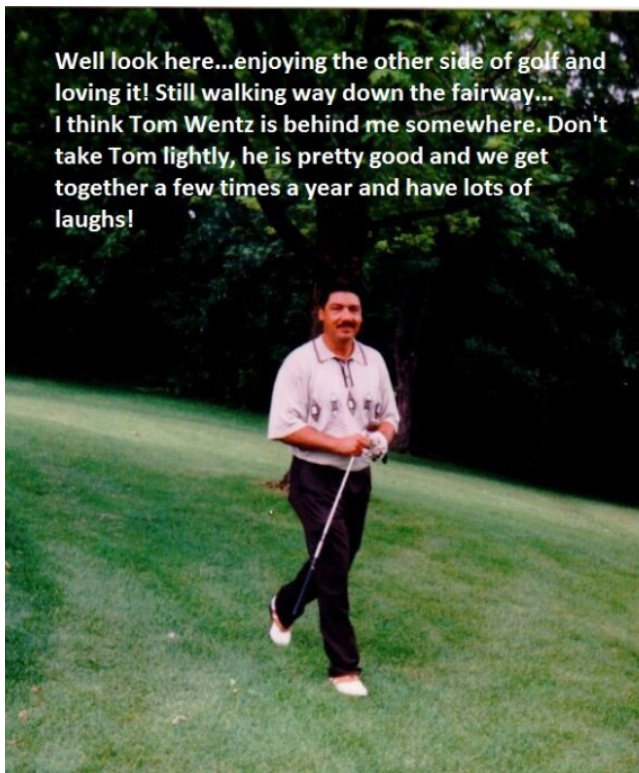
Thanks girls...all of you!

Go Pack and Brew Crew!

See all your friendly faces soon!

Your buddy!

Mike or Skenny which ever 



Well look here...enjoying the other side of golf and loving it! Still walking way down the fairway... I think Tom Wentz is behind me somewhere. Don't take Tom lightly, he is pretty good and we get together a few times a year and have lots of laughs!

ABOVE: Mike in one of his favorite places... on the golf course.



ABOVE: The two German Shorthairs Dakota and Kiva are the hunting dogs but the little Yorkie is the boss.

Randy Carrick

By Brett Grams, WGCSA Chapter Manager

Most every WGCSA members is well aware of the strong connection we have to the ever growing Wee One Foundation. Wayne Otto was a long time WGCSA member and the lineage and friendships that he fostered in his long career are readily evident anytime our members meet.

I was able to participate with the Wee One effort in a special way recently. I took a phone call in mid April from Wee One President and annual WI Fundraiser host Superintendent Rodney Johnson. He explained that the Wee One had received a benevolence application from a son of one of our members. Hunter Carrick, a Senior at Waupaca High School and son of WGCSA member Randy Carrick who is the long time Superintendent at Glacier Wood Golf Course in Iola, WI. The application that Hunter wrote described the challenges that his father faced and overcame with open heart surgery the previous year. This past January his mother Tracie was diagnosed with cancer and the treatments caused plenty of side effects. The back to back major health issues would stress most any family financially and the Carrick's were no different.

The Wee One leaders approved the gift to Randy and his family. I reached out to the Glacier Wood GC President and Greens Chairman and informed them of the situation and asked that they attend a simple meeting at the clubhouse where they could witness me providing the gift. Late in the afternoon on April 27th Randy Carrick met the three of us and we were able to give him the financial gift that will help offset some of the medical bills for his family.

It was a great experience for me to be a part of what the Wee One is all about. As a long time personal member we all know how the money is raised. It was a moving experience to see first hand the impact these gifts can mean to those industry peers who are facing great challenges.

My personal commitment to the Wee One and what it stands for has been strengthened. If you are not a member or have not supported this charity please give it some extra consideration. The more recent endowment campaign, One percent for the Wee One is also a great way to help the foundation. Please consider participating. Be a part of something that has helped so many. If you want to learn more check out the website or give Exec. Director Luke Cella a call at 630-457-7276 to learn more.



ABOVE: Brett Grams presents Randy Carrick with a gift from the Wee One Foundation.





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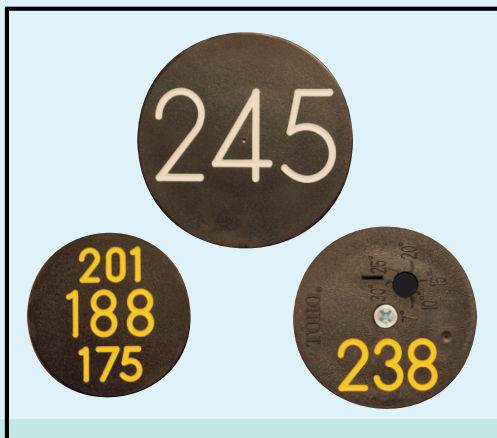
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Brian Matthews

By Mark Kienert, Certified Golf Course Superintendent, Bulls Eye Country Club and
Brian Matthews, Mechanic, Bulls Eye Country Club

Intro By Mark Kienert: I don't know you if you have the stomach for this, but here's Brian's Story. Brian was actually leaving for the Mayo clinic today and rushed this out to get it to you before the deadline. He left out his current ejection % now stands at 67%! Normal is just over 50%. He expressed great surprise and gratitude for the generous gift from the Wee One Foundation. Here is Brian's Story...

I was first diagnosed with cardiomyopathy in Feb. 2000.

Cardiomyopathy is a condition where the heart muscle is abnormal. Cardiomyopathy makes it harder for your heart to pump and deliver blood to the rest of your body and it can lead to heart failure.

I had my first pacemaker/defibrillator implanted in March of 2000 and it was a 2 lead pacemaker. A couple years later I went into congestive heart failure at which time they changed my pacemaker/defibrillator to a 3 lead pacemaker which required two more surgeries.

I was able to return to work and resume some other activities. Between 2000-2008 I had 4 different pacemaker/defibrillators

implanted for various reasons.

In 2008 I started having sustained ventricular tachycardia (fast, irregular heart rhythm). My defibrillator fired over 30 times in the next year and I had 1 failed ablation in Milwaukee at Wisconsin Heart Hospital and 4 ablations at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, MN. After 2 ambulance rides and one flight for life to Mayo, the last ablation was finally successful. I spent 120 days at clinic appts. or in the hospital from 2008-2009.

All this took a toll on my heart and my ejection fraction dropped from 28% down to 18%. By 2013 I was put on the heart transplant list and went for check ups every 6 months at Rochester. By 2014 my visits were every 3 months until April 2014 when they upgraded me to 1B status and I was put on home IV infusion therapy to help sustain my heart. My ejection fraction at this time was down to 14%.

December 10th we returned to Rochester to be evaluated for admission to St. Mary's hospital. I was admitted December 11th, 2014 to the cardiac ICU to await a new heart and was moved up to 1A status.

On January 30th, 2015 I received a new heart. The new heart had a rough start and I returned with a right ventricular assist device, a left balloon pump and a plasma phoresis machine. I returned to surgery the next morning (5 hrs. later) for surgery to correct a bleeding issue. My chest remained open for 8 days and I went to surgery daily for chest washouts and turn down the RVAD. The balloon pump was removed after 6 days and the RVAD was finally removed on Feb. 6th and my chest was closed on Feb. 8th after repairing a leaky tricuspid valve. During this entire time I was in an induced coma and lost about 32 pounds. When they took out my respirator on Feb. 9th I was so weak that I could not even lift my hand.

I was moved out of ICU, went to the step down unit and then to the rehab unit and got out of the hospital on March 2nd. We then spent the remainder of the 3 month stay at Gift of Life Transplant House and returned home on April 24th (one week earlier than expected.)

I now return for check ups and heart biopsies once a month.

I plan on returning to work in August. ✓



ABOVE: Mark Kienert presents Brian Matthews with a gift from the Wee One Foundation.



THE WEE ONE

Mark,
Words cannot explain
how grateful we are
for you submitting
Brian's name for this
wonderful, unexpected
gift. We are blessed to
know so many caring
friends.

Please accept our
small token of appreciation
for all you did in getting
this for Brian. We
are extremely grateful
to you!

...straight from my heart.

Thank you,
Brian & Barb

ABOVE: A note of thanks from the Matthews family. It is one of many the Wee One receives each year.



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Something for Everyone at Summer Field Day 2015

By **Tom Schwab**, Manager, O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Educational Facility, University of Wisconsin-Madison

The UW turf professors, research staff, and WTA are excited to bring you a very informative Summer Field Day for 2015. The date is Tuesday July 28th, and the location is the O.J. Noer Turf Research Facility in Verona. The day will be divided into two educational sessions with the morning focused more towards lawncare, landscape, sod, and sportsfield, while the afternoon towards golf. Both sessions have information that can be useful to you even if it's not your specific profession. So come for the whole day, or if time is limited come for the session that best meets your needs.

Basic and innovative subjects will be presented for both the morning and afternoon sessions. Thus it will be a great year to bring staff that needs brushing up on some of the basics or to introduce them to these new innovations. And staff members get a discount.

Here is a list of some of the presentations:

- Turfgrass Species Identification
- Methods of Treating Trees for Insects
- Improving Lawns with Compost Applications
- Backpack Sprayer Calibration
- Pollinators and Insecticides
- Weed Control in Unmowed Rough Areas
- Control of Ants for Putting Greens
- Insect Questions and Answers
- Compost Tea on Putting Greens
- Dollar Spot Prediction Model
- Reduced Risk Disease Control
- Soil Potassium Requirements

• Fine Fescue Fairway Mixes

These are some of the presentations. Many other research projects will have signs and information displayed on them so that you can stop by on your own schedule for a self-guided tour.

In addition to the research and education there is a world class trade show where you can visit with experts to learn about every product, tool, or service to help you on the job. Other perks for attending include coffee and donuts in the morning, a great Wisconsin style lunch at noon, and time to share ideas with others from your profession throughout the day. You can also talk to the presenters over lunch or between talks if you want more in-depth information.

The registration form is included in the newsletter. Also as previously mentioned, the pricing structure has been changed to allow you to bring more staff from your organization. Staff can register for a \$10 discounted price after the first registrant.

Summer Field Day is a great way to learn about the latest research coming from the UW-Madison, to compare the newest commercial offerings from the trade show, and to visit with colleagues over a great lunch. You will surely leave Field Day with many ideas to put into practice back home. Contact Audra Anderson, WTA administrative assistant, at 608-845-6536 or ajander2@wisc.edu if you have any questions.

Your Field Day brochure is included in this newsletter or may be downloaded from the new WTA website; www.wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org. You may also register and pay online from the website. Field Day 2015 is going to be the best ever, and we hope to see you there on July 28th. ✓



Jeff Schmidt from PBI Gordon and Scott Gilbertson from Reinders talk about factors affecting weed control at Field Day 2014



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Wisconsin Turfgrass Summer Field Day

Tuesday, July 28th 2015



at the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility in Verona, WI



The O.J. Noer Facility in Verona is where you need to be on July 28th to learn all the latest turf management innovations coming out of the UW Madison. **Morning talks will focus on lawn care, sports, & general landscape issues. Afternoon talks will focus on golf turf solutions.**



What you will learn: Turfgrass species identification, methods for treating trees for insects, improving lawns with compost, backpack sprayer calibration, pollinators and insecticides, weed control in unmowed rough areas, control of ants on putting greens and insect Q&A, dollar spot prediction model, reduced risk disease control, and much more.



Fun and education for all. There will be turf tips and research findings for anyone working in lawn care, sports field management, sod production, and golf course management. Great lunch and camaraderie are included.



The trade show will have a huge variety of equipment and turf supplies / services to help you improve your maintenance program. Get expert advice from the many helpful exhibitors.

Registration Form and additional details on back or go to

www.wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org to register and pay online

Questions - Contact Audra Anderson, WTA administrative assistant, at (608) 845-6536 or ajander2@wisc.edu

Field Day Schedule

8:00 – 9:00	Attendee Registration
9:00 – 9:30	Welcome Session
9:30 – 11:00	Lawn Care & General Turf
11:00 – 1:30	Trade Show Only Time
12:00 – 1:15	Lunch
1:30 – 3:00	Golf Turf
All Day	Trade Show

Registration Includes

- Donuts & coffee at registration
- Morning and afternoon turf education
- Wisconsin style cookout for lunch
- All day trade show
- Become a new WTA member & get free admission to Field Day. Contact Audra for details ajander2@wisc.edu or 608-845-6536

Lawn Care / General Turf 9:30 – 11:00

- Turfgrass Species Identification
- Methods for Treating Trees for Insects
- Improving Lawns with Compost
- Backpack Sprayer Calibration
- Pollinators and Insecticides

Afternoon Golf Turf 1:30 – 3:00

- Weed Control in Unmowed Rough Areas
- Control of Ants on Putting Greens
- Insect Q&A
- Compost Tea for Putting Greens
- Dollar Spot Prediction Model
- Reduced Risk Disease Control
- Soil Potassium Requirements
- Fine Fescue Fairway Mixes



O.J. Noer Facility Directions
 3101 North County Road M
 Verona, WI 53593 Tel - 608-845-6536

- From Madison Beltline US-12 & 18
- Take Mineral Point Road exit
- Go West on Mineral Point Road 0.7 mile to Pleasant View Road roundabout
- Exit roundabout going South on Pleasant View Rd
- Continue 2.5 miles to O.J. Noer Facility

Check out the New WTA Website
wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org
 Easy to Register

cut here and return with payment

Registration

Mail registration form and check payable to **WTA** by **July 21st** to **O.J. Noer Turfgrass Facility / 2502 Highway M / Verona / WI / 53593**. Or register online at www.wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org. **Prices are for pre-registration if postmarked by July 21st. Add \$5 after July 21st and for on-site registration.**
 Name of all employees _____

Company _____ email _____
 Mailing address _____
 City/State/Zip Code _____ phone _____

WTA member	-----	\$35	=	_____
Additional employees from same WTA member organization	-----	\$25 each x # emps	=	_____
Or Not a WTA member	-----	\$40	=	_____
Additional employees from same Non-WTA member organization	-----	\$30 each x # emps	=	_____
WTA membership (New member, get one free registration)	-----	\$150	=	_____
GRAND TOTAL			=	_____

Super Pro at Abbey Springs

By David Brandenburg, Golf Course Manager, Rolling Meadows Golf Course

Abbey Springs Golf Club in Lake Geneva played host facility for the 2015 Super Pro brought to you by the WPGA and GCSAA. The 18 Hole Chapman System Net Alternate Shot format joined a WGCSA member with their WPGA counterpart for fun and competition in Division 1. Division 2 was for any non members or members without a formal handicap.

Abbey Springs was designed in 1970 by Ken Killian and Dick Nugent with some redesign work by Mike Schulz Golf Designs. The course is a beautiful layout with numerous elevation changes and plenty of challenges.

Our hosts for the day included Golf Course Superintendent Andy Kronwall, Director of Grounds David Smith and PGA Professional Jack Shoger.

The alternate shot format leads to some unusual lies for superintendents and professionals alike. The pros get to hit some long irons into greens while the superintendents get to practice their wedge shots.

Although the trees were still dormant the course was in great condition and a good challenge for all the players.

Division 1 Champions

2015 - John Freeman / Jeff Millies (Edgewood)
 2014 - John Freeman / Jeff Millies (Edgewood)
 2013 - Charlie Brown / John Feiner (Johnson Park)
 2012 - Seth Jamison / Craig Filley (Nakoma)
 2011 - Eddie Terasa / Randy DuPont (North Hills)
 2010 - Charlie Brown / John Feiner (Johnson Park)
 2009 - Tom Dolby / Jay Pritzl (Timber Ridge)
 2008 - Tom Dolby / Jay Pritzl (Timber Ridge)
 2007 - Charlie Brown / John Feiner (Johnson Park)
 2006 - Don DuChateau / Jim Van Herwynen (South Hills)
 2005 - Charlie Brown / John Feiner (Johnson Park)
 2004 - Eddie Terasa / Randy DuPont (North Hills)
 2003 - Fred Hancock / Jeff Barlow (Waupaca)
 2002 - Charlie Brown / John Feiner (Johnson Park)
 2001 - John Freeman / Jeff Millies (Edgewood)



Host Superintendent Andy Kronwall accepts the framed flag given in appreciation to the host club.



The new maintenance facility as seen from the first tee. Once the trees leave out the shop will be hidden



Repeat Champions!

Left: Two time Division 1 Champions John Freeman and Jeff Millies from Edgewood Golf Club

Right: Two time Division 2 Champions Mike Kactro and Craig Czerniejewski from Washington County Golf Club.



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The par 3 second hole plays 168 yards. In this picture you can see the willows are one of the few trees with leaves emerging.

Looking back down hole 10. The par 5 plays 519 yards uphill.



The 329 yard par 4 twelfth hole.



Steve Fisher putts while Darrin DiChristopher, Garrett Luck and Kevin Kramp look on.



Mark Lockhart putts while Mark Voeller, Michael Croley and Travis Krauklis urge it in.

The par 4 seventeenth hole plays a short 309 yards downhill but offers a lot of trouble for players.



Summer is Coming

By David Brandenburg, Editor, The Grass Roots

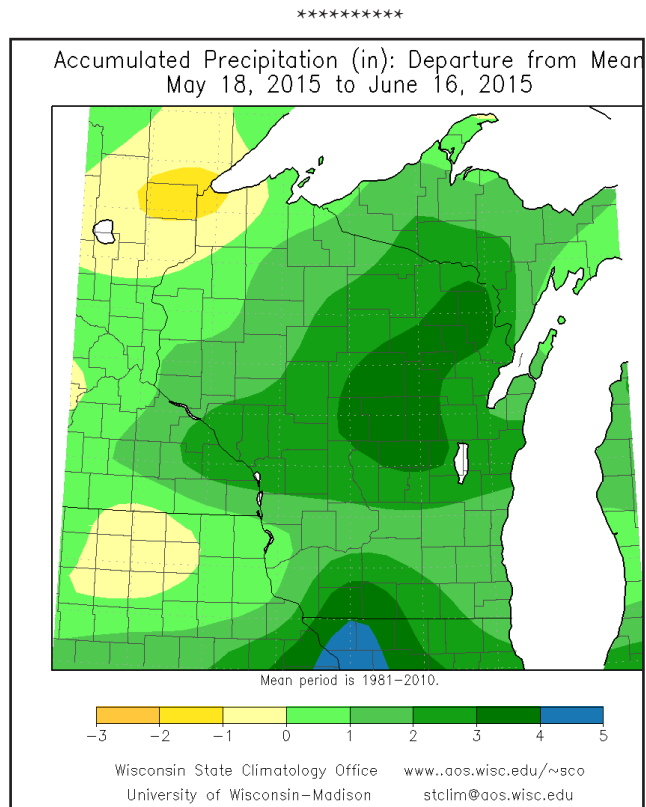


We start this month with the sad passing of WGCSA member Don Ferger from Lung Cancer. Don was 62 and a 43 year member of WGCSA. He and Chris were regulars at the Dinner Dance as shown in the picture above.

Don worked at Beloit Country Club for 45 years starting at the club just days after high school graduation.

Don is survived by his wife, Chris and three children, Michelle (Gary) Ferger-Hill, Michael P. (Crystal) Ferger and Melissa (Michael) Howe.

A regular at WGCSA meetings Don could be easily recognized by his black cowboy hat and usually a big smile that will be missed by many.



After a relatively dry spring the last month has been above average for moisture.

2015 Event Schedule!

Monday June 22nd - June Tournament Meeting at Autumn Ridge GC, Valders

Wednesday July 22nd - 9-Hole Golf or Foot Golf and Picnic, Rolling Meadows Golf Course, Fond du Lac

Tuesday July 28th - WTA Summer Field Day, OJ Noer Research Center, Verona

Tuesday August 18th - Joint Meeting with NGLGCSA, Sentry World Golf Club, Stevens Point,

Monday September 21 - Wee One Fundraiser, Pine Hills Country Club, Sheboygan

Monday October 5 - WTA Fundraiser - Blue Mound Golf and Country Club, Wauwatosa

November 7th OR 14th - Couples Dinner, Lombardi's Steakhouse, Appleton

Wed & Thur December 2-3 - Golf Turf Symposium, American Club, Kohler

February 6-11, 2016 - Golf Industry Show, San Diego, CA



Congratulations are in order to Donna Budnick who was the voice answering the phone for over 40 years at Horst Distributing. Donna started at Horst Distributing in Chilton in 1971 right after high school and has served golf courses ever since.



The parts department at Reinders has won the 'Best in Parts' award for the 3rd time in 4 years. Congratulations to Dan Butcher, Colleen Efta, Linda Short, Mike Cogan and Pat Scott from Reinders.

By the time you are reading this issue summer will be officially here and our thoughts will be turning to the shorter days of fall. Dollar spot hit most of the state earlier than normal this year and with rains and wind it was tough to find days to spray.

Be sure to read the President's Message this issue to get some great advice from Jim on how to lead our staffs and prepare them for life rather than just training them to be golf course employees.

Check out the event schedule on the previous page and plan now to attend the great lineup and the 50th annual Golf Turf Symposium at the American Club. Good luck through the summer! 🌱

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Calcium Products	Pearl Valley Organix Fertilizers
EC Grow Fertilizers	POGO Soil Moisture Sensors
ENP Specialty Liquids	Precision Labs
FMC	SePro
Foliar Pak	Spectrum Technologies
Greenleaf Technologies	Standard Golf
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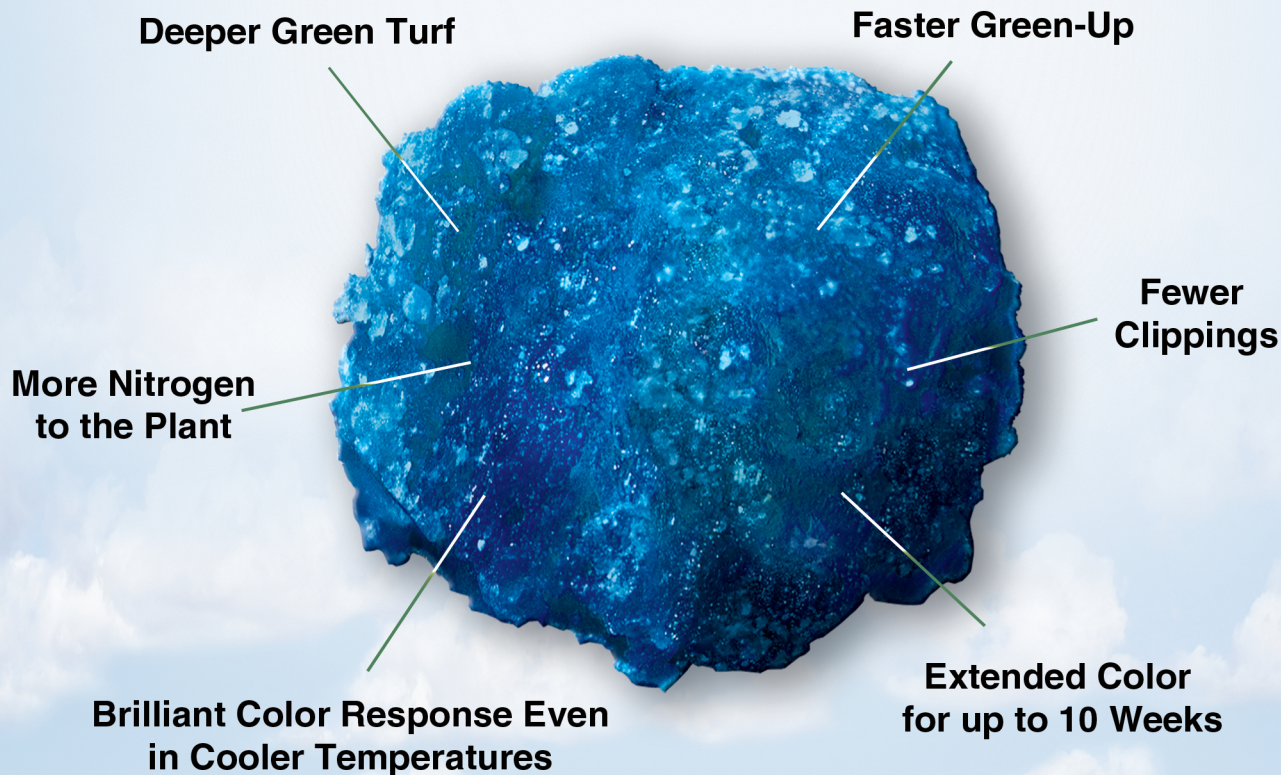
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