

Retired From the Course, But Not From the Business

By Lori Ward Bocher

From the smallest blade of bentgrass to the largest oak tree. From the age of 12 to the age of 57. From the East Coast to the Midwest. Dan Quast knows golf courses. Even now, after retiring as a golf course superintendent, he's still putting his knowledge and experience to work by serving golf course superintendents and arborists through his company, DHD Tree Products.



Dan Quast, born and raised down the street from a golf course in Dayton, Ohio, started his golf career as a caddie at the ripe old age of 12. By the time he was 14 he started working on the grounds crew. And after graduating from high school he went straight to the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts where he enrolled in the two-year turf program and graduated in 1963. At the time, Penn State was the only other university that offered a two-year degree in turf management.

In the 38 years since, Dan's professional path has taken him to Wisconsin twice. And he's left his mark on the WGCSA by starting *The Grass Roots* back in 1974. For more on his career, let's join the interview.

Lori: Tell us about your early career, after graduating from college.

Dan: After I graduated I took care of a little golf complex in New Jersey that was owned by the W.A. Cleary Corporation. I was there two years. From there I went to Troy Country Club in Troy, Ohio where I worked for three years. Then it was on to Springfield Country Club in Springfield, Ohio, for five years.

Why the various moves?

I kept upgrading myself to bigger courses, better salaries. Then in 1973 I went to the Milwaukee Country Club where I was the superintendent for 15 years.

What were some of the highlights of your years at Milwaukee?

I think the highlight at Milwaukee was updating the course to today's golf game. I enjoyed the opportunity to work with Robert Trent Jones over most of those 15 years. We made a few changes each year. I learned a

lot about golf course construction – building greens, tees and bunkers.

The other highlight was just being able to work at such a great course and for such a great membership.

What kinds of changes did you make on the course?

The course hadn't been touched in so many years that most of the fairway bunkers were out of play. When they were built, golfers didn't have the equipment that they have today. The only people who were hitting into the bunkers were the high handicap golfers. The good golfers were hitting right over the top of them. Also, tees had to be enlarged.

During your years at the Milwaukee Country Club, you were involved with the WGCSA, right?

Yes I was. I originally started *The Grass Roots* in



Quality Products • Convenience • Value
That's what LESCO is all about.

- Turfgrass Seed
- Elite® Fertilizers
- GC Accessories
- Replacement Parts
- Fungicides
- Herbicides
- Insecticides
- Irrigation Parts

(800) 321-5325

LESCO®

LESCO is registered and Grow With Us is a trademark of LESCO, Inc.

1974. And I did that until Monroe took it over. He's done a fantastic job – far better than I ever did. But I had the initiative at least to start it.

What prompted you to do that?

I had come from other superintendent organizations that had a newsletter, but when I came to Wisconsin there wasn't one. I thought it was a great opportunity for the superintendents to be able to communicate to each other. I also thought it was a great idea to raise revenue for the association through the sale of ads.

What did those first issues look like?

They were very small. They were just basically typed and printed, folded in the middle, and stapled. I asked superintendents to write articles. It wasn't very elaborate. But it most certainly did get the job done.

Why did you leave Milwaukee eventually?

After I had been there for 15 years I got a call from Bob Williams down in Chicago. He wanted to know if I knew of anybody who was interested in applying at Medinah Country Club. At first I wasn't interested in it myself. But then he told me they were looking for a

superintendent to help them make changes on the course and to get ready for the US Open in 1990. So I told them they could put my name in. I interviewed and consequently got the job.

I went there in 1989. In 1990 we hosted the US Open. It was the championship that Hale Irwin won – the first US Open ever to go into sudden death.

Is that part of what attracted you to Medinah, the opportunity to work on a US Open?

That was one of the reasons. The other reason was that, after walking around to look at the golf courses, I saw an opportunity to make improvements and to start programs that would make a difference.

Did you also have a PGA championship while you were there?

Yes we did, in 1999.

Looking back at the opportunity to host two championships, what does that mean to a superintendent?

It's really a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be involved in a major championship, and I was fortunate enough to be involved in two of them. Both were

A Continuing Tradition of Quality
in Golf Course Renovation
Restoration and New
Construction



**the
bruce
company**
OF WISCONSIN, INC.

[608] 836-7041

FAX: [608] 831-4236

WWW.BRUCEGOLF.COM

exciting events. I had the opportunity to experience and work with all kinds of people from all different sides of golf. I met a lot of great people. It really was very memorable.

Did you get to interact with players very much?

No, not a whole lot. We worked very closely with the PGA staff and USGA staff on both championships. But once it's set up and the championship gets started, the players pretty much come in for the week and then leave right away. I have had the opportunity to meet tour players, but not a lot of time to interact with them.

What was the major challenge of hosting those two championships?

The major challenge was trying to coordinate and put it all together. There are so many aspects besides taking care of the turf on the inside of the ropes. You have to coordinate, with many committees and tournament officials, where the hospitality and concession tents will be and how the people will best be accommodated. You have to determine where bridges will be built. Complexes must be built for the news media.

We were involved with all of these issues for three years. Both the PGA and USGA had offices on the grounds for three years prior to the championships. So it was not only working to get the course prepared for the championship, but also working and interacting with these people to have it culminate in a success.

During your years at Medinah, were the championships the highlight or was something else?

The most gratifying part at both Milwaukee and Medinah was being able to work with superintendents who interned under my management and now have their own courses to manage. I am very proud of their successes and I consider them my extended family – 18 fine gentlemen in all.

Another thing I'm proud of, both at Milwaukee and Medinah, was the tree program we started. At both courses we had the best golf course tree program in the country. That was one of the best contributions I made to Medinah.

Medinah is a very old golf course that covers 640 acres. There are three 18-hole courses in a square mile. On the championship golf course, each fairway is lined with oaks, some of them over 200 years old. It was important that the character of Medinah be maintained by preserving the trees.

To start a tree program at Medinah, I hired a graduate of UW-Stevens Point, Randy Miller, who had a masters degree. He set up the program under my guidance, but basically the program is his. We put together a tree staff and started straightening up a problem that really hadn't been addressed in a long

time. Randy moved on and is working in the West now. For the past seven years Bob Camp has been the arborist there. He's done a tremendous job with the program. Almost all the tree work is done in house.

Is planting new trees a part of the program?

Yes. Over the three golf courses we planted 120 trees a year. We got rid of a lot of unwanted trees and started planting trees that really belonged in those native forests. We also started a Dutch elm disease prevention program, treating 95 elms – 30 some every year. We didn't lose any elms during the 12 years I was there. And we started a fertilization and trimming program on the oaks.

When and why did you decide to leave Medinah Country Club?

I left Medinah on March 31 of this year so my wife, Beverly, and I could spend more time operating our company, DHD Tree Products.

Is this a new company?

No. Many years ago when I was at Milwaukee Country Club and we were trying to prevent Dutch elm disease, I worked with a forester in River Hills named Rod Johnson. We did the early research on

EXPERIENCED. PROFESSIONAL.

FAIRWAY AERIFICATION



LINKS & LAWN S
GOLF COURSE AND LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

5 years experience, Two Cushman GA-60 Aerators, available day or night, efficient and prompt, professional attitude and appearance, servicing Wisconsin and northern Illinois.

CALL JEFF PORTER - 1.262.642.1630

we encourage reference requests

Arbotect (which is used to prevent Dutch elm disease) and another product.

During that process, two other men and I started a company to get a patent for an idea we had for injecting elm trees. It was built around having a kit that the home owner could buy at the store. That product never came to pass. But in the meantime, we had started DHD Tree Products.

Over the years we three partners worked at building the company. Each gave a contribution of time and talent. When we made a little money we would pay expenses and put the rest in equity. Then one of the partners decided to buy a tree service and got out. When the other partner passed away, I decided to retire from Medinah and concentrate on DHD Tree Products.

I'm really excited about this change. It sort of rejuvenates me. It gives me the opportunity to travel throughout the state and visit superintendents and also to work with tree programs. It sure is a pleasure to get out and see the superintendents and golf courses. I've been in places in the state that I'd never seen before. There are some beautiful places in the state of Wisconsin.

Are you focusing on golf courses for your clients?

Yes, we're focusing on golf courses and also the trees on the courses. We're going to be working with arborists throughout the state, too. We're handling two products, Arbotect and Alamo. Arbotect is a fungicide used to prevent Dutch elm disease. And Alamo is used to prevent oak wilt.

So you're just selling tree products?

No. In addition to Arbotect and Alamo, we carry the Emerald Isle turf products which I think are superior. We carry biostimulants and a new foliar fertilizer called NutriRational which I think is going to be the future of fine turfgrass fertilization, the standard for fertilizing greens in the future. We're very proud of that product. We carry a line of cost-saving fungicides.

And we carry pond dyes and pattern indicators and foam markers, products like that. We have another unique product called Sand daM that's used to stop erosion in bunkers with high faces. It eliminates the need for shoveling after rains and we think it will be an economical answer to a long-time problem. It's a light-weight fabric similar to Velcro, but more porous. The sand imbeds into the fabric and stays on the bank during a rain.

*Custom Verti-Drain with MST
Schedule today
– Scott Good –
(800) 743-2419*

Serving the Midwest since 1989

It sounds like this business is full time for you now.

Yes it is. We're located in Juneau, Wisconsin.

What do you see as your future with this company?

We're very happy with the way it's been progressing. My wife and I hope we can grow the company and make a future for some younger people who can continue on. We don't want it to stop with us.

One of the nice things about running my own business is that I don't have to worry about the day when someone hands me a gold watch and says, "You're through." It puts our future in our own hands. I'm excited about that. If I want to work to 70 or 75, I can do that.

I've heard other superintendents talk about how the job of the superintendent is becoming a young person's job. You're in your 50's...

I'm 57.

Did you sense that you were one of the older superintendents out there?

I really didn't feel that way. I've always stayed abreast of the changes in the turf business. I don't feel old at all. After all the experiences I've had over 38 years, I'm still excited about it. I left the business for a chance to take control of my own life, to be able to go out and maybe share the knowledge I've gained with other people.

I didn't mean to imply that you were too old to do the job. I just wondered if you suddenly realized, "My gosh, everybody in the business is younger than me now."

Yeah, but I can remember when I was the youngest guy. When I came to Milwaukee Country Club I was 30 years old and I was the young person. In the past 27 years I've gone from being one of the younger superintendents to one of the older ones. But I've always thought of myself as being a young and creative thinker. I never felt too old for the job.

What other professional organizations have you been involved with besides the WGCSA?

I'm president of the Turfgrass Information Center at Michigan State University. It's a database for turfgrass information. Michigan State has the OJ Noer Research Library, the largest turfgrass library in the world. The Turfgrass Information Center not only has all the up-to-date research that's being done in the world, it also has all the research that goes back 20 years. And it can all be easily accessed through a TGIF database. It really is quite an information tool for superintendents, college students, and college professors.

I am also on the endowment committee for the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation. I've been involved with that for the past five years. I was never as involved with the Illinois association as the Wisconsin association

because my job at Medinah kept me busy most of the time.

As you look back and reflect on 38 years in the industry, what are some observations you've made, changes you've seen, advice you have for other superintendents?

For superintendents today, there's so much more to know about tools and equipment and chemicals. The young superintendents who are entering the business today are getting in at a prime time because of all the changes in the past 10 or 15 years that have helped us to do our jobs better. Topdressing programs. Pesticides and equipment have improved. More technology. It really is a fascinating and fantastic business.

At the same time, the demands on the game and on the superintendent have changed, too. Today's superintendents have to be human resource people, turf experts, and good business managers. They most certainly have to be all three.

How has your change in careers changed your lifestyle?

As every superintendent knows, the job is pretty much seven days a week from April to October. I've been doing that for 38 years, and after 38 years it's nice that my wife and I are able to take some weekends off and spend time for ourselves. We're looking forward to doing those things that we've never had the opportunity to do before.

We bought a log home on Fox Lake. We're excited about that. Someone is even trying to teach us to fish, which I thought would be easier. I also enjoy having more time to play golf, which is one of the things I really like to do.



THOMAS J. EMMERICH
CERTIFIED IRRIGATION DESIGNER

- *GOLF COURSE
- *COMMERCIAL
- *RESIDENTIAL
- *MASTER PLANNING
- *SYSTEM EVALUATIONS

TOTAL PACKAGE DESIGN SERVICES

T.J. EMMERICH ASSOCIATES, INC.
IRRIGATION CONSULTANTS
N68W W30986 CLUB CIRCLE EAST
HARTLAND, WISCONSIN 53029
414-966-1051



WATERTRONICS®

Evolution Series



Super Sport - Turf

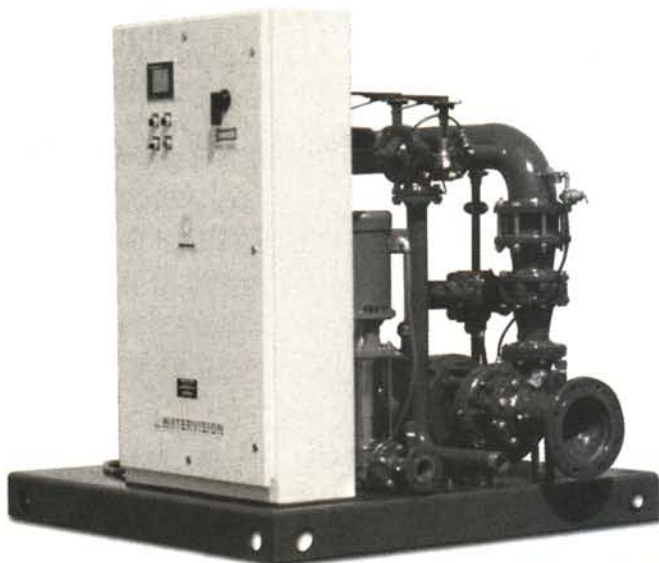
The "Evolution Series" pumping system is a proven concept from Watertronics that utilizes a VFD driven jockey/pressure maintenance pump and Electronic Butterfly Valve controlled main pump(s). This control system allows for VFD control of the pump that most benefits from it. Conventional VFD stations share one drive between all main pumps which can cause "across-line" start/stop surges.

Benefits and features of an Evolution Pump Station include:

- VFD driven jockey pump which efficiently performs dual duties of pressure maintenance, while serving as the primary supplier of incidental daytime syringing and hand watering up to 150 GPM.
- Additional pumps are individually pressure regulated with Watertronics' Electronic Butterfly Valve, ensuring surge-free starts and stops.
- Lower horsepower and smaller electrical in-rush of the VFD regulated jockey pump normally will not incur utility "time-of-day" penalties.
- Available with Watervision™ remote monitoring software and Pumplink™ irrigation control software interface.



Vertical Turbine



Horizontal Centrifugal

The "Evolution Series" control system is available on all Watertronics' Vertical Turbine, Horizontal Centrifugal, Super Sport Turf, and BlackMax™ Submerged pumping systems. Call a Watertronics' representative today and find out why our "Evolution Series" may be the best choice for your irrigation pumping system needs.



WATERTRONICS®

ELECTRONICALLY CONTROLLED PUMPING SYSTEMS

525 Industrial Drive, P.O. Box 530, Hartland, WI 53029-0530

Phone: 262-367-5000 • 800-356-6686 • Fax: 262-367-5551

Visit our website at: www.watertronics.com

APRIL MEETING AT LAKE ARROWHEAD



By **Mike Berwick**, Golf Course Superintendent, Golf Courses of Lawsonia, Inc.

Pat Wallner hosted the opening golf and education meeting of the 2001 season on Monday, April 23, on the Pines Course of Lake Arrowhead in Nekoosa. Fifty-five members and affiliates were present for the educational session and four man scramble golf event.

After a burger and brat buffet lunch in the Pines Clubhouse, Mr. Don Bretthauer, the Director of Member and Chapter Services for the GCSAA, gave an informational program on his organization's Limited Budget Outreach Program. He outlined the Outreach Program and then answered questions regarding GCSAA's 75th anniversary celebration planned for later this season. He emphasized how we can enhance our profession in the golf industry as well as in the public eye by being supportive of the Outreach Program. People must be willing to volunteer their time and share their expertise with courses on limited budgets. This effort in turn will help to enhance the quality of the golf industry in the immediate future. Along with time and expertise, he asked that each GCSAA chapter member submit a used equipment list and create a master list to make available to Limited Budget Facilities. We thank Mr. Bretthauer for taking the time to enlighten our members on the topic.

Gordy Waddington, WGCSA Limited Budget Outreach Liason committee chairman, spoke briefly as to our Chapter's involvement in the program. He said it has been very bleak with only one Superintendent offering his time and effort. Gordy urged the group in attendance to come forward with their time to help get this program off the ground.



Don Bretthauer spoke about GCSAA programs.

The golf event was played in sunny and very windy weather, and turned quite cool for the last 4 or 5 holes. The scramble event gave everyone a chance to contribute without too much pressure on our swings which were a bit rusty from the long winter hibernation.

The golf course, one of my personal favorites, was in great condition, especially considering the late start of the season.

Following golf, participants met in the Pines Clubhouse bar area for cocktails, chips, pretzels, and conversation. The golf and event prizes were awarded as follows:

Winners in the scramble event:

- 1st - (62) Gene Hogden, Steve Vehrenkamp, Ron Zellmer, Nick Byom
- 4th - (68) Gordy Waddington, Chad Ball, Rod Johnson, Wayne Otto
- 7th - (70) Jim Van Meter, Conrad Stynchula, Kris Pinkerton, Dennis Dary
- 10th- (71) Gary Huenerberg, John Mathews, Scott Spier, Jeff Millies

Winners of Flag Events:

- Longest Drive #2 Nick Byom
- Longest Drive #16 Nick Byom
- Closest to Pin #4 Scot Spier
- Closest to Pin #7 Scott Schaller
- Closest to Pin #14 Roy Zehren
- Closest to Pin #17 Dustin Riley

A special thanks to Pat Wallner, Joel Barth and the entire staff at LakeArrowhead for a great day. ♡



Pat Wallner served a host for the April WGCSA meeting at Lake Arrowhead.

WHEN YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE
MOST IMPORTANT ASSET ON THE COURSE,
YOU NEED A PARTNER YOU CAN COUNT ON.



For every job on your course, there's a John Deere made especially for it. A full-line of quality equipment, born out of the suggestions and critiques of thousands of superintendents and technicians. From quality mowers and tractors to aerators and utility vehicles. But it doesn't end there. We supply you with the industry's best operator manuals, tech literature, and support hotline. We deliver quality parts 365 days a year, with a 99.5% fill-rate overnight. And we offer the JDC™ MasterLease, the most cost-effective way to acquire golf and turf equipment. To see how John Deere can make a difference on your course, call your local John Deere distributor.

NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE®



WWW.JOHNDEERE.COM

J.W. TURF INC.

306 WASHINGTON STREET
HORICON, WI 53032

920-485-2859

TOLL FREE PARTS: 877-746-0614



JOHN DEERE

MAY MEETING AT ST. GERMAIN GOLF CLUB



By **Mike Berwick**, Golf Course Superintendent, Golf Courses of Lawsonia, Inc.

Superintendent Steve Spears hosted the monthly meeting on Monday, May 14, at the St. Germain Golf Club in St. Germain. Although thunderstorms and showers were forecast for the day, 54 persons attended and played golf in the four man bestball format. The meeting was combined with the Northern Great Lakes Golf Course Superintendents Association and featured an educational session prior to lunch held at the "19th Hole Sports Bar" adjacent to the course. Our guest speaker was Mr. Jeff Gregos of the TDL, Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. Jeff spoke about snowmold and control strategies.

Following the educational session, a gourmet burger, steak or chicken sandwich lunch was served, followed by the golf event shotgun start. The day was cool and partly cloudy, but the rain stayed away and the golf course was in superb condition. I heard many comments regarding the great condition and playability of the Kentucky Bluegrass fairways. The tree lined fairways appeared tighter than they actually were, and most errant shots could be easily found. Even the traps were perfectly edged this early in the season. Steve and his staff obviously worked hard preparing for our meeting.

After golf the event and flag prizes were awarded outside the pro shop.

The winners of the best ball event were:

- 1st - Joe Anderson, Eric Eggman, John Granholt, Dan Barrett (54)
- 2nd- Glenn Rochester, Joe Deschler, Randy Mallman, J.D. Huseboe (55)
- 3rd - Mike Britton, Seth Brogren, Rick Thalacker, Jeff Gregos (57)

The winners of the Flag events were:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Longest Drive on #3 | Willie Warner |
| Closest to Pin on #6 | Paul Delfosse |
| Closest in Two on #9 | Brian Ferrie |
| Closest to Pinon #11 | Mike Britton |
| Closest in Three on #12 | Nick Durkee |
| Longest Putt on #17 | Rick Thalacker |

Special thanks to go Steve Spears, Professional Brian Baldwin and the entire staff at St. Germain Golf Club for inviting our organization and making the day enjoyable. The next meeting is scheduled for June 18, at the Ridges in Wisconsin Rapids. It will be held in conjunction with the Dave Murgatroyd Memorial

Event. There will be no meeting in August, so you will have time to attend the WTA Field Day at the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility on Tuesday, August 14. ♣



With four lanes nearly all the way from the WI/IL border on north, St. Germain is close enough for a monthly meeting.



The big whitetail lets you know you are in the north woods!



Course superintendent Scott Spears had his course in top condition for WGCSA members.

What would a WGCSA meeting without O/J be? Hopefully, we will never know! Faithful members Wayne Otto and Rod Johnson at St. Germain.





Effects of N-(nbutyl)thiophosphoric Triamide (NBTP) and Dicyandiamide (DD) on the Efficacy of Urea Applied to Turfgrass

By Douglas J. Soldat

INTRODUCTION

Investigations of the fate of fertilizer N in turfgrass ecosystems have consistently failed to account for 19 to 43% of the N applied (Starr and DeRoo, 1981; Power, 1988; Miltner et al., 1996; Horgan et al., 2000). The 'missing' N is thought to be that lost from the ecosystem via volatilization and denitrification.

Application of urea or urea bearing fertilizers to turfgrass can result in volatilization loss of up to 60% of the N applied (Titko et al., 1987). However, these losses can be reduced to less than 8% by irrigating with 0.4 inch or more of water immediately after fertilizer application (Bowman et al., 1987; Titko et al., 1987). Golf tees, greens, and fairways rarely receive this much water in a single irrigation cycle. Hence, typical N volatilization losses from urea applied in these circumstances are unknown.

Until recently, the only measures of N denitrification losses of N from turf were those of Mancino et al. (1988). They found N denitrification losses of 45 to 93% of the N applied to two soils. The problem is that these losses occurred when the soils were saturated with water, which is an atypical condition in turf. Horgan et al. (2000) have begun to research denitrification losses of N from turf under normal field conditions. Initial indications are that losses range from 5 to 23% of applied N.

Clearly, losses of fertilizer N from turf ecosystems via volatilization and denitrification can be substantial. Reductions in these losses could, therefore, have a significant impact on N use efficiency, per-

haps to the point where N use rates could be reduced.

When applied to turfgrass, urea undergoes hydrolysis, a reaction mediated by the ubiquitous enzyme, urease (Torello, 1981). The initial hydrolytic products of urea are NH_4^+ and CO_3^{2-} . The latter is quickly hydrolyzed, forming HCO_3^- and OH^- . Unless there is rapid dissipation or neutralization of the OH^- , the pH of the solution at the site of urea hydrolysis rises to and exceeds 7.3, at which point OH^- strips protons from NH_4^+ ions to form increasing amounts of NH_3 and volatilization occurs.

A means for reducing volatilization loss of N is to slow the rate of urea hydrolysis, thereby slowing the rate of NH_4^+ production and allowing for more extensive dissipation by rainfall and irrigation water and by nitrification (Titko et al., 1987). The most direct means for slowing urea hydrolysis is to inhibit the action of urease. This is the mode of action of N-(n-butyl) thiophosphoric triamide (NBTP), which reportedly inhibits the enzyme for up to 2 weeks after urea application (technical literature; Lange Stegmann Co., St. Louis, MO).

Creeping Bentgrass

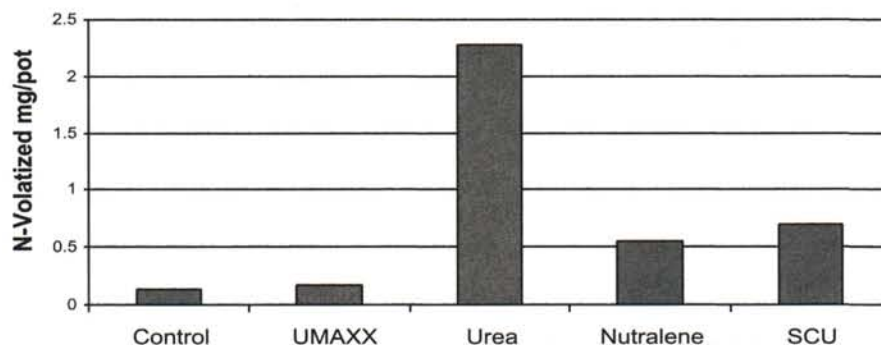


Figure 1

Perennial Ryegrass

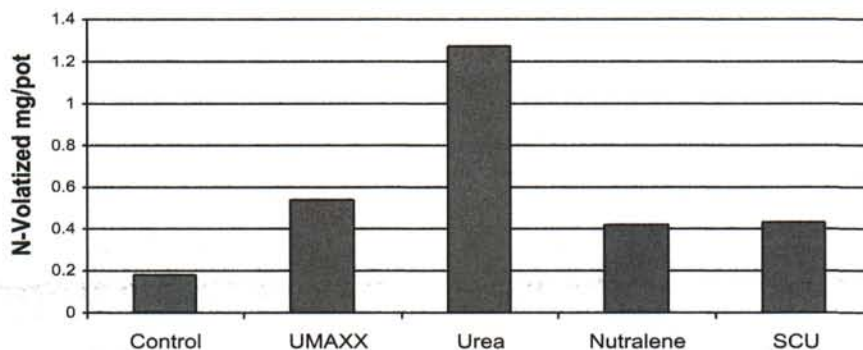


Figure 2