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ABOUT THE COVER

In recognition of the WGCSA's 75th anniversary, golf writer Gene Haas has written a book about our history from 1930-2005. Golf artist Jennifer Samerdyke features that book on her cover of this issue of *The Grass Roots*.

Happy Anniversary to us!

"Give me a condor's quill! Give me Vesuvius' Crater for an inkstand! ...To produce a mighty book, you must choose a mighty theme."

Herman Melville
1851

THE GRASS ROOTS

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Wrapping Up

By **Marc Davison**, Golf Course Superintendent, Green Bay Country Club

Another golf season has rapidly come to an end, bringing a sigh of relief to all of us I'm sure. This year will be remembered by us all as the "year of all the dead grass." Lets hope we don't see a repeat of this year for a long, long time.

This is my last president's message. My two years as your president have gone by quite rapidly. I would like to thank all those who have served on the board in the last two years. Being a member of our board takes some commitment. It may be hard to see from the outside but there is a fair amount of work associated with each board member's position. It takes dedication. I would encourage all of you to consider sitting on our board at some time during your career. Even if it's only for a two-year term, it is good exposure and experience to see all that is involved in running an organization such as the WGCSA. We always struggle to find volunteers to join the board. If you are ever interested and willing to get involved, please contact any of the board members and express your desire. I am sure your willingness will quickly be accepted and your talents put to work.

I need to be honest; writing these messages has been the toughest part of my job as your president the last two years. Each issue of the Grass Roots I have struggled with what to write. Who cares what I have to say? How can I write an article and sound half intelligent and not bore all you that read it? I never feel I have much to offer that would interest any of you. Well, I have just about made it through twelve issues. Thank you for being patient and kind with your comments.

We have added a new position on our board of directors. This is a non-voting position for a vendor, appointed by the board to a two-year term. Our first person to fill this spot is David Oberle. Dave is our BASF representative. The position will interact with all our vendor members. We are treated very well by our vendor members and we feel they should have representation on the board. Congratulate David Oberle next time you see him.

Gene Haas has completed our 75th year anniversary book titled "Caring for the Green." The book is currently at the printers and we hope to have it available at the Symposium. Each member of the association will



receive a complimentary copy of this book. Additional books will be available to purchase. Some key people at your course may appreciate a copy, possibly your owner, green chairman, club president, your assistant or a variety of other possibilities. These will make nice Christmas gifts. We owe a huge amount of thanks to Gene Haas for taking his valuable time over the past two years to research our organization, accumulate information and pictures and then compile it all into what will be a keepsake for Wisconsin golf course personnel forever. I am anxiously awaiting my copy of this historical book. ♣

163 Yard Par 3 eighth hole at the Refuge Golf Club in Oak Grove, Minnesota.



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Spotlight on Spotlight™

By Dr. John Stier, Department of Horticulture, University of Wisconsin-Madison

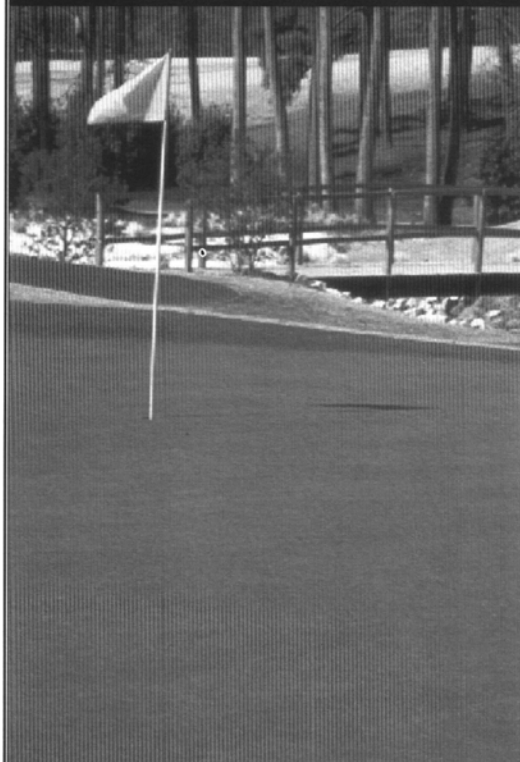
New broadleaf herbicides for turf have been few and far between in recent years. Reasons for the lack of development include increasingly higher costs for production and registration coupled with company focus on mergers and acquisitions. A number of compounds used in conventional agriculture hold promise for turf use and this is the most likely source of new products. Fluroxypyr is the active ingredient in a corn herbicide marketed as Starane™ for broadleaf weed control. Recent testing has shown its utility for a number of turf situations.

Since 2003 fluroxypyr has been available for turf use under the trade name Spotlight™. It is formulated as a methylheptyl ester which

provides the absorption properties of other esters but without the volatility. Spotlight is available as a conventional 1.5 lb a.e. per gallon. Applied through sprayers as a liquid, fluroxypyr's systemic activity lends itself to selective control of both perennial and annual broadleaf weeds in turf. Its chemical structure is that of a pyridine, the same group which includes the pre-emergent herbicide dithiopyr (Dimenson™). Unlike dithiopyr, though, fluroxypyr's mode of action is that of an auxin agonist similar to 2,4-D, dicamba, MCPP, triclopyr, and clopyralid. All auxin agonists work by causing an imbalance of plant hormones resulting in leaf and stem twisting and distortion (characteris-

tics often called "epinasty"). Symptoms occur within 24-48 hours after application although it may take two to three weeks for the plants to essentially grow themselves to death.

Fluroxypyr is rapidly degraded in the environment as determined by its short half-life. The half-life is a measure of how long a chemical will remain in the environment. Scientists determine half-life by applying the chemical to soil, water, or plants and measuring the time required for half of the chemical to be degraded. In soils, the half-life of fluroxypyr lasts one to four weeks depending on the soil type, temperature, and moisture. The two major modes of degradation are by



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microbes (bacteria, fungi, etc.) and by natural hydrolytic reactions with soil (hydrolytic means “splitting with water”). Sunlight is not a major means of degradation, reducing the potential for the compound to be degraded while it’s being absorbed by weed leaves. Although not labeled for aquatic uses fluroxypyr breaks down rapidly in water. Where oxygen is available the half-life is less than 24 hours. Under anaerobic conditions, such as one might find at the bottom of a pond under a layer of sludge, the half-life is still only 7-14 days.

Our herbicide and PGR testing program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison has included tests on fluroxypyr since 2000. Weeds we’ve tested include creeping Charlie AKA ground ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*), white clover, broadleaf plantain, dandelion, black medic, wild violet, and others. We’ve evaluated a number of rates, formulations, and mixtures of fluroxypyr with other herbicides. Evaluation of mixtures is important as the efficacy of many herbicides is enhanced when two or more active ingredients are mixed together. Information on the activity of mixtures containing fluroxypyr and triclopyr was especially desirable as a potential replacement for Confront™ in residential applications.

Experimental pesticides are typically evaluated at various rates and compared to labeled rates of other pesticides in order to determine the best rate(s) should the experimental compound be marketed. Consumers often wonder why ranges of rates are often shown on the label rather than a single discrete value. In our second year of testing, three rates of fluroxypyr (shown as UHS-302) ranging from 0.74 to 1.5 oz per 1000 ft² were applied to Kentucky bluegrass/perennial ryegrass turf in early June. These were compared to Chaser Ultra, Chaser Amine, Confront, and a set of untreated

Table 1. Broadleaf weed control in a Kentucky bluegrass/perennial ryegrass turf four weeks after treatment with fluroxypyr (UHS-302) and commercially available broadleaf herbicides at the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Facility, Verona, WI, 11 July 2004.

Product	Rate (oz/1000ft ²)	Percent control		
		Dandelion	Clover	Creeping charlie
UHS-302	0.74	63.8 b [†]	100 a	82.3 a
UHS-302	1.1	74.5 ab	97.5 a	72.8 a
UHS-302	1.5	92.3 ab	100 a	93.8 a
Chaser Ultra	1.1	78.3 ab	100 a	90.0 a
Chaser Amine	1.3	89.0 ab	83.3 a	88.8 a
Confront	0.74	98.0 a	100 a	90.8 a
Untreated control	---	-67.5 c	-168 b	-3.3 b

† Values followed by the same letter within a column were not significantly different at P < 0.05.

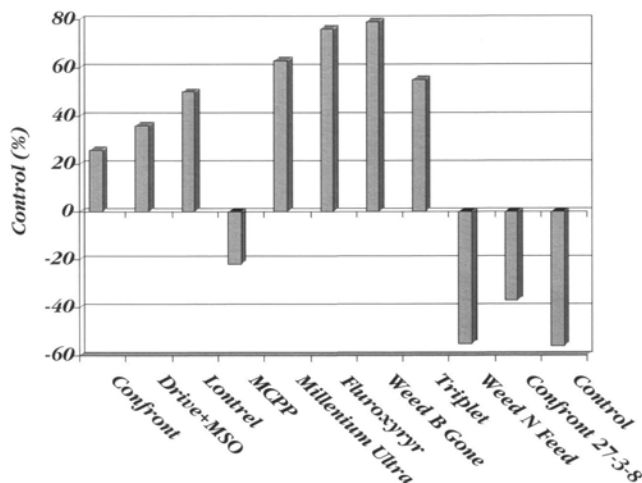


Fig. 1. Dandelion control in a Kentucky bluegrass/perennial ryegrass turf by fluroxypyr compared with other commercially-available broadleaf herbicides eight weeks after application, OJ Noer Facility, Verona, WI, 27 August 2005.

plots (control). The percent of weed control with each compound was evaluated four weeks after treatment (WAT). Data showed dandelion control corresponded with increased rates of fluroxypyr but not clover or creeping Charlie (Table 1). Thus, a lower rate of product is labeled for clover and creeping Charlie while a higher rate is labeled for dandelions. If both dandelions and clover exist in a turf, the rate labeled for dandelion should be used.

Data eight weeks after treatment in 2003 show similar results for the 1.5 oz rate of fluroxypyr compared to a wider range of existing products. Negative values for control plots and several existing compounds show that dandelion popu-

lations actually increased during the testing period (Fig. 1). Fluroxypyr and Weed-B-Gon™ were the most effective products, reducing dandelion populations by approximately 80%. The remaining 20% of dandelions not controlled were likely from small weeds shielded from chemical at the time of application by taller grass or from newly germinated dandelions not present at the time of application. Fluroxypyr does not have any significant soil activity and will not prevent new weeds from emerging. Clover was readily controlled by all of the compounds tested except granular weed-and-feed products (Fig. 2). Like many products, liquid formulations of fluroxypyr were significantly more effective than granular formulations

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(data not shown).

Currently Spotlight is labeled for use on most of our commonly-used cool-season grasses: bentgrasses, Kentucky bluegrass, Chewings/red/sheep fescues, tall fescue, and perennial ryegrass. Hard fescue is not specifically listed on the label but its tolerance is likely similar to that of the other fine fescues. **There are three important limitations for golf course use.** First, some phytotoxicity may occur when used on bentgrasses. Secondly, the product is not labeled for greens or tees. Thirdly, rates for bentgrasses are limited to 2/3 of a pint per acre (0.25 oz per 1000 ft²). This rate may not give acceptable control of many broadleaf weeds such as chickweed, clover, or dandelion.

Additional herbicides containing fluroxypyr may become available in the future. The range of weeds controlled and the relatively low

environmental impact and toxicity of fluroxypyr make it a useful tool among the relatively small group of broadleaf herbicides available for use on turf. Like many broadleaf herbicides it has some limitations

for use on bentgrass. Additional information on mixtures with other active ingredients, timing (e.g., spring versus autumn applications), and safety on less common turfgrass species are needed. ♣

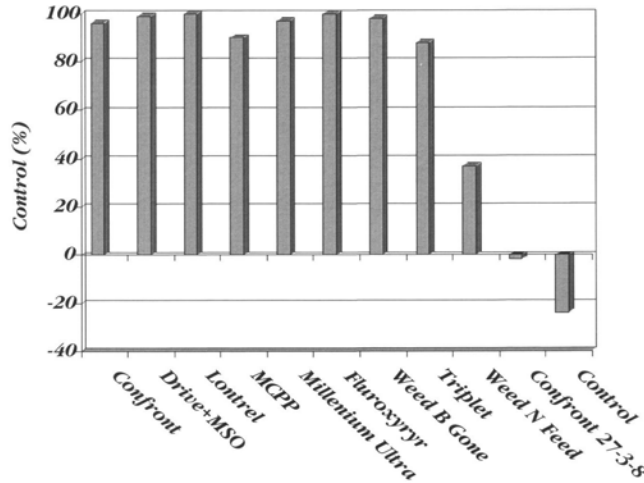


Fig. 2. White clover control in a Kentucky bluegrass/perennial ryegrass turf by fluroxypyr compared with other commercially-available broadleaf herbicides eight weeks after application, OJ Noer Facility, Verona, WI, 27 August 2005.



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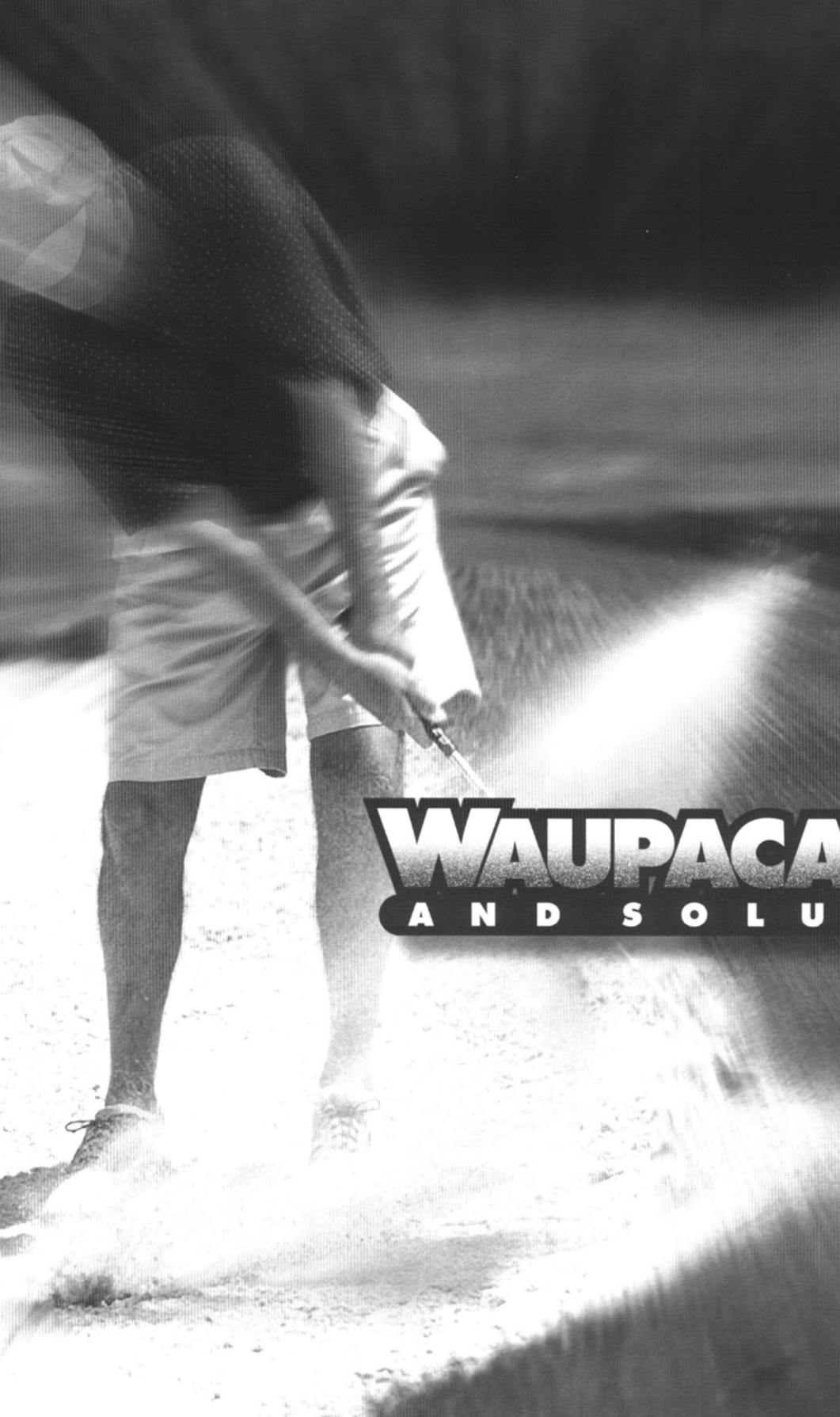
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GOOD TIME DOWN ON "THE FARM"



By **Randy DuPont**, Golf Course Superintendent, North Hills Country Club

The Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents' September meeting was held at The Bull at Pinehurst Farms. Superintendents and their guests were treated to playing the only Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course in the state of Wisconsin, which by the way was rated "America's Best New Daily Fee Course" by Golfweek in 2005. While the golf course itself is breathtaking, the property's history is quite fascinating.

For over 150 years Pinehurst Farms operated as a dairy farm in addition to its world-class breeding of Holstein cattle. A barn fire in 1993 marked the end of Pinehurst as a dairy farm, but signaled the beginning of the creation of a championship golf course.

In August 2000 construction began on the 400 acre parcel, previously known as Pinehurst Farms. Opened in 2002, the golf course meanders through meadows, woods, wetlands, and streams. While a majority of the fairways have generous landing areas, some require good course management off the tee. As in a typical Nicklaus design, approach shots into the greens require good shot-making. Green sites are protected either through well placed bunkering or forced carries over water or ravines.

The event for the day was a two-person scramble, and I believe there was a lot of scrambling going on during the course of the day for the sixty players who took on The Bull.

Low team gross winners, with a fantastic score of 66 were Gordie Waddington and Tom Reuter. In the net division, first place went to J. D. Huseboe and Dennis Dary

with a score of 60. Second place went to Larry Lennert and Greg Kallenberg with a score of 61.

Six hole events were also awarded. Closest to the pin winners were: Lee Merkel #3 and #7, Bryan Bergner #6, J. D. Huseboe #12, and Brad Fahlgren #15. In addition, Al Pondel won the longest drive on #10. I'm guessing the winners used their gift certificates to replenish their golf ball supply.

I would like to thank host superintendent Randy Witt for the great job he and his staff did. The golf course was in excellent condition.

Since this was our last meeting of the year, I would like to again thank all of the superintendents who hosted meetings this year, and would encourage others to consider hosting a meeting in the near future. ♣



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