

turf maintained at 2.5 inches. When the same cultivars were maintained at 2.5 inch height, no cultivars were killed and overall phytotoxicity was minimal (Stier et al., 2006). Only three cultivars of the ones shown in Table 1 had less than acceptable quality at 56 DAT when maintained at 2.5 inch height, and most maintained a phytotoxicity rating of 6.5 or better throughout the trial.

While we were able to eliminate 80% or more of the *P. annua* from the plots, we need additional information on ways to prevent *P. annua* from re-establishing itself. The label allows overseeding 10 days after the final application. For Kentucky bluegrass fairways, aggressive cultivars may be able to cover the ground as *P. annua* is eliminated, depending on the degree of *P. annua* infestation. Otherwise, overseeding might be necessary though information on the time needed after Velocity application for Kentucky bluegrass overseeding is still needed.

CONCLUSION

Our results suggest that if Kentucky bluegrass is ever added to the Velocity label it will likely be limited to specific cultivars and/or mowing heights. However,

we used only one approach in our treatment: a sequential application of a high rate. In our current trials on bentgrass we are using multiple applications of much lower rates. Preliminary data indicate we can still achieve good to excellent *Poa* control, and it will be important to evaluate phytotoxicity on Kentucky bluegrass with multiple, low-rate applications of Velocity. The use of multiple, low-rate applications might have the extra benefit of allowing Kentucky bluegrass to fill in the voids as *P. annua* is removed and avoid the need to overseed.

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Strawberry Creek and Matt Kregal Welcome WGCSA Superintendents Tourney

By **Jim VanHerwynen**, Golf Course Superintendent, South Hills Golf and Country Club

The WGCSA hosted its annual Superintendent Tournament at The Club at Strawberry Creek in Kenosha, July 9, 2007. The event drew 107 players from Wisconsin and Illinois. Matt Kregal and his staff did an outstanding job conditioning this very challenging golf course. The day began with a presentation on master plans by Richard Jacobson and Doug Myslinski from Jacobson Golf Design based out of Libertyville IL. Jacobson Golf Design designed and built The Club at Strawberry Creek which opened in 2006, and have also done numerous other golf courses and renovations all over the Midwest. The turf used on this prop-

erty was exceptional. The A-1 greens, Seaside fairways and Penncross tees were all in perfect health and fun to play. The discussion was very informative and we thank them for this opportunity.

I believe they have broken ground to build the clubhouse, which will be open next year. Due to a lack of clubhouse they provided one of, if not the best, box lunches I have ever had. After the presentation and lunch with practice on the practice facility, the players headed out to this very challenging course. The sky was ripe for a thunderstorm, and as one would expect, the storm did arrive approximately at

2:15! Wow, did it come down! After the delay most of the attendees went back out on the course to finish the round. Immediately afterwards we were treated to a wonderful cookout provided by Reinders Inc.

The winners of the event included: in first place flight A with a 68, Mike Lyons (Old Hickory GC); second place flight A with a 70, Rod Johnson (Pine Hills CC); flight B with a first place win with a 64 was Steve VanAcker (Crystal Lake CC), followed by Paul Schaefer (Prairie Isle GC) with an even 70. Flight C winners using the Peoria System, were as follows: first place with a 55



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was Jeff Danner (Golf Creations); second place with a 67 was Phil Zastrow (Reinders Inc.); and in third place Greg Stoeger (E-Z-Go Golf Cars) with a very close 67.2. Matt Kregal suggested doing the putting contest on the putting green with the money generated going to the Wee One Foundation. This side event raised \$280.00 for the foundation – what a great idea! Raffle tickets were awarded to participants with Jim Knulty (Big Foot CC) winning a very nice Strawberry Creek logo golf bag! Thanks again for all who attended and the tee and hole event sponsors who helped make this a successful event.

As you can clearly see the first half of 2007 has been very well attended. The remainder of the year appears to be as eventful as ever with four great events on the horizon. On August 20, 2007 Brynwood CC is hosting the Superintendent/Guest golf tournament with speaker David Swift of Whistling Straits enlightening us as to the U.S. Senior Open. On Monday September 24, 2007 Rod Johnson once again will be the host for the annual Wee One Foundation golf outing at Pine Hills CC in

Sheboygan. October will be a busy month with the Dinner Dance at Minocqua CC on October 5 and 6, 2007 followed by the WTA Fundraiser on October 11, 2007 at the Meadow Valley course at Blackwolf Run.

Once again, thank all of you who have participated and if you have not,

please consider, as these are great events to support the WGCSA, receive some valuable education and relieve some stress from the every day grind. I look forward to seeing all of you in the near future and thank you for your patience with me as I am quickly learning the protocol with my responsibilities on the board. 



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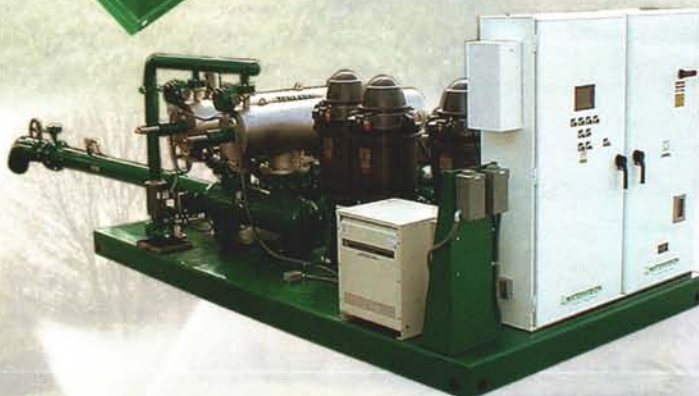
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Entomology Questions from the Floor

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

Over the past few years we have been experiencing problems with sod webworms; are they a new pest? Racine County

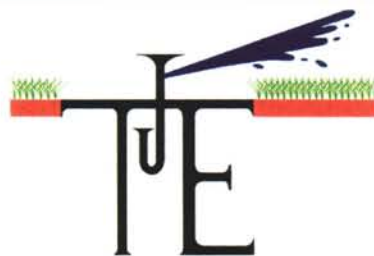
No, sod webworms are not a "new" pest! They are native to North America, including Wisconsin. Sod webworms are an important turfgrass insect pest of golf course turf, especially putting greens. However, they are frequently overlooked or misdiagnosed. Larval feeding damage by sod webworms is often mistaken for that of the black cutworm since sod webworm feeding damage symptoms are comparable to the black cutworm. Unfortunately, little published information exists regarding the sod webworm complex and respective biology on golf course turf. Despite this shortcoming, after proper assessment and identification of the pest problem, numerous insecticides are available for control of this problematic pest.

Several vendors have been recommending a new product from DuPont named Provaunt for control of black cutworm and sod webworms; what can you tell me about this new material and is it effective? Dane County

Provaunt is a new product from DuPont that contains the active ingredient indoxacarb. Indoxacarb is a member of a completely new class of chemistry, the oxadiaxines. Provaunt is effective against most surface feeding insects including sod webworms, black cutworm, and armyworms. One of the many beneficial attributes of Provaunt is that it stops feeding damage quickly, within minutes to a few hours after application. One important thing to understand is that Provaunt often performs so quickly that larvae (caterpillars) are terminated below they turf canopy and rarely surface. As a result, some golf course superintendents have raised concern over whether the product was effective. Rest assured, Provaunt is effective; turfgrass managers must begin to learn and experience this attribute since they are accustomed to caterpillars surfacing after an application of other conventional insecticides. Because it is a novel chemistry, it provides an asset from a resistance management aspect. In addition to its excellent performance, Provaunt has an excellent environmental and toxicological profile. Indoxacarb is classified as a reduced-risk active ingredient by the United State Environmental Protection Agency. It also has no required buffer zone around water unlike some of the synthetic pyrethroids.

Why does it seem that the Japanese beetle population is beginning to increase again; we have not had problems with them the past couple of years anywhere near the level we experienced five years ago? Iowa County

Predicting Japanese beetle populations is a very difficult endeavor! Just when you think you have it figured-out, they blind-side you. In general, Japanese beetles tend establish and remain in a respective area for about 8-12 years, thereafter they slowly decline over time. There are various biotic and abiotic factors that influence/impact Japanese beetle as well as other insect populations, including beneficial insects. Biotic factors such as predators, parasites and pathogens have been demonstrated to dramatically reduce Japanese beetle populations over time. However, these biotic factors are readily influenced/impacted by abiotic factors such as moisture, heat, humidity, etc. The bottom line is that although we think we have a handle on predicting Japanese beetle populations, there are other factors than influence populations from year to year. The best pest management strategy is to continue to sample and monitor respective pest populations. ♣



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Berbee Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship Established at the University of Wisconsin - Madison

By **Monroe S. Miller**, Golf Course Superintendent, Blackhawk Country Club

The formal acknowledgement of the fourth Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship in Turfgrass was an event like few I have experienced in my career.

The Jim Berbee and Karen Walsh Foundation fully funded a fellowship in turfgrass pathology in honor of Jim's parents, John and Flora Berbee. Jack was a career professor in the Department of Plant Pathology who studied forestry pathology, mycology and virology. Flora Berbee worked on the serious problem of oak wilt in the department and was a well-known laboratory instructor. Their long and productive careers at Wisconsin certainly merit the recognition and respect the fellowship will provide.

My life intersected with the Berbees in a number of ways. Right after I was hired as the golf course superintendent at Blackhawk Country Club in 1972, I bought a home a few blocks from the golf course on Tomahawk Trail. My next-door neighbors to the west were the Berbees. Next door to the east was Edith Jones. Although in her 80s, she was still abstracting professional and academic journal articles for the plant pathology department. She had earned her M.S. there in the early years of the department and her husband, Dr. Fred Jones, was a renowned plant pathologist as well. Incidentally, cater-corner from our house was Mike Lee's family.

Needless to say, in the five years we lived in that home, I learned a lot about plant pathology and the department at the UW - Madison. Both Mike and Jim worked at our golf course, back in the time when 14-year olds could do anything an



Dr. Bob Ray, Associated Dean of CALS, formally thanked Flora and Jack Berbee for their productive careers in CALS.



A very proud Berbee family!

adult was allowed to do on the course. They have been life long friends. Mike, of course, pursued a successful career after he earned his degree in turfgrass management at the UW - Madison. Jim was a graduate of the College of Engineering, attaining both a B.S. and a M.S. in mechanical engi-

neering, and later a MBA. He started a high tech communications company that became very successful. He sold it recently and decided to fund a turfgrass fellowship in his parents' name. By the way, Jim is headed to Stanford University to attend medical school and begin his second career!

We had a recognition party at our clubhouse on June 21st. Many of the emeritus plant pathology faculty were there, as were current faculty. The WTA was well represented and the CALS staff and Dean's office were present. The WGCSA had a presence, the Berbee family came from great distances, and old friends from the neighborhood made the trip to the promontory where the clubhouse sits overlooking Lake Mendota. Grass and trees and water were visible from every window.

The University of Wisconsin Foundation planned the event and did a wonderful job, as always. We had a grand time - good food, good friends, a great cause in honor of a great family.

So here we are as we near the end of the fellowship program -



Dr. Paul William reflected on Jack and Flora Berbees' careers in plant pathology.



Present chair of Plant Pathology, Dr. Murray Clayton, offered congratulations to the Berbees.

\$2,000,000 endowed money to support four graduate students in the turfgrass sciences at all times for all time. We have a few months

left to try and fill the one fellowship remaining that is available to us. I hope we are successful.

I would enjoy another party! 🌱

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1st Annual Alternative Turfgrass Meeting

By **Tod Blankenship**, Golf Course Superintendent, Big Fish Golf Club

Thanks to all who attended and helped to make a successful first annual Alternative Turfgrass Discussion on Monday June 11th. This event brought together our three regional superintendent associations—the Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Northern Great Lakes Golf Course Superintendents Associations.

The panel discussion featured speakers who have extensive experience with “Alternative Grasses” and included Dr. Eric Watkins from the University of Minnesota, Eric Koeritz from the

University of Wisconsin, Bob Vavrek from the USGA Green Section, and Larry Thornton with Superior Turf Services. All of the speakers contributed their thoughts and their experiences with alternative turfgrasses and the resulting discussion was very informative and parlayed some hope for the use of these grasses in the future. While some key points were made there is still much to be learned from and about these grasses if they are to be used to any extent in our region.

Impending government regula-

tions and our own expectations as golf turf managers to provide ideal golfing conditions with fewer inputs, have led some in the industry to seek alternative choices for sustainable grasses. These grasses have been around for many years; yet since the inception of heavy chemical usage, limited availability of quality seed, and an American golfing enigma for near perfect conditions their use has been limited until more recent years. These grasses are continuing to improve in quality and availability yet until the



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