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ABOUT THE COVER

Our cover artist Beverly Bergemann highlights Dr. Jim Kerns, the new turf pathologist at UW Wisconsin-Madison.

"It is impossible for anyone to begin to learn what he thinks he already knows"

Epictetus
Greek Philosopher

THE GRASS ROOTS

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It Rained. It Poured.

By **Dustin Riley**, Golf Course Superintendent, Oconomowoc Golf Club



Association business has been a little quiet over the last month. Why? Mother Nature! She always has a way of reminding us who's boss. Throughout June, Wisconsin has endured heavy rainfall, record flooding and became the nation's leader in the number of disaster areas. Golf in Wisconsin will definitely take a hit as the lost revenues will

not be recovered and additional resources will be required to repair the damages from the floods.

Unfortunately, in addition to our damaged golf courses, many of us have suffered personal property losses. Flooded streets and basements have destroyed property, personal items, clothing and sentimental memorabilia. In times like these, it is best to remember priorities and make sure family is at the top. Several weeks ago, I sent

out a notice, reminding all WGCSA Class A, SM and all GCSAA members that GCSAA has an Emergency Relief Fund, which could provide some financial assistance. Below is that information.

In the last issue of *The Grass Roots*, I titled my message 'A Defining Moment' as I discussed new mission, vision and goals for the association, little did I know what June's weather would bring. One of the vision statements listed that WGCSA members would be key to the enjoyment and the economic success of the game of golf. As result of the rains, that enjoyment and economic success has suffered. I can not think of a better opportunity for us to display our skills and confirm our value as superintendents by successfully guiding our facilities through the recovery process. Now that's a defining moment.

Good luck to everyone and best wishes through the remainder of the summer. 🌿

GCSAA's Emergency Relief Fund

GCSAA knows the devastation that can be caused by tornados, floods, hurricanes and other natural disasters, as well as the unexpected financial stress often associated with a family medical emergency. The GCSAA Emergency Relief Fund is designed to assist members when disaster and/or an emergency strikes.

- The purpose of the fund is to provide financial assistance to GCSAA members who suffer personal loss or medical hardship.
- Any GCSAA member is eligible for this assistance.
- The amount of financial assistance provided shall differ by situation up to a maximum of \$2,500 per claim.
- GCSAA reserves the right to verify the information received from an applicant.
- Legitimate claims will be processed on a first-come, first serve basis.
- All claims shall be processed by the Senior Manager of Governance/Member Services and approved by the Trustees of the GCSAA Benevolence Fund.

In the case of family medical hardship, the chapter is asked to submit a letter of request on behalf of the GCSAA member.

In the case of natural disasters, GCSAA will initially provide \$1,000 financial assistance (intended to assist with clothing, food and shelter) to members who contact us via [email](#) or at (800) 472-7878, ext. 4418 and whose daily lives are altered by the affects of a natural disaster and who meet any of the following criteria:

- Have had to relocate (whether they are staying with family, friends or in a motel) from their homes.
- Remain in their homes, but lose basic necessities such as electricity, water, etc. which lead to unexpected financial burden.
- Whose place of employment sustains substantial damage and may not be a source of employment going forward.
- Note: Members will not be required to provide us with any documentation or invoices other than a verbal or email request for assistance and verification on our end that they are within the affected area. Our goal is to provide financial assistance as quickly as possible.

Once a member has had an opportunity to truly assess their long-term situation, in terms of personal loss and employment status, GCSAA will make available an additional \$1,500. All applicants for additional assistance will be required to provide written explanation of how the funds will be spent and all claims must be accompanied by documentation, including in the case of personal loss, a copy of appropriate estimates and/or invoices, if requested.

For more information, please contact **R. Scott Woodhead**, sr. manager of governance/member standards at (800) 472-7878, ext. 4418.

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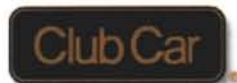
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Controlling Rough Bluegrass in Bentgrass Fairways

By Dr. John Stier and Mr. Eric Koeritz, Department of Horticulture, University of Wisconsin-Madison



Rough bluegrass (*Poa trivialis* L.) is a pernicious weed in many golf course fairways of the Midwest. In some cases it appears as a contaminant in the seed used for establishment, in other cases it is intentionally planted in shaded areas. Its stoloniferous growth habit aid its spread into areas previously uninfested areas. While it can form a pleasant turf, rough bluegrass has a coarser leaf texture, shinier leaves, and more horizontal growth habit than creeping bentgrass which make it stand out when it grows in bentgrass fairways. Moist conditions favor growth of rough bluegrass: in dry and/or hot weather, the leaves may quickly turn brown, making its presence even more obvious in creeping bentgrass which has better heat and drought tolerance.

Cultural controls for removing rough bluegrass do not work very well. It grows fine at mowing heights used for fairways and roughs/home lawns. Allowing the area to dry out will kill the leaves, but chances are that at least some stolon tissue will survive to repopulate the area with rough bluegrass foliage. Hand removal is impractical, as with most stoloniferous weeds as some stolon tissue always seems to be left in the ground.

Herbicide control has never been much of an option for removing rough bluegrass unless a non-selective herbicide such as glyphosate (e.g., Roundup®) is used, usually in repeat applications to control new growth from stolons. Consequently, the recent availability of two selective herbicides labeled for rough bluegrass control provides new hope for superintendents dealing with rough bluegrass in their fairways.

Sulfosulfuron sold as Certainty®, is an example of the sulfonyl urea class of herbicides that have recently exploded into the market. We have been experimenting with it for several years as a selective control for quackgrass (*Elytrigia repens*) and tall fescue in Kentucky bluegrass turf with quite a bit of success and demonstrated it at field days (Garrison et al., 2007). Last year we also showed its potential as a growth regulator of creeping bentgrass fairways (Schneider et al., 2007). Bispyribac-sodium, sold as Velocity®, has been marketed primarily as a *Poa annua* control in bentgrass fairways. We have demonstrated its potential for this purpose for several years at the O.J. Noer facility and at one of Wisconsin's golf courses (Koeritz and Stier, 2006). Bispyribac-sodium is in the herbicide class of acetolactate synthase inhibitors. Both of these herbicides prevent the acetolactate synthase enzyme in plants from producing key amino acids needed for protein production. Without new proteins, affected plants quit growing, turn yellow and die within three to four weeks. Both products are used at extremely low rates (about 10 to 40 times less than conventional products) and pose low hazards to humans and the environment.

Preliminary trials with the two products in Illinois and Indiana led to a multi-state collaboration to test various rates for controlling different types of rough bluegrass in 2006. Because bispyribac-sodium seems to be more effective during warmer summer temperatures, our first treatments were applied 19 June. Sequential treatments were applied at two-week intervals for a total of two to four applications (Table 1). Treatments were applied to one of the creeping bentgrass fairways at Hawks Landing Golf Course, Madison, WI that was infested with rough bluegrass. Soil type was a silty clay with pH 7.1 and 4.1% organic matter. Turf was mowed at approximately 0.5 inch height. Herbicide treatments were applied in 2 gal water/1000 ft² using XR 8004 flat fan nozzles. A randomized block design was used with three replications of each treatment. We evaluated the percent cover of rough bluegrass in each plot at the beginning of the trial, then rated percent cover at 4, 8, and 12 weeks after the initial treatment (WAIT). Phytotoxicity of the treatments was rated on a 1 to 9 scale at 2-week intervals.

We achieved better than 90% control of rough bluegrass within 8 WAIT when Certainty was applied three times at 0.5 oz/A and Velocity

Table 1. Treatment rates and intervals for testing sulfosulfuron and bispyribac-sodium for control of rough bluegrass in creeping bentgrass fairway turf.

Herbicide	Rate	Number of applications
Control (surfactant only)	0.25% vol/vol	3
Certainty	0.25 oz/Acre	2
Certainty	0.50 oz/Acre	2
Certainty	0.25 oz/Acre	3
Certainty	0.50 oz/Acre	3
Velocity	0.65 oz/Acre	4
Velocity	0.98 oz/Acre	4
Velocity	1.3 oz/Acre	4

applied four times at 0.98 and 1.3 oz/A (Fig. 1). Similar control was seen with three applications of Certainty at 0.25 oz/A and two applications of Certainty at 0.5 oz/A, but control declined by 12 WAIT as the effects wore off before the stolons were completely killed. The low rates of Certainty and Velocity were ineffective. About 20% control was achieved in the surfactant only treatment-this was due either to natural death at high summer temperatures, the surfactant itself, or both.

Both products caused minor injury to creeping bentgrass within two weeks after the initial application (approximately a rating of 7 on a 1 to 9 scale with 9 equal to no injury and 6 equal to acceptable turf quality). Injury from Velocity applications virtually disappeared within four weeks, but injury at the high (and most effective) rate of Certainty continued and caused unacceptable injury (a rating of 5)

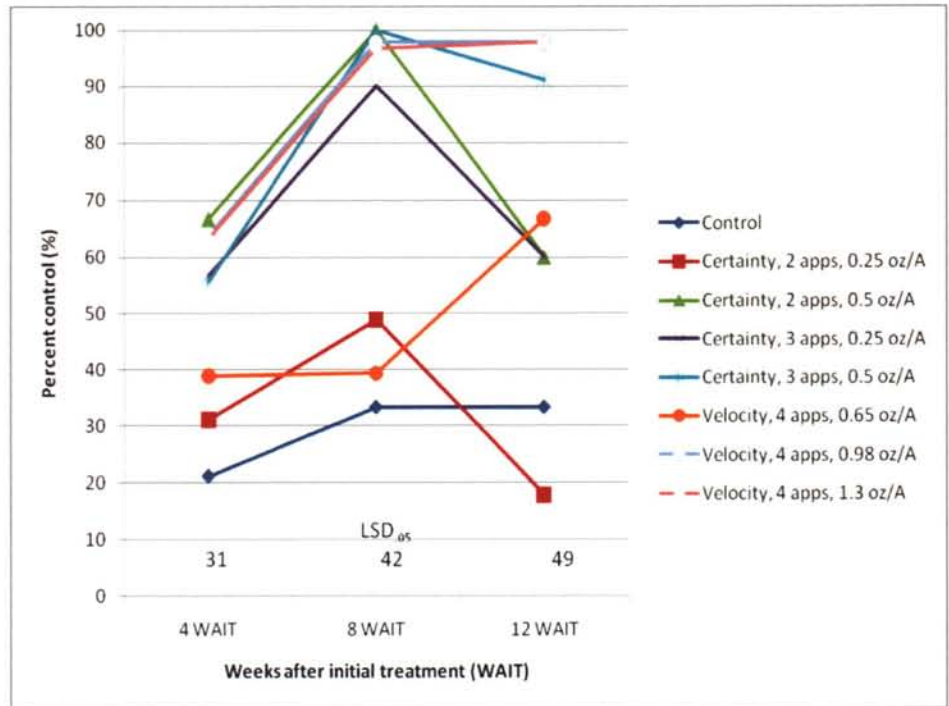
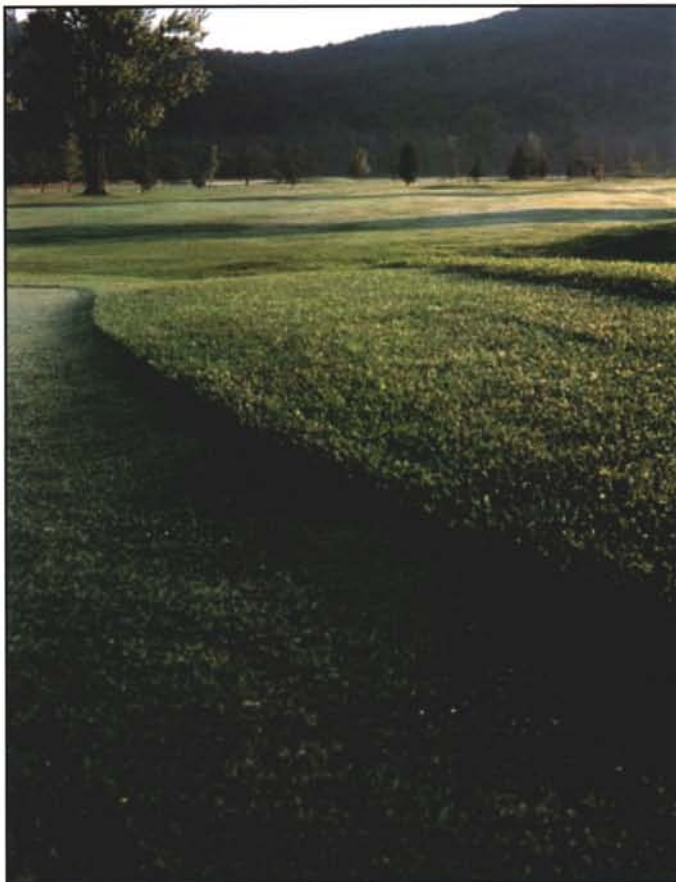


Fig. 1. Rough bluegrass control in creeping bentgrass fairway turf, Madison, WI, 2006, using Certainty (sulfosulfuron) and Velocity (bispyribac-sodium) herbicides.



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within 8 weeks of treatment; injury symptoms almost disappeared completely by 12 WAT.

Plots at Illinois and Indiana showed similar levels of control (Morton et al., 2007). However, treatments in South Dakota in both sunny and shaded conditions failed to control rough bluegrass, with the best effect (50% control) seen with the high rate of Certainty applied four times. The lack of control in South Dakota may be due to a resistant biotype of rough bluegrass or drier conditions which may have interfered with absorption and metabolism of the products as air temperature at the time of applications was similar to air temperatures in Illinois and Indiana.

Two years of consistent results in Illinois, Indiana, and one year in Wisconsin suggest that both Certainty and Velocity herbicides can be used to successfully control rough bluegrass in creeping bentgrass fairways. Herbicide applications should begin in mid to late June or when daytime temperatures have consistently reached at least 68 F and night temperatures are above 50 F. Applications should only be made if some phytotoxicity to the creeping bentgrass is acceptable. If phytotoxicity really needs to be avoided, four applications of Velocity at 1 oz/Acre should provide sufficient control of rough bluegrass. If less labor

is desired, three applications of Certainty can be used at 0.5 oz/A but expect greater phytotoxicity for perhaps two months after the initial application. Since both herbicides have very specific modes of action, the buildup of resistant weed populations is possible given sufficient use, but one season of multiple applications should be enough to virtually eliminate rough bluegrass from fairways for an extended period of time.

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Crowds Rain Down on Noer Facility for Summer Field Day 2008



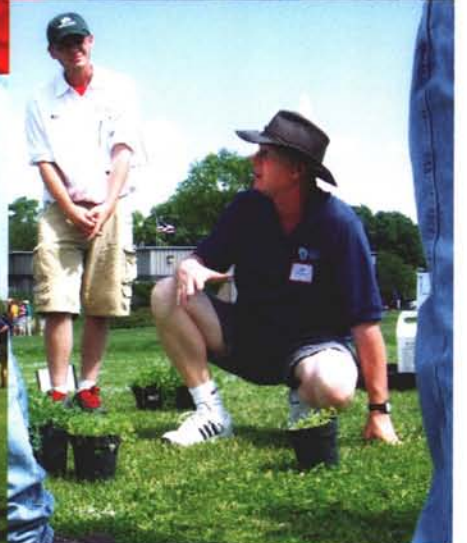
By **Tom Schwab**, O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility, University of Wisconsin-Madison

The rains and flooding that occurred in southern Wisconsin during the summer of 2008 were devastating, but the crowds that rained down on the OJ Noer Facility on July 22nd for the 25th annual Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Summer Field Day were amazing. Attendance numbered over 300 with 255 turf managers and 69 sales representatives. The attendance increased over past years' events, as did the number of new studies that were featured.

Amazing was also the word for this year's weather as visitors were greeted with temperatures in the upper 70s, mild breezes, and beautiful blue skies. The amount of education offered was enough to satisfy everyone who came. One attendee, Charles Granger, said about a putting green management talk, "I learned more from that one presentation than in 10 years of attending other various field days."

The field day started out with the research tour that

Charles Granger was so impressed with and was followed by the afternoon commercial trade show and the first ever lawn care training session. The morning



research tour had something for everyone in the two separate groups of talks. One group tour was geared for golf turf managers and the other for sports, sod, lawncare, and commercial turf managers. The titles of the talks included:

- Localized Dry Spot Prevention and Management
- Alternative Methods for the Control of Dollar Spot
- Cutless PGR for Controlling *Poa annua* in Fairways
- Control of Dollar Spot Using Standard and Experimental Fungicides
- Soil Carbon Loss from Recently Established Turf, Pasture and Prairie Grasses
- Kentucky Bluegrass Varieties for Fairways
- Velvet Bentgrass Nitrogen Type and Rate Evaluation
- Does Primo Change Putting Green Fertilization Requirements?
- Quick-Germ Kentucky Bluegrass for Lawns and Sports Turf
- New Products for Crabgrass Control

- Rainwater Harvesting and Drip Irrigation
- Insecticide Options for Managing Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)
- Bentgrass Removal from Lawns with Tenacity
- Winterkill of Perennial Ryegrass in Lawns
- Lawn Responses to Liquid Fertilizers
- Ryegrass Rust and Other Common Diseases of Lawn Grass


Everyone was treated to a wonderful lunch following the research tour where friendship and conversation were shared among attendees. The trade show had 28 companies displaying turf equipment, supplies, and services to improve everyone's turf management. The sales representatives were helpful in discussing all aspects of their products and services. The list of exhibitors is mentioned here. Please be sure to give them your business and thank them for helping to support Field Day.

The lawn care workshop became part of Field Day for the first time in 2008. It was a huge success considering space was limited to 65 participants which sold out and had 19 people on the waiting list. The workshop was mainly for lawncare staff training although there were participants from other industries and several managers taking advantage of the refresher course. Subjects covered in the workshop included:

- Fertilizer spreader and sprayer calibration
- Weed/ disease/ insect identification and management
- Turf species choices
- Fertilizer properties and considerations

Field Day 2008 is going into the books as being one of the most successful. The weather, learning opportunities, crowds, and number of new studies were hard to beat. Thanks go to everyone who attended and helped make the day such a success. 🌱

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