

That queasy feeling that simply arises with the certainty that protecting our greens with fungicide...of squirting our tees with phosphites...and of telling our fairways to 'go commando', i.e., no protection whatsoever...is somewhat inadequate. This too basic a program is a requirement of budget...and will undoubtedly result in damage to these same gorgeous bent fairways that as of today are the best that they have looked in July in recent memory!

Sort of a paradox...it seems. The course as of today looks great...but it is only July 10th. The money to keep it all looking great for the next sixty days is available.... should we need it...but only if we really need to spend it. But, we don't want to spend it. But, we should spend it...to preventatively protect this beautiful golf course from the damage that will undoubtedly be induced from the upcoming heat, humidity, and heavy rainfall that are as certain as that damn alarm clock every morning!

But, if we can outguess the weather, turn off the irrigation, and learn to skate on extremely thin ice...we might retain these gorgeous fairways through until mid-September with little or no pythium damage. If we cannot do all of that...we will wish that we had indeed spent the money when we had the chance!

So, like every superintendent throughout these mid-western states...I will continue the daily dance of answering the alarm...be it the one that unfortunately always begins my day...or goes off in my head as I watch the Weather Channel. I will strive to keep the only commandment that pertains to golf courses...do not spend unbudgeted dollars on pythium fungicide...or anything else...unless it is really necessary.

And then, when it is necessary...spend it soon enough to control or eradicate the problem... before it escalates and damages too heavily those gorgeous bent fairways that we had...back on July 10th.

Soon enough also that people above me on the food chain do not self righteously state that, of course, the money was available for pythium control...or any other

emergency...if we really needed to spend it.

We all answer the clock because we need to do it...our families depend on it...and because we are internally wired to wake up way too early. 'Sleeping in' for us golf course types means getting to bed at 9 PM...not waking up late on any day that ends in 'Y'.

I am so looking forward to retirement 16 years into the future when I really will be able to sleep late...until possibly as late as 6:00-7: AM. But, by then, I'll be so afflicted with insomnia that sleep will probably be impossible!

It's only 6:30 PM...but I think I'm going to bed. I have stayed up too late for too many nights...and always pay for it the next day by being constantly tired out. I am even tired out just thinking about tomorrow morning ...and how tired I will be!

I need some rest...because I will be needing to answer the alarm clock...for the rest of the summer...and the rest of the season. Soon it will be Thanksgiving...and I will be thankful that I can simply...turn off the alarm clock. 🌱

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# Insecticide Options for Managing Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)



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

The emerald ash borer (EAB) is an invasive insect (beetle) that was first discovered in the Detroit, MI metropolitan area in June 2002. EAB is native to Asia and is thought to have been accidentally introduced into the United States via importation of EAB infested wood packing materials used to transport goods or products. To date, EAB has been found in Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, Indiana, Ontario, Canada as well as in NE Illinois including Chicago. So far, EAB has not been detected in Wisconsin! Several detection methods including visual surveys, detection/trap trees, and adult traps have been employed in an effort to detect EAB. However, at low population densities or early stages of infestation, EAB is quite difficult to detect regardless of survey strategy. EAB larvae feed (mine) in the cambial area creating S-shaped/serpentine feeding galleries that are typically packed with frass (fecal matter and sawdust). This larval feeding activity disrupts the ability of trees to transport vital nutrients and water, thus resulting in tree decline and eventual death. Tree death can occur in less than two years at high population densities if left untreated, while some trees can survive up to five years at low population densities. Unlike the bronzed birch borer and the two-lined chestnut borer, two closely related boring insects that mainly attack stressed trees, EAB does not discriminate between healthy (vigorous) or stressed trees. In North America, EAB has only reported to attack ash (*Fraxinus spp.*) trees including green white, blue, black, velvet, pumpkin as well as other horticultural varieties. It is estimated that there are more than 730 million ash trees; about 5 million are horticultural varieties in Wisconsin. Consequently, EAB poses a serious threat to Wisconsin's ash resources.

So, what can you do to protect your ash trees from the eminent threat of EAB? Unfortunately, this question does not have a simple answer! There are numerous factors that can influence your decision making process. First and foremost, until EAB is found within 10-12 miles of your ash tree(s), there is NO need to begin treating your ash trees with insecticides. Secondly, due to the relatively high cost associated with treating multiple ash trees such as in woodlots or forested areas, high-value or specimen ash trees may be more likely considered for an insecticide treatment. In addition, insecticides are not always successful due to variability or inconsistent control nor is it fully



Adult Emerald Ash Borer.

understood if insecticides are enhancing tree survival or merely prolonging tree death. Since EAB was discovered, numerous research trials have investigated the performance (efficacy) of various insecticide treatments. Currently, there are several insecticides and application technologies that are suggested, they include: 1) imidacloprid (Merit) applied as a soil drench, soil injection or as a trunk injection using specialized application equipment such as the ArborJet Tree IV (IMA-Jet), Maguet (Imicide) and Wedgle (Pointer) application systems; 2) dinotefuran (Safari) + PentraBark applied as a bark spray to basal area of the trunk from the soil level up about 4.5 feet; 3) emamectin benzoate (Tree-age, NOT currently registered in Wisconsin) applied exclusively through the Arborjet Tree I.V. and QUIK-jet application systems; carbaryl (Sevin) applied as a trunk implant using the ACECAP 97 Systemic Insecticide Implants or Bonide Systemic Insecticide Bullets application technologies; and 4) bifenthrin (Onyx), cyfluthrin (Tempo), permethrin (Astro), or carbaryl (Sevin) applied as a foliar or bark spray application to control EAB adults and hatching larvae. Certified pesticide applicators are necessary for the application of the specialized application equipment such as the ArborJet Tree I.V. and QUIK-jet, Maguet, and Wedgle. ALWAYS read and follow label directions when using pesticides. For additional information regarding insecticide management options for EAB, visit [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info). 🌱



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# Turfgrass Information File Available to GCSAA Members



The most comprehensive index of turfgrass information in existence is now available at the touch of a button to all GCSAA Class A and Superintendent Members.

Through an agreement between the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and Michigan State University's Turfgrass Information Center, the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) can be accessed by Superintendent Members along with Class A members, who were given access in 2007. GCSAA Class A and Superintendent Members can enter the TGIF through the GCSAA Web site at <http://www.gcsaa.org/solutions/TGIF.aspx> or by clicking on Solutions/Tools on the left-hand side of the [gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org) homepage and then clicking on Turfgrass Information File (TGIF).

The TGIF is a computerized database available through the Web that covers full scope of the turfgrass industry, including content from journals and maga-

zines, research reports, conference proceedings, Extension bulletins, books and book chapters, technical reports, theses and dissertations, web documents, published Q-and-As, scanned golf course plans, and video interviews. In all the TGIF contains more than 130,000 records and continues to grow daily. Among its holdings is the complete digitized archive of GCSAA's *Golf Course Management* magazine and its predecessor from 1933 to the present. Subscriptions to the TGIF for individuals usually cost \$100 a year.

For those GCSAA members who are not familiar with the TGIF, the Turfgrass Information Center is developing a series of guides and tutorials to get the most out of the TGIF. The first of these, "Getting Started with TGIF," is now available at [http://tic.msu.edu/Getting\\_Started\\_TGIF.pdf](http://tic.msu.edu/Getting_Started_TGIF.pdf). This two-page handout provides a quick overview of the basic search, guided search and more.

For more information contact:

Carrie Riordan, GCSAA director, information and public policy, at 800-472-7878, ext. 3610

Margo Campbell Szabo, GCSAA senior information services librarian, at 800-472-7878, ext. 3604

Pete Cookingham, Turfgrass Information Center, at 517-432-6123, ext. 274

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GCSAA has launched a new student newsletter for adult and student members alike. The Path student newsletter has information and resources valuable to students considering a career in golf. The newsletter can be found at [gcsaa.org/epushes/studentNews/thepath.html](http://gcsaa.org/epushes/studentNews/thepath.html) and contains information on everything from college programs to living away from home.

The 2009 GCSAA Education Conference and the Golf Industry Show in New Orleans are coming quick. New Orleans is a great city and many of the places we will be using are fully upgraded after hurricane Katrina. Some helpful deadlines to remember are:

**August 1** - Online Hotel Registration Begins

**October 1** - Member Registration for the 2009 Conference and Show Opens along with GCSAA Tournament registration. 🌱





# Speak Up for Product Choice

By **Elizabeth Gotos**, Grassroots Manager, RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment)\*

*Editors note: Elizabeth was our scheduled speaker at the June WGCSA meeting at Evergreen Golf Club that was flooded out. In place of speaking, Mrs. Gotos has submitted this valuable article regarding the turf industry.*

It's hard to believe that, amidst all the talk about "going green," the value of green space is being challenged. As a green industry professional, you understand the real benefits of well-managed and healthy turf and ornamentals. From improving air quality and

reducing carbon dioxide, to preventing runoff and providing a soft landing surface, grass and plantings provide tremendous environmental benefits ... not to mention improving property values and providing aesthetic and recreational benefits. Yet, there are a growing number of local restrictions and bans on the use of important pest management and plant health tools - pesticides and fertilizers.

Even though Wisconsin passed state pesticide preemption legislation (which rests pesticide regulatory authority with the Department

of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection where it belongs), there have been several local community challenges to state primacy for pesticides. For example, challenges to herbicide use for invasive weed control in lakes can be found around the state.

In the fertilizer arena, Dane and Jefferson counties have passed restrictions on phosphorus-containing fertilizer use and the cities of Madison, Oconomowoc, Pewaukee, Delafield, Twin Lakes and Portage have followed suit. Your state legislature considered a

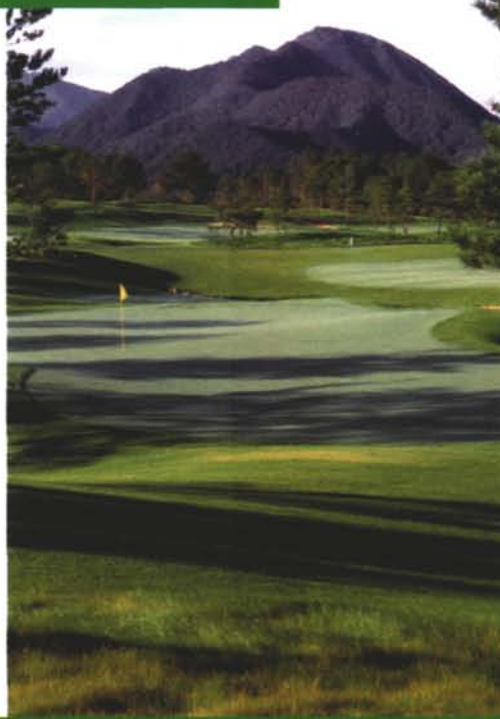
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statewide "phosphorus fertilizer ban" bill last session. Industry advocates pushed the state fertilizer regulatory authority to stop the patchwork of inconsistent local ordinances being passed around the state.

**What can be done?**

RISE established a grassroots advocacy program in 2006. We have two dedicated staff people focused on supporting grassroots activities by green industry professionals like you. We have a host of resources available for your use including talking points for hearing testimony, letters to the editor and tips for meeting with local elected officials. We also target communication materials for particular local situations.

**Your help is needed**

RISE needs you to join its grassroots network! Participation in the network simply involves the commitment to monitor local issues and to engage if pesticide and fertilizer use is challenged. Contact Elizabeth Grotos, RISE grassroots manager, at 202-872-3869 or [egrotos@pestfacts.org](mailto:egrotos@pestfacts.org) to join the network.

Network members receive our quarterly newsletter, Grassroots Network News, as well as regular updates outlining industry trends and providing helpful resource materials. If a local issue arises, we notify network members and recommend action.

Success in our grassroots efforts, however, relies on two-way communication. We need your help in monitoring local level activities and proposals. Some suggestions for doing this include: reading the local paper, listening to local radio broadcasts and watching local television newscasts. I encourage you to get in the habit of monitoring the meeting minutes and agendas for your town council, county board and school board groups. This information is often readily available

online. You may also be able to subscribe to an email distribution list so you will be notified of upcoming meetings and activities.

Talk with your management and players about the importance of availability of pest management and plant health products and the benefits of maintaining healthy and robust playing surfaces.

Set up a meeting with your local elected officials. A simple one-hour meeting can reap tremendous dividends over time because the legislator will now have an industry expert to call if a proposal is introduced.

I hope that you feel as passionately about this industry as I do - and that you are willing to tell the good story about pesticide and fertilizer benefits to elected officials, customers, neighbors and friends. We are seeing the consequences of not speaking up.

RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment)<sup>®</sup> is the national not-for-profit association representing manufacturers, formulators, distributors and other industry leaders involved with specialty pesticide and fertilizer products. Visit [www.pestfacts.org](http://www.pestfacts.org).



Yes, please add me to the RISE Grassroots Network!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (most important!): \_\_\_\_\_

List states of interest: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to:

Elizabeth Grotos, RISE grassroots manager

[egrotos@pestfacts.org](mailto:egrotos@pestfacts.org)

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# Watertown Country Club Hosts July WGCSA Meeting



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

On Monday July 7 the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association held its annual Superintendent Tournament. The event was held at Watertown Country Club with Superintendent Mike Upthegrove hosting. The day began with thunderstorms all over the southern half of the State, but thankfully spared Watertown CC by a few miles as we did not need another cancellation like the previous month at Evergreen Golf Club and Watertown did not need any more precipitation!

Our luncheon presentation was by GCSAA Chapter Liaison Steven Randall. Steven gave the group an update on new and continuing programs and policies at GCSAA. Mark Woodward is on board as the new CEO after overseeing Torrey Pines and the US Open. Advocacy is becoming more important in the ever changing business of golf. GCSAA was well represented at the National Golf Day in Washington DC in April along with other allied associations.

One of the goals of the visit was to show our leaders in congress the economic impact of a healthy golf industry. The 2005 Golf Economy Report showed that golf generated 76 billion in direct sales and is responsible for 3.5 billion in charitable contributions annually. Golf's environmental impact was also highlighted as GCSAA was able to use solid data to show our improvements in turf protectants products and water usage.

Mr. Randall touched on the importance of the superintendent at the golf facility and presented golfer survey results that showed course conditioning is a key decision maker for where people spend their golf dollars.

After Steve's presentation we were treated to a fantastic lunch and time on the practice range and putting green. Despite all of the flooding this year, Mike and his Greens and Grounds team did an outstanding job getting the golf course in tournament ready condition. In fact, Watertown Country Club had some of the best putting surfaces I, as well as, many participants have played. After a challenging round of golf the excitement built anticipating the results. Everyone enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and refreshments as they communicated with their fellow superintendents and vendors. At the end of the day in flight A, winning second place with a net 72, was Seth Brogren from Saddle Ridge Golf Club. In first place with a solid net 71 was Scott Bushman from Fox Valley Golf Club. Flight B winners included, in second place with another net 72 was, Jim Scott from Idelweiss Chalet



**Watertown CC, 6th green site. Imagine this entire area was under water just a few weeks ago.**

**Watertown CC, Host Superintendent  
Mike Upthegrove**



Country Club. First place went to Mark Storby from Oneida Golf and Country Club with a commanding net 67. Flight C winners included in second place with a net 69, John Jensen from Reinders, Inc., and in first place with another great net score of net 67 went to Peter Meyer of National Golf Graphics. Hole event winners included, in no particular order, closest to the pin hole #16, Greg Stoeger from E-Z-GO, closest to the pin hole #6 went to Seth Brogren from Saddle Ridge Golf Club. Long drive on hole #12 was taken by Greg Mark also from E-Z-GO and lastly, long drive hole #1 with a convincing drive, Scott Anthes from Brown County Golf Club. Everyone at Watertown did an outstanding job to make our day very successful and eventful. We as an association appreciate all of the golf course superintendents, vendors, event coordinators, guest speakers, golf pros and others who make these educational and golf events possible. If you have not attended recently please consider as they are excellent opportunities for education, golf and just simply getting away for part of the day. I hope to see all of you soon at another great event. 🌱





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