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ABOUT THE COVER

Old Glory Flies Above The 2nd Hole at Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan. Host of the Wee One Fundraiser.

A Pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.

By Sir Winston Churchill, Prime Minister, United Kingdom (1874-1965)

This quote by Churchill reminds us to keep a positive attitude as we face our challenges.

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THE GRASS ROOTS

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Back to School

By Jeff Millies, Certified Golf Course Superintendent, Edgwood Golf Course

It's that time of year again, kids are going back to school. This has always been my least favorite time of the year. Summer is just never long enough, especially with the cold spring we had this year. It seems like summer just got going and now it's over.

Many of us are shorthanded now and the turf keeps growing at record speed with the cooler temps and lower dew points. Mother Nature seems to be working against us more of the time than with us. Especially this year, one of the coldest springs on record, followed by one of the hottest Julys, and a dry August. Unfortunately, our success and budgets are influenced tremendously by the weather.

Today's challenges always seem to be unique, never quite the same, requiring new and innovative approaches. But how do you teach an old dog new tricks, so to speak? Sadly there is no silver bullet, only ones willingness to learn while keeping an open mind.

Networking with other Superintendents is probably the signal most important tool one can use. With today's social media network, nothing seems to go unnoticed. Golfers/members always seem to know what golf course is doing what. Golfers are always asking me if I heard the

news about this golf course or that one.

We need to stay active within our association and attend events that allow us to socialize with other Superintendents. We have a great network of professional colleagues that are willing to provide advice and share their experiences when anyone of us is encountering a problem. Common sense to one might be a stroke of genius to another. With all of the events sponsored by the WGCSA, Wee One, and WTA there is no excuse for not playing some golf.

It's easy to stay complacent and just get by. But in today's economy and market, just getting by could mean you might be looking for a new job in the near future. So get involved, stay informed, and make an effort to talk to other Superintendents. Start making plans to attend the fall symposium at the American Club and the Golf Industry Show in Las Vegas. These are two upcoming educational and networking opportunities that is money well spent.

It won't be long before fall is over and winter is upon us. So get out and enjoy what's left of some of the best golfing conditions this year has to offer.

WGCSA MISSION STATEMENT

The Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association is committed to serve each member by promoting the profession and enhancing the growth of the game of golf through education, communication and research.

WGCSA VISION STATEMENT

The Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association is dedicated to increase the value provided to its members and to the profession by:

- Enhancing the professionalism of its members by strengthening our role as a leading golf organization in the state.
- Growing and recognizing the benefits of a diverse membership throughout Wisconsin.
- Educating and promoting our members as leaders in environmental stewardship.
- Offering affordable, high value educational programs at the forefront of technology and service.
- Being key to enjoyment and the economic success of the game of golf.



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Fall Events

By Brett Grams, WGCSA Chapter Manager

I am sure many of you are welcoming the fall season. Most of us have now experienced some frost and that reminds us that the end of our golf season is also soon to come. Many of us in WI enjoy spring and fall with all the changes it brings to our beautiful state.

When talking to Superintendents it seems like spring is anticipated with excitement but when it finally arrives you are so busy with opening and preparing your courses it goes by too quickly. I hope that this fall you have a chance to enjoy the end

to a unique and challenging growing season. Hopefully Mother Nature will provide us with some beautiful weather with will allow you to accomplish your fall projects and let your turf prepare itself for the winter season. I can only hope that with the slowing of your turf and play at your courses you can find some time to enjoy the season with friends and family. I also hope that our Brewers can provide us with some great baseball and the Badgers and Packers can find the success the experts are predicting! I sure hope so...

It seems the end of the golfing season is a busy time of the year for events that the WGCSA is proud to support. The Wee One outing was held September 19th, and by all reports was again a successful one with a full field of golfers. Congratulations to Darrin Dichristopher our Affiliate Company member from Premier Golf and Utility for acing the 9th hole at Pine Hills to win the \$10,000.00 event prize! Unfortunately I was not able to attend the Wee One but hope to attend the WTA Fundraiser scheduled for October 3rd. I hope you can attend the fundraiser where the WGCSA will again donate the proceeds from this year's PAR 4 Research online auction to the UW which totaled \$10,350.00 which has grown from last year's donation of \$8,680.00.

We also round out the golfing season with a long time traditional event and a brand new event for our Assistant Supt. Members. This year's Couples Weekend is being held in Minocqua CC on October 7th and 8th. Host superintendent Bill Stein along with his wife Michelle will be letting us play Minocqua CC to see who gets to bring home the coveted Mr. and Mrs. Mow trophy.

I am also happy to report that the newly formed Class C (Assistant Superintendent) Members committee is undertaking a new event this fall. On October 25th the WGCSA will be hosting the inaugural Assistants Fall Wrap Up Meeting. The event starts at 9am at the OJ Noer Research Facility with educational topics presented by our own Dr. Jim Kerns. After a picnic lunch the attendees are welcome to play in a 9-hole golf event at University Ridge. For more information about these events please see our website at www.wgcsa.com.

Lastly, I want all members to be on the lookout for the Registration Packet and Itinerary for this year's Golf Turf Symposium which will be held November 15th and 16th at The American Club in Kohler, WI. I have been informed the Symposium committee will be finalizing the last of the details shortly.

In closing, I wish you all a successful and pleasant fall season. Please contact me for any assistance you may have as the WGCSA strives to serve all members and your facilities as best as we can!



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Value of Sampling and Monitoring

By Dr. R. Chris Williamson, Turfgrass and Ornamental Specialist, Department of Entomology,
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Active or regular sampling and monitoring of pest (i.e., disease, insect, weed, etc.) populations is at the heart of an IPM program! Well before any control or pest management method or strategy can be applied, the presence, accurate identification and population density must be determined. Without such information, the likelihood of success for a control or management strategy is extremely low.

Sampling and monitoring programs are not all the same, nor do they have to be overwhelming or all-consuming. A sampling and monitoring program can be tailored to fit the needs and resources (i.e., typically time or labor) of the respective turfgrass management operation. Such a program can be quite simplistic to very complex. Whether you realize it or not, many of you are already practicing some type of sampling and/or monitoring. Simply by making regular visual inspections of the turf is a fundamental component of sampling and monitoring. Yet, others engage in a more comprehensive sampling and monitoring program whereby they utilize more extensive methods such as but not limited to trapping (e.g., pheromone or light traps), destructive sampling (e.g., white grubs), soap flush/drench (e.g., black cutworms), etc.

Moreover, some turfgrass managers use weather-mediated predictive (i.e., degree-day) models or phenological plant indicators to “best” determine the appropriate time to conduct sampling and monitoring of respective pest(s) that are most likely to occur. In addition to these efforts, turfgrass managers will also use pest mapping (i.e., record keeping) to provide invaluable historical information regarding pest problems as well as control strategies or methods that provided effective control.

Time and resources are extremely valuable, it is quite un-



“Destructive sampling” involves tearing back the turf to count grub populations. Threshold numbers are determined by grub species, turf type and customer expectations.

likely that anyone one wants to waste time or money on implementing a pest management strategy (e.g., insecticide application) that will not provide the level of control or performance needed. To maximize the performance of a pest management strategy, it is critical to first accurately identify the problem (i.e., pest).

Secondly, one must determine the population density of the respective pest and make a decision whether the pest is at a damage threshold (i.e., level) that warrants the implementation of a control or management strategy.

Thirdly, a turfgrass manager must make an informed decision to select the most appropriate or “best” management strategy or method that will provide the level of control desired. This important decision is based on several factors including cost, effectiveness (i.e., performance), efficiency and environmental concerns. Next, implementation of the pest management strategy or method is conducted.

Lastly, once again sampling and monitoring the turf will allow one to properly assess and evaluate the level of success (i.e., performance) of the pest management strategy used. This procedure will provide invaluable information for future pest problems that that will likely occur. Consider developing a sampling and monitoring program for your turfgrass management operation, it may just save you time, resources and damage to your turf.



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Purple triangles could be found along Wisconsin Roads the past two years as researchers watch for Emerald Ash Borer. The traps are coated with glue and Manuka Oil as a pheromone attractant.



2 tablespoons of a lemon dish soap in two gallons of water poured on a square foot of turf will allow bring sodwebworms (above), armyworms, cutworms and atenius beetles to the surface in a few minutes.


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Another Fall Surprise For Snow Mold Control

By Paul Koch, Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab Manager &
Dr. Jim Kerns, Department Of Pathology, University of Wisconsin - Madison

After a spring and summer full of surprises that included a frigid May, bone-dry June, and blistering July it was with great relief for all that the calendar mercifully turned to September and the predictable planning of snow mold control. With the chaos of the PCNB stop-sale order issued by the Environmental Protection Agency in August of 2010, and the widespread feeling that PCNB wouldn't be available for a significant period (if ever again), it seemed planning for the 2011-2012 winter would be much more straightforward. Peruse the 2011 UW Snow Mold Research Reports, discuss with colleagues, sales representatives, make a selection and wait for the right time to spray. Then on August 19th, 2011 came the latest twist that the PCNB stop-sale order issued in 2010 had been vacated by a district judge, allowing the sale of PCNB once more. Predictability had been thrown out the window, replaced by questions with no certain answers. Do I revamp my plan to once again include PCNB? Can the product get to my facility in time? What will PCNB be priced at, and how will that affect my decision? For the latest on the PCNB situation as well as a full listing of all the orders and press releases visit the Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab's PCNB page at www.tdl.wisc.edu/PCNB.php.

By the time you read this most of the above questions will likely have been answered. That does not mean that the unpredictability surrounding PCNB is over, as the legal wrangling will likely continue until PCNB is (eventually) fully removed from the turfgrass market. For that reason, in the long term it is best to find a snow mold program that works for your facility and your budget that does not include PCNB. An excellent place to start is with the 2011 University of Wisconsin Snow Mold Research Reports.

The 2010-2011 UW Snow Mold Trials were held at 5 locations throughout Wisconsin, the U. P. of Michigan, and Minnesota. The trials were held at Grant Park, GC in South Milwaukee, WI; Sentryworld GC in Stevens Point, WI; Wawonowin CC in Champion, MI; Les Bolstad GC in St Paul, MN; and The Legacy at Craguns GC in Brainerd, MN. A sincere thank you to the host superintendents at each course for their gracious hospitality; Jason Rosbach at Grant Park, Gary Tanko at Sentryworld, Andy Hakkarinen at Wawonowin, Brent Belanger

at Les Bolstad, and Matt McKinnon at Craguns. The full reports for each site can be found at the Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab's Research page at www.tdl.wisc.edu/research.php.

The 2010-2011 trial that showed the greatest difference amongst treatments was held at Sentryworld GC (See Table 1). Ninety different treatments were tested, and not a single one contained PCNB. Disease pressure was high, as non-treated controls averaged 74.8% disease. Despite this high pressure, nine treatments gave complete control of snow mold and thirteen more allowed less than 5% disease. Including some other experimental products and experimental Civitas mixes, a full 36 treatments out of a possible 90 allowed less than 5% disease. Two common aspects of the treatments that performed well include applications of 2 or 3 active ingredients in the tank mix and inclusion of multiple fungicide chemistries (contact, DMI, QoI). Products that performed well when mixed with other products include Insignia, Trinity, Instrata, Reserve, Velist, Torque, and 26/36. With 36 treatments performing exceptionally well though, there is a wide range of options for obtaining excellent control of snow mold.

The treatments listed above will provide excellent snow mold protection, but since most cost more than \$10 per square foot they are not practical for most facilities on larger areas such as fairways. PCNB is a popular product not because it completely controls snow mold, it doesn't, rather because it provides a reasonable level of control at an affordable price. Are there any potential options currently available that also provide a reasonable level of control at an affordable price? The answer is yes, as both Trinity and Torque will provide a reasonable level of snow mold control (0-20% disease allowed) at costs that most facilities can afford. Applied at the full label rate over 30 acres of fairways, both products cost approximately \$3,000. If greater levels of control are desired and can be afforded, mixing in products such as Daconil, 26/36, and Insignia will improve disease controls. If any questions arise after perusing the tables included with this article or the ones posted on the website please do not hesitate to contact Paul Koch (plkoch@wisc.edu) or Dr. Jim Kerns (jkerns@wisc.edu).