

Insight

One Turf Professional's Perspective

Dr. Brian Horgan

University of Minnesota

Course and Statistics

University of Minnesota TROE Center in St. Paul. I oversee 21 acres of turf used primarily for research.

Years in the Business

I have been in the turfgrass industry for 15 years. I started work at Montgomery Country Club in Olney, MD. Then worked at Faulkwood Shores Golf Course in Howell, MI. Interned at Old Baldy Club in Saratoga, WY. Shifted focus in the turf industry to research at Michigan State University, North Carolina State University and the University of Illinois.

Why and/or How Did You Enter The Turf Management Industry?

Love of outdoors. Love of answering questions.

Who Was Your Professional Mentor and Why?

Mike Sullivan. Mike was the first Superintendent that I worked for who took time to explain the "why" and also the benefits of turf to our environment

What Has Been the Highest Point in Your Career?

Getting a faculty position at a Big Ten university.

What Has Been Your Lowest Point?

In the midst of building a newly defined turf science program at the University of Minnesota, having one faculty member retire and one resign, leaving me doing the job of three.

Are Your Greatest Challenges Political, Agronomic or Managerial?

Political. The University is a great place to work if you are familiar with the politics involved.

Is It Hard to Find Good Help in Your Area of the State?

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Dr. Brian Horgan
University of Minnesota

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Name Your Foursome, Who Would You Play With and Why?

James Watson (great story teller), Jack Nicklaus (arguably the best golfer ever), Paul Horgan (father and good friend).



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Resistance to Phosphite Fungicide

...But Not Yet in Turf

By PAUL VINCELLI, PhD

Department of Plant Pathology, University of Kentucky

There are a number of turf fungicides the activity of which is based on the phosphite (=phosphonate) ion (PO₃⁻). Chipco Signature fungicide (active ingredient fosetyl-Al) is the most common, and has become a "keystone" product for disease control programs on many golf courses across the country. This is in part because of the general enhancement in quality on stressed turfgrass that has been reported in some studies, including selected tests at the University of Kentucky. The product is also known to provide control of *Pythium* cottony blight in many circumstances, particularly when sequential applications are made. Other phosphite fungicides marketed for turf include Magellan, Resyst, Alude, Prodigy Signature and Vital.

These fungicides are unusual in that they control diseases in two very different ways. They do have some direct toxicity to the fungus, much like all conventional fungicides which somehow poison the target fungus. However, phosphite fungicides also enhance the plant's natural defense mechanisms, which is not true for conventional fungicides. Because these fungicides attack fungi on "multiple fronts," the general belief among plant pathologists has been that they are less subject to fungicide resistance than most other systemic fungicides, and in fact field experience has been consistent with this. Cases of failure of disease control by phosphite fungicides due to fungicide resistance have been rare.

Recent Research

However, fungicide resistance is not an impossibility with this group of fungicides. This point was made clear in a recent paper on lettuce downy mildew (*Plant Disease*, Volume 88, pages 502-508). (Although lettuce downy mildew in California may seem to have no relevance to *Pythium* cottony blight of turf in Kentucky, there are significant biological similarities.)

In the paper, the authors reported about recent failures of fosetyl-Al to con-

trol lettuce downy mildew in commercial fields in the Salinas and Santa Maria Valleys. They conducted a series of experiments that show evidence of resistance to normal field rates of the fungicide. The "resistant" isolates obtained showed varying degrees of resistance, ranging from some that were still partially sensitive to normal field rates of the fungicide, to other isolates that were essentially insensitive at normal field rates. Their data, as well as another research report I have seen, suggest that isolates resistant to phosphite fungicides may be ecologically "fit." This means that, once resistance occurs, the fungal populations possibly will remain resistant even if fosetyl-Al and similar materials are not used for a period of time.

In the study, the authors noted two factors that may have been involved in the selection of resistance to phosphite fungicides:

- 1) Repeated use of fosetyl-Al (or similar fungicides) over the past decade.
- 2) Regular applications of fertilizers which provided phosphorous in the form of phosphite rather than the more common phosphate. This may have speeded selection towards resistance by exposing the pathogen population to frequent, low doses of phosphite.

Significance to Turf


This report, and a few others in the scientific literature, indicate that field resist-

ance to phosphite fungicides is a definite possibility. Such resistance may take a period of years to develop at any particular site. How many years? There is no way to accurately predict this, because there are so many complex and interacting factors that influence this. However, I see this report as a reminder to remain aware of the possibility when using these fungicides.

This report of resistance does complicate disease management on golf courses somewhat. It is a common practice during the summer on many courses to spray putting greens every two weeks with Chipco Signature, tank-mixed with one of a number of other fungicides (usually iprodione or chlorothalonil). Such a program generally provides very good control of a number of important diseases, such as brown patch, dollar spot and *Pythium*. It also sometimes provides improved turf quality unrelated to these diseases when stressful conditions hit.

This research report serves as a yellow flag with respect to these spray programs. It would be wise for golf course superintendents to continue to find ways to rotate among fungicide products, and to not rely exclusively during summer on phosphite-based spray programs. Also, it may be wise to avoid frequent use of both phosphite-based fertilizers and phosphite-based fungicides on the same site.

(Editor's Note: This article was reprinted with permission from the June 2004 issue of TurfNet.)




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* * *

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* * *

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annually than plane crashes.

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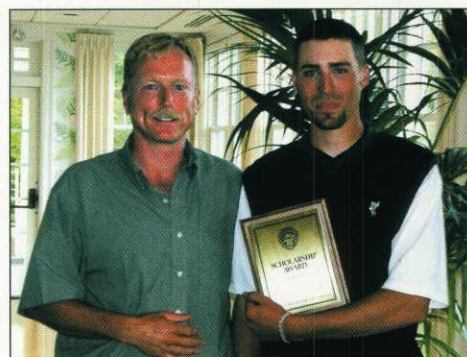
Samuel J. Bauer Receives 2004 MGCSA Turf Scholarship

Samuel Bauer, student at the University of Minnesota, has been selected as this year's Turf Scholarship winner.

Samuel's father, an avid golfer, introduced and encouraged him to play golf when he was 10 years old and has enjoyed playing the game ever since. His interest in turfgrass management began when he was 15 years old as the employee on the maintenance staff of a local golf course.

Samuel attended Durand High School in Durand, Wisconsin where he was on the honor role for four years and played on the golf team. After graduation his love of the outdoors and the golf course made him decide to turn turf management into a career.

Samuel is pursuing a four-year degree in Turf Management and is a part of the University of Minnesota Turf Club. He sees his college experience as one that will help him explore the science of turfgrass, will benefit in his communication skills and prepare him to work effectively in the



Samuel J. Bauer, right, with MGCSA Board Member Jack MacKenzie, CGCS

turf industry.

Samuel has worked at Mill Run / Wild Ridge Golf Club in Eau Claire, Wisconsin and also at the Country Club of the Rockies in Edwards, Colorado.

Congratulations Sam from the MGCSA and the best of luck in all your future pursuits. -- Michael Nelson, Dacotah Ridge Golf Club, Scholarship Chairman

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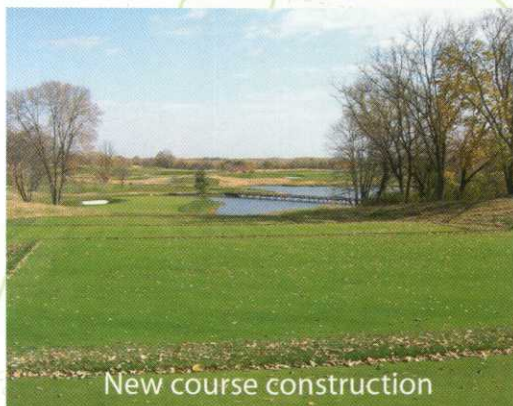
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MGCSA's Two-Sport Athletes

Golfing on Grass and Curling on Ice

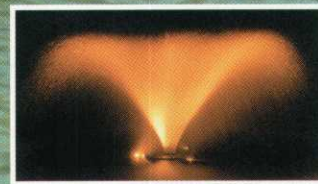


**THERE'S
MORE TO LIFE
THAN GOLF ...
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CURLING!**

The MGCSA Curling team takes a break from the rink to participate in the Scholarship Scramble at White Bear Yacht Club on June 7th. From the left are: James Bade, Somerset Country Club; James Gardner, CGCS, The Wilds and Indian Hills Golf Club; Dale Parske, Simplot Partners, and Tom Proshok, Brackett's Crossing. This foursome also is passionate about the sport of Curling and have participated against the group of Minnesotans who represented the United States at the Olympics.

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MGCSA Scholarship Scramble Results

White Bear Yacht Club

June 7, 2004

- 60 Scott Weltzin, CGCS, Rick Traver, CGCS, Dennis Perreault, Dennis Salwei (Pheasant Run GC, Monticello CC, United Horticulture Supply)
- 60 Jay Yonak, Brian McDonald, Mike Persons, Matt Persons (The Links at Northfork)
- 61 John Steiner, CGCS, Mike Murray, Andrew Layton, Brad Marty (White Bear Yacht Club)
- 61 Bruce Leland, Donnacha O'Connor, Larry Thornton, Tod Blankenship (Alexandria GC, Superior Turf, Wisconsin River GC)
- 61 Mark Boonstra, Derrick Schroeder, Lance Grove, Sam Wuollet (Hollydale GC)
- 61 Jason Ruhoff, Jeff Meyer, Tom Ramler, Brad Deyak (Koronis Hills, Boulder, Wapicada)
- 61 Nick Peyer, Justin Funk, Adam Larson, Todd Samarzia (Stillwater CC)
- 61 Mike Kasner, Scot Milstroh, Tom Kasner, Mickey Saatzer (Wapicada, Albany)
- 62 Dan Pakko, Jeff Meredith, Jason Andert, Kevin Anderson (White Bear Yacht Club)
- 62 Dan Brown, Cary Femrite, Scott Austin, Tom Meier (Par Aide Products, Midland Hills, Le Sueur)
- 63 Paul Diegnau, CGCS, Brett Wenzel, Scott Knutsons, Rob Adams (Keller GC)
- 63 Jeff Whitehurst, Pangie Nascene-Schauer, John Means, Chris Bach (Mulligan Masters)
- 64 James Gardner, CGCS, James Bade, Tom Proshek, Dale Parske (Curling Club)
- 65 Joe Churchill, Chris Hoff, John Meyer, Scott Turtinen (Simplot Partners)
- 66 Michael Brower, Nate Studer, Troy Lang, Brady Scott (Minnesota Valley CC)
- 66 Larry Gorman, Bill Nikovich, Chad Belland, Ron Mullen (GreenImage)
- 66 Tim O'Driscoll, Mitch Hanson, Scott Bearson, Bob Berning (Rochester Golf & CC)
- 67 Todd Folie, Ted Schirck, Dave Newinski, Jeff Hardy (Hydrologic)
- 67 Matt Rostal, Brian Boll, Rich Carr, Steve Makowske (Interlachen CC)
- 67 Mike Anderson, Jon Almquist, Bob Frank, Randy Ryski (MTI Distributing Inc.)
- 67 Dave Kazmierczak, Brad Melsa, Jamie Bezanson, Dick Reig (Prestwick GC)
- 67 Chad Snuggerud, Lance Glauvitz, Dennis Neitz, Joe Smith (River Oaks GC)
- 68 Eric Peterson, Pat Anderson, Nate Uselding, Jeff Bohler (Dellwood Hills GC)
- 68 Scott Meyer, Jake Schmitz, John Jarosz, Andrew Aitken (The Minikahda Club)
- 68 Dan O'Brien, Mark Christianson, Mark Goettig, Andy Hochmuth (Tiziani Golf Car)
- 69 Walt Braunig, David Kirscht, Terry Ward, Tim Berquam (Thompson Oaks, DK Associates, Brillion Iron, Bergerson-Caswell)
- 72 James O'Neill, Doug Daniel, Jeff McDowel, Brad Smith (Cycle Works, Bonestroo, Precision Turf)
- 72 Paul Eckholm CGCS, Dean Brown, John Bottger, Mark Marvin (Heritage Links GC)
- 73 Jack MacKenzie, CGCS, Brad Zimmerman, Dr. Brian Horgan, Sam Bauer (North Oaks GC, Boulder Pointe, University of Minnesota)
- 75 Jim Isaacson, Ben Just, Jeff Fjosne, John Pollnow (Midland Hills CC)
- 75 Dale Caldwell CGCS, Bill Larson, Troy Johnson, Mike Leitner (Minneapolis GC, Town & Country Club, Hudson CC, Leitner Co.)

Closest-to-the Pin Winners

- No. 3 Rob Adams (The Ponds at Battle Creek)
- No. 7 Mark Boonstra (Hollydale GC)
- No. 8 Joe Churchill (Simplot Partners)
- No.11 Brad Deyak (Wapicada GC)

Long Drive Winners

- No. 2 Ted Schirck (Hydrologic)
- No. 9 Jeff Meyer (Koronis Hills GC)
- No.12 Mitch Hanson (Rochester Golf & CC)

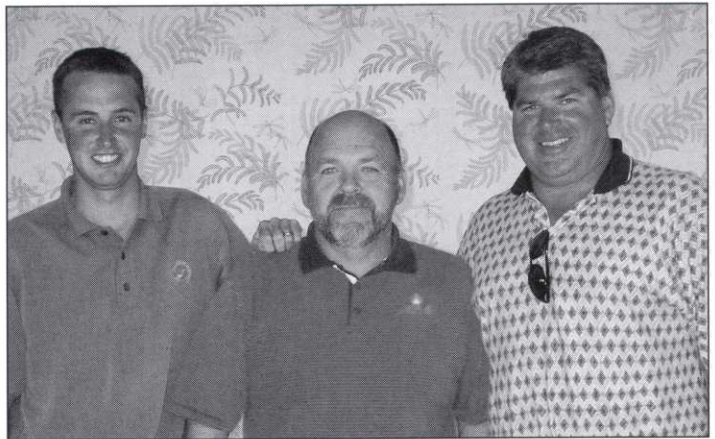
Turf Vehicle from Tiziani Golf Cars Winner*

- No. 6 Jack MacKenzie CGCS (North Oaks GC)
- * Tiziana Golf Cars donated the use of a turf vehicle for one year for a closest-to-the-pin shot at the Scholarship Scramble. Jack MacKenzie CGCS, donated the vehicle to the TROE Center.



SETTLING FOR SECOND PLACE

The team from the Links of Northfork shot 60 and tied for first but finished second because of a scorecard playoff. Pictured from the left are Brian McDonald, Jay Yonak, Mike Persons and Matt Persons.



SCHOLARSHIP SCRAMBLE WINNERS

Scramble winners from left to right are Dennis Perreault, Pheasant Run GC; Dennis Salwei, United Horticulture Supply, and Scott Weltzin, CGCS, Pheasant Run GC. The trio won this year's Scholarship Scramble with Rick Traver, CGCS, Monticello CC who is not pictured with his winning teammates.

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How Well Have You Developed Your Network

By BRUCE R. WILLIAMS, CGCS

Golf Course Superintendents Association of Southern California

I received a call from a former employee a few weeks ago. I had not heard from him in over 20 years. He had relocated to Ohio and had been a golf course superintendent for 15 years at a nice private country club. Unfortunately, he was told that he was fired and did not know where to turn. That is why he called me with hopes that I could help him find a job.

I asked this fellow a few questions and it went something like this. "Are you a member of your local chapter?" He said "no." "Are you a member of GCSAA and are you familiar with the Employment Referral Service?" He said "no". "Do you utilize the USGA and their agronomists?" He said "no". "How about your local university....do you have any contacts there." He said "no".

This poor fellow was a hard-working guy that kept to himself and never developed a network of people that could help him. While I was happy to hear from him after all those years, I really was not in a

position to help him. He had painted himself into a corner. While this is an extreme case, I know that there are a number of our peers that aren't far away from that same situation.

I challenge each person that reads this to sit down and make a list of people that can help you find a job. If you run out of names in a minute or two, then you probably need to work harder at networking. There is no better way to network than to get involved and attend monthly chapter meetings.

As some of you may know, I moved to California in 1997. The North Course was in a grow-in phase and construction was ready to begin on the South Course. That first year was a very busy time. With a change in climate, a multiple course facility, and many new challenges it was important for me to gain as much local knowledge as possible.

There was no better way than to join the local chapter and take advantage of

the opportunities that the chapter had to offer. Joining is good but participating is better. I tried to attend most meetings. I met many superintendents and a lot of commercial members. I always tried to play golf with three new people each month. It provided me with a quicker learning curve for so many people in the industry.

I would like to encourage everyone to take advantage of what your chapter has to offer. It is a wonderful way to network. Meeting people, building relationships, solving mutual problems, etc. will help you throughout your career. You never know when you may need assistance at your job or in a finding a new one. Learn from the example that I have cited and develop your network today and throughout your career. Don't wait until it is too late!

(Editor's Note: This article was reprinted with permission from the GCSA of Southern California. See related article on Page 34.)

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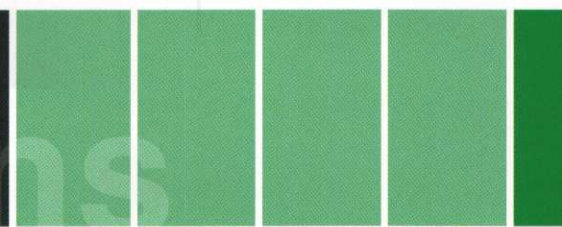
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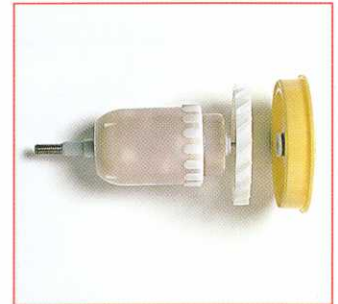


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