

The Lions give to their community, for they know in their hearts that the community will reward their efforts by being a better place to live, and although they never want to use the service, a dedicated fleet of emergency vehicles is pretty darn nice to have around. The greater good of the community is perpetuated through individual generosity and typically no direct return on investment.

The MGCSA holds two fundraisers each year, The Scramble, which is dedicated to turf research and scholarships, and The Wee One, committed to helping “one of our own” in times of medical crisis. These events, while typically held at an awesome high-end destination complete with both chance and purse prizes, aren’t just social avenues to drive down. The end game is all about the serious business of generating financial support for good causes, some pleasant and some nobody wishes to have to pursue, related to our “turfgrass” community.

Since 1987 over 120 individuals have received scholarships for continuing education, be it directly related to turf or just general courses; individuals who grew to be leaders in the golf course industry or are productive contributors to the population. Without help from the MGCSA and its membership, the expenses of a college education would have been much greater. Isn’t it great that working together and supporting a fundraiser our industry contributed to the education of so many?

For as long as I can remember we have held a research event, once called The Stodola Scramble and now just The Scramble, to support the agronomic team at the University of Minnesota and other research destinations. Isn’t it great that working together and supporting a fundraiser our industry has been able to enhance a turfgrass research program that is gaining worldwide acclaim?

Three years ago North Oaks Golf Club hosted the MGCSA Wee One Event. Sadly, the funds raised since then have been requested and distributed. Yet isn’t it a great thing that working together and supporting a fundraiser event our industry helped our peers in a grave time of need?

In our organization, we don’t have prospects to flip griddlecakes and wipe down tables. However there are opportunities to participate in the promotion and financial enhancement of *our* philanthropic goals. Please play and support one or both fundraising events. It wouldn’t be the same without you.

A photograph of a golfer in a red and white striped polo shirt and dark pants, captured in the middle of a golf swing on a green course. In the background, there is a large, leafy tree and a sand trap. The sky is overcast.

# *Jeff Pint: A Home-Grown*

*by Dave Kazmierczak, CGCS*

When you first meet Jeff Pint, Superintendent at New Prague Golf Club, you might not believe that you had just met an amateur golf version of Superman. But do not let the Clark Kent-style easy manor or humble way fool you, for Pint's big red "S" and cape come out right about the time he steps to the first tee.

Not that he would admit it, but

one mighty swing at the golf ball and any mere mortal would agree: Superman just launched one.

For Pint, the game of golf is both his livelihood and his passion. When he is not caring for New Prague Golf Club in New Prague, Minnesota, he can usually be found playing the game on the course he cares for or other area courses. Sometimes it is just for fun, but



# *rown Superman*

more often than not it is competitive in nature. Pint has played in most of the Minnesota Golf Association events he is eligible to compete in at age 38, and has fared quite well in many of them.

But perhaps his best and most endearing achievement, is the fact that he has won the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendent's

Association tournament six times over the last 15 years or so, a feat equaled by nobody. Quite an accomplishment from a small town kid who now works, lives and plays in the same home town he grew up in.

Pint got his start in golf in the same manner most players of the game do, through his family. He would play with both his father and

his mother at New Prague Golf club but it was his mother who would drag him along with her women's club events not only at New Prague but surrounding courses.

"Thank God she did," explained Pint, as he revealed how he came to love the game at an early age. While the love of the game was nurtured, the skill acquired to be good came later. Pint said he really did not start playing the game at a high level until his senior year in high school.

"Until then I was just so-so," he said. "But I really enjoyed it."

From there it was on to St. Thomas University where he played on the golf team. He graduated with a Business Management degree but wound up back at New Prague Golf

Club working on the maintenance crew. From there he became an assistant superintendent and eventually was asked to be the Head Superintendent when the previous one left. When asked of his management style, Pint said he was definitely old school.

"A dinosaur," as Pint would say.

But this dinosaur is far from extinct. It roams the range at New Prague with a passion for the game, and a passion for turf maintenance. Pint related that there truly is no job he would rather have.

"To work maintenance and make a golf course good, it just doesn't get any better than that," Pint said.

The same passion he carries for the care of his course has always been poured into the refinement of his game.



However the key to Pint's game, other than some obvious natural ability, is his length, particularly off the tee. It is routine for Pint to hit a driver 325 yards and sometimes much farther. This is the space golf pros occupy, not golf course superintendents, but Pint can hit it with the best of them. When asked what generated this power he said he had no clue, just God-given ability. He also said he considers himself very blessed for that ability. He also works hard and practices all aspects of the game. The game takes time, and Pint realizes that being a single man gives him the opportunities other superintendents with families just do not have to refine their golf game.

While humble in his assessment of himself and his game, there does burn a competitive fire. Along with the six MGCSA titles, Pint and his partner Nate Proshek captured the 2003 MGA four-ball title with a state-record score of 20 under. He is the four-time New Prague Golf club Champion, and competed in the GCSAA National Championship the last two years finishing 20<sup>th</sup> in Palm Springs last year and 6<sup>th</sup> in San Diego this year, pretty good for a snow-bound Minnesota guy.

Any golfer will tell you that it takes a lot more than length to win a golf tournament, however the intimidation factor is there when watching Pint play. And while he



*Above: Jeff Pint six time MGCSA Champion*

*Opposite: Jeff makes a 'super' save from the rough at the GCSAA Tournament at Torrey Pines*

doesn't like to admit it, there is a certain satisfaction crushing the ball.

"The second hole at Torrey Pines (site of the 2013 GCSAA Championship) is a short par four, and I hit a good shot close to the green and it is fun walking up the green and seeing the look on the faces of the group ahead saying who the heck is this guy?," Pint said.

But for Pint it really is not about where he places, or how many

competitive events he can play. He revealed that the most important thing he gets out of playing in golf events is the camaraderie, and the opportunity to play with new people who love the game, especially superintendent events.

“Even more than that (winning) means to me, is the guys I meet playing in the events. These guys I meet, I now hang out with and become friends,” Pint said. “What a great opportunity we all have to be able to do that, and we take it for granted.”

Pint has played in every MGCSA championship since 1998. He has won six times in that span and that is quite a feeling of accomplishment. When asked about it though, he takes it in stride. While he wants people to look at the name on the trophy somewhere down the line and say to themselves that guy must have been pretty good, he likes to think of the guys that have bested him.

“This sounds strange, and I don’t mean it (egotistically) but when someone else wins, that look on his face that he beat Jeff Pint is pretty (satisfying),” he said.

The fact that playing the game of golf at a high level takes very good concentration has paid off for Pint in other aspects of his life. Besides the patience it takes being a superintendent, Pint applies his mental capacities in other activities such as bowling and hunting. Pint carries a 220 plus average with the large ball and likens the skill it takes to be a good golfer to that of being a good

bowler.

“It’s all about repetition,” Pint said. “You have to be focused on repeating the exact same shot. You have to completely focus for a few seconds, and then there is a lull, and you have to be able to get that focus back again.”

When asked how long he might be able to stay on top of the local superintendent golfing world Pint just smiled and was non-committal. He said he hopes to keep playing at a high level if his body will let him. At age 38 it does not seem like Pint is anywhere near the back nine of life, but he does admit time has made him change his thinking. If anything, it has made him wiser. In his early years Pint would essentially be bombs away, which would get him into trouble sometimes. Pint said now he does take pause and thinks shots through a lot more often.

“You can’t win it (a tournament) on the first hole but you can lose it, as time goes by you become more strategic,” he said.

With spring right around the corner Pint is hoping for another solid season both with the care of New Prague Golf club and his overall golf game. He is scheduled to play in a handful of events, including the defense of his MGCSA title at Prestwick Golf Club in August. Along the way he is hoping to connect with old friends and make some new ones. His competitors had better bring their A game as well.

Or a bag if Kryptonite.

Presents **"The SCRAMBLE"**  
**AT MEDINA Golf and Country Club**



**MONDAY, June 3, 2013**

**Medina, Minnesota**

**HOST SUPERINTENDENT: Erin McManus**

This is a combined scholarship/research fundraising event. Proper golf attire required. \$120 entry fee (per person) includes lunch, research donation, range balls, cart fee, and heavy appetizers. The format is a scramble and open to all members with emphasis placed upon inviting your club officials to join in the fun. Prizes from the Pro Shop will be based upon participation. A 50/50 skins game for \$50 per team. 50 percent of which goes to the Research and Scholarship funds. Low net and low gross as well as long drive, closest to the pin and longest putt. Join the fun, it won't be the same without you!!!

**FORMAT: FOUR-PERSON SCRAMBLE**

11:30 - 12:45 p.m. Registration – Driving Range available, lunch  
 1:00 p.m. GOLF - Shotgun  
 5:30-7:00 p.m. Reception and heavy appetizers  
 (Dinner tickets available for \$60 ea. -- includes donation.)

**REGISTRATION FORM**

**PLEASE FILL OUT COMPLETELY. THE DINNER COUNTS ARE IMPORTANT.**

NAME	CLASS	GOLF COURSE / COMPANY	GOLF - \$120 ea.	DINNER ONLY - \$60
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

**REGISTER:** \_\_\_ **GOLFERS @ \$120 ea** (Golf, dinner, donation, range balls, cart) \_\_\_ **NON-GOLFERS @ \$60 ea.** (Dinner, donation)

**TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT METHOD:** \_\_\_ **Check** \_\_\_ **Credit Card:** \_\_\_ **VISA** \_\_\_ **MASTERCARD** \_\_\_ **DISCOVER**

Name as it appears on credit card: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to MGCSA and mail to: MGCSA, 10050 204<sup>th</sup> Street North, Forest Lake, MN 55025**  
**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: May 27, 2013**

# Avoid the Rebound: Use of Growing Degree Days to Re-apply Growth Regulators

Bill Kreuser  
Cornell University

The most poorly understood products applied to turfgrass are plant growth regulators (PGRs) because 1) it is difficult to tell when they are working and 2) their labels can be vague. This is especially true when PGRs are applied to golf course putting greens. Despite best efforts, it is nearly impossible to tell how well a PGR is suppressing putting green clipping yield. As a result, many golf course superintendents use vastly different application rates and frequencies for each PGR in their arsenal. This ambiguity leads to one of the most common questions superintendents tend to ask, “What rate should I use on my greens?”

Before we tackle that question let’s get back to the basics. The most commonly applied PGRs used on putting greens are Primo Maxx (trinexapac-ethyl), Trimmit (paclobutrazol), and Cutless (flurprimidal). These products alter growth rate in two distinct phases. Following PGR application clipping yield becomes suppressed relative to non-treated turfgrass; the suppression phase. After a period of time the suppression phase ends and clipping yield increases to a level greater than non-treated turfgrass; the rebound phase. Researchers have found that the duration of the suppression phase is dependent upon air temperature (Lickfeldt et al. 2001; Beasley et al. 2007). As air temperatures increase into the summer the length of the suppression phase decreases. This occurs because turfgrass plants breakdown PGRs, such as Primo Maxx, faster as air temperatures increase (Beasley and Branham, 2005). This means that calendar based PGR re-application intervals are not efficient at maintaining yield suppression because the ideal re-application interval changes during the





course of a growing season.

During my Masters degree with Dr. Soldat at the University of Wisconsin-Madison we studied how PGR re-application frequency and rate affected yield suppression on creeping bentgrass golf putting greens; primarily with Primo Maxx. Instead of evaluating inefficient calendar-based intervals (i.e. weekly or biweekly applications), we used a growing degree day (GDD) model to estimate the duration of the yield suppression phase and aid in scheduling Primo Maxx applications. The goal was to sustain season-long yield suppression and avoid the rebound. Growing degree day models are used extensively in traditional agriculture to estimate crop growth and development in relation to air temperature and recently have been used to estimate weed growth and development in turfgrass, i.e. *Poa annua* seed head formation (GDDTracker.net). To calculate GDD the high and low air temperature are averaged together, subtracted from a base temperature where metabolism is minimal, and added to values from the previous days.

In a 2008 study, we measured daily relative clipping yield from a creeping bentgrass putting green treated with Primo Maxx every 100, 200, 400, and 800 GDD as well as every four weeks. ***The GDD was calculated in degrees Celsius with a base temperature of 0°C and began after the previous Primo Maxx application. After the GDD threshold had been surpassed (i.e. 200 GDD after Primo Maxx application), Primo was re-applied and the model was reset to zero.*** We realize that most Americans avoid using the Celsius scale, however, it is convenient in this case because there is no need to subtract a base temperature (the base is 0°C). Additionally, spreadsheet programs such as MS Excel can be used to track the progression of GDD after PGR application and convert temperatures to Celsius.  $\text{Temperature } ^\circ\text{C} = ((\text{Temp } ^\circ\text{F} - 32)) / 1.8$

We found that the 400 GDD, 800 GDD, and four week re-application

frequency did not maintain season-long yield suppression (Fig. 1). We plotted relative clipping yields at different GDDs after Primo Maxx application to create a Primo Maxx response model (Fig. 2). This model showed that the suppression phase occurs during the first 300 GDD; after 300 GDD the turfgrass entered the rebound phase of increased yield relative to non-treated turf. The maximum amounts of both yield suppression and rebound was 18% of the non-treated turf.

We found that the 100 and 200 GDD re-application frequencies maintained season-long yield suppression (Fig. 1). The 100 GDD re-application interval resulted in a greater level of yield suppression than the other treatments. The 200 GDD re-application interval is the furthest Primo Maxx re-application interval to maintain yield suppression because the yield begins to transition into the rebound phase after 200 GDD. For some perspective, 200 GDD occurs in 14 days during an average May in Madison, WI (average day temp. 57°F) and as frequently as every 9 days during an average July (72°F). During a heat wave with high temperatures of 100°F and lows around 75°F (average day temp. 89°F) 200 GDD occurs in 7 days or less (Fig. 3). This illustrates how Primo Maxx re-application interval needs to be adjusted depending upon air temperatures to avoid the rebound phase. As temperatures warm into the summer, Primo needs to be re-applied more frequently than it does in spring and fall to avoid the rebound.

In 2009 and 2010 we wanted to verify that the 200 GDD model worked on a different creeping bentgrass putting green and see how it was affected by Primo Maxx application rate. There were two application rates (0.125 and 0.25 fl oz/M) applied either every 200 GDD or every four weeks. In both years the 200 GDD re-application interval maintained season-long yield suppression regardless of the time of year. Surprisingly, we found that the 0.25 fl oz/M application rate did not increase either the level or duration of yield suppression. ***Application rate did not matter.*** The only effective way to increase the amount