

A couple more years passed and then I read an article about etiolation of bentgrass and some theories as to why this phenomenon was occurring. For some it has become quite problematic. This article stated that they thought it was clearly due to a bacterial issue. I do not recall the exact reasoning or research behind it, and the etiolation could possibly be different from what I experienced. Who knows? I hadn't seen the problem since at least three years ago and it had long slipped from the top of my concerns list.

Until last Sunday.

There in front of me on hole number 13 at Prestwick was science, research, chance, an accident and an enigma all rolled into one.

On July 2nd, roughly two weeks before my casual observance, one of my assistants was given the task of spraying fairways with an application of 4oz/M Interface and 5 oz./

acre of Primo. It was a task he completed successfully and without incident except for one minor issue. He somehow dislodged a nozzle from its rightful place, creating a wonderful green stripe down the length of the fairway until he noticed his indiscretion and corrected it, then informed me.

I figured it would fade away over time and did not give it much thought until Sunday the 14th when I observed etiolation in the volunteer bent and in the start of our bentgrass approach where he had started

the application, and only in the over-sprayed area.

Wow! I thought to myself. This pretty much confirmed my suspicion a few years back that it was a growth regulator issue, or a combination of the regulator and the fungicide on my variety of bentgrass (Penncross). My inner scientist and researcher were all abuzz thinking of the timing and conditions of the course both during the past experiences and the most recent one. My conclusion was that if you spray too much Primo on Penncross, it's going to cause it to do goofy things. Not



Photo credit Dave Kazmierczak, CGCS

exactly an earth shattering revelation, but it was at least enough to keep me amused for the rest of the morning, and gave me something of relevance for this column, which lately has seemed to border on completely irrelevant.

So now I am sharing this most accidental of findings with

our little corner of the turf world. Take it for what it is worth, but realize that everything that occurs on your course both good and bad has a story and maybe has the potential to impact others over time. Share thoughts, ideas and experiences with your peers and who knows? That inner scientist or researcher in you, like the Viagra guys, might lead to much bigger and better things!