

**USGA**

**What's Up Doc? Part II The Rest of the Story**

By: Mike Huck - USGA Green Section, Western Region

Since Pat Gross has been preoccupied with the arrival of his second child, Brian Patrick, a bouncing 8 lb. 6 oz. little guy, I will be writing "back to back" in regard to our monthly articles. Continuing on with notes from the spring of 1997 conferences.

**Weed Control**

Dr. Clark Throssell at Purdue University has been studying fall preemergence applications. It was reported that *Barricade* applied at the 65 lb. ai / acre in mid-November gave up to 80% control of crabgrass and goosegrass the following spring. Control increased to 90% when a spring follow-up application of 0.25 lb. ai / acre was made

Dr. Nick Christians of Iowa State University has been investigating the control of crabgrass with corn gluten meal. This is an update on a project that began several years ago. The material actually acts as a growth regulator on the root system as opposed to a herbicide. Combined with other environmental stresses, it causes a rapid decline of grassy seedlings. Large scale application may not yet be practical as 20 to 40 lbs per 1000 ft/sq ft are required for control. It was also reported to provide "progressive control" where control increases each season with repeated use. Besides crabgrass, *Poa annua* and dandelions also appear to be susceptible to this material.

For those of you who would rather fight Kikuyugrass than give in, there may be great news on the horizon. It is rumored that BASF is again pursuing registration of *Quinclorac* for turf! For those of you who

don't contend with Kikuyu (consider yourselves lucky!) this product also controls clover and crabgrass postemergence. Keep your fingers crossed that we will be able to get it in California.

**New Grasses**

Dr. William Meyer of Rutgers Univeristy reported that a great deal of effort will be placed upon identifying transition ryegrasses with low heat tolerance and high mowing quality. This is some great news for you folks in the desert areas.

**Biological Control**

Dr. Peter Dernoeden reported poor results with his irrigation injected biological control evaluation at the University of Maryland during the summer of 1996. His feeling was that many of the problems may have been related to poor application efficiency of the irrigation system. He did note a 3 to 5 day extension of fungicide control and feels that there is justification for ongoing research in this area which will continue during the summer of 1997.

**Soil Amendments**

Dr. David Miner of Iowa State University reports that porous ceramics and calcined clays reduced the incidence of localized dry spots on high-sand-content greens. Increased nutrient retention was also noted and, in particular, some potassium was retained that would otherwise move through the soil. He found that the calcined clay is prone to breaking down during freeze and thaw cycles and the porous ceramic products were very stable under the same condition. One other interesting observation was the

plots containing these materials (versus unamended plots) held down cover longer. This phenomenon is related to these products holding more water, freezing, and staying cold longer.

**Hazardous Trees**

Dr. Martin McKenzie, a forest pathologist with the USDA Forest Service, offers the following advice: Inspect nursery stock closely before purchasing. Look for a strong union (U-shaped branching) and trim out V-shaped branching immediately. Feeder roots extend 1.5 to 2.5 times the height of the tree. If root pruning is to be performed use the drip line of the tree as a perimeter. Root pruning inside the drip line will eventually lead to decline. When root pruning, there is no need to go deeper than 18 inches as 90% of the roots are contained within this area. Trees cannot heal damaged sites, they can only seal it off with additional growth. Painting tree wound will not help a tree. A serious wound is an indication that the tree should be taken down. Most importantly, trees must be looked upon as "renewable resources," not monuments. If a tree is damaged or in a state of decline, trimming a tree will not change the genetic makeup of the specimen. Take it down and plant a new tree! (I figure that everyone can always use some "ammo" to help them get a few trees cut down!)

Well that pretty much covers the highlights (that pertain to the Western States) of various turf conferences that our staff has attended across the country this season. I hope you found this information both useful and interesting. Feel free to give our office a call if Pat or I can help supply you with any additional information. We wish everyone has a great summer without turf loss.



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