

Too much N bad for shaded turf

COLUMBUS, OHIO—Researchers at The Ohio State University are confirming what savvy turf managers discovered on their own: applying too much nitrogen to turfgrass growing in shade can weaken or kill the turfgrass instead of making it more vigorous.



Dave Shetlar at OSU field day: Mach 2 from Rohmid and Conserve SC from DowElanco are two new products to watch.

Dr. T. Karl Danneberger and Gregory E. Bell spoke about their turfgrass shade studies—involving plots of Kentucky bluegrass/perennial ryegrass and also Penncross bentgrass—at the Ohio Turfgrass Field Day in August. Danneberger walked turf managers through heavily shaded test plots seeded in a mixture of Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass. Some of the plots had received no additional nitrogen while others had been fertilized at 1 pound and others at 2 pounds of N/1000 sq. ft. per month. At the highest N rate the turf was dead; the plots that received no additional nitrogen looked best.

Danneberger advised the turf managers to fertilize shaded Kentucky bluegrass/perennial ryegrass turf like they would fine fescue—no more than two pounds of nitrogen per year, applied late in fall and/or early spring. “If you’re going to up something in your nutrient program, up potassium,” said Danneberger.

Gregory Bell, a doctorate candidate at Ohio State, reviewed what he had found regarding creeping bentgrass growing in the shade. Specifically, he determined that Penncross bentgrass test plots receiving morning sun were slightly greener and more vigorous than those that received equal amounts of afternoon sun.

“The duration of the

shade is the most important factor, although morning shade appears to be more detrimental on the turfgrass than afternoon shade,” said Bell.

Also, Bell said that while the test plots were allowed to grow in full sun (they weren’t covered until several weeks before the Field Day), those that hadn’t been fertilized declined fast. But, when the bentgrass was covered with a shade-producing canopy in mid summer it was the bentgrass that did not receive any additional nitrogen that did best.

He said that while a turfgrass manager might be tempted to increase the nitrogen to boost the vigor of turfgrass growing in shade, “that may not be the thing to do.”

DowElanco to change name

INDIANAPOLIS—Dow AgroSciences will be the new name for DowElanco. The name change will be effective January 1, 1998. The name change follows a June announcement by The Dow Chemical Company that it would acquire Eli Lilly and Company’s 40 percent interest in the joint venture. The two companies had joined their plant science businesses to form DowElanco in 1989.

“This is an industry that is rapidly reinventing itself,” said John Hagaman, DowElanco president and CEO. “Our new name, Dow AgroSciences reflects a broad sense of our mission that has been inherent in our strategic planning for a number of years.”

DowElanco has set a goal of commercializing one significant new product in a major global market each year. One example in the green industry is Conserve SC turf and ornamental insect control.



Bell: Be careful of amount of nitrogen you apply to Penncross greens in the shade.

MALCP wins classification fight

BOSTON, MA—The Massachusetts Association of Lawn Care Professionals (MALCP) earned a new Worker's Compensation classification—"Fertilizer or Pesticide Application".

The classification culminates three years of discussions between MALCP and the Worker's Compensation Board over classification of the lawn care professional in the landscaper's classification, paying higher rates than most of the country. In addition employers may split their payroll if their employees are engaged in both lawn care and landscaping activities.

In September the MALCP Board was presented with a proposal from a national insurance carrier to establish a MALCP insurance group. This group plan will include umbrella coverage on various policies.

Simplot buys Jacklin Seed

The J.R. Simplot Company has reached an agreement to purchase Jacklin Seed Co. of Post Falls, Id.

Jacklin distributes around the world. It was founded in 1936 by Arden Jacklin. The company also had Medalist America, through which it marketed proprietary turfseed blends.

Simplot's president, Steve Beebe, says the buy is a "strategic fit" for Simplot. Doyle Jacklin will be president of Simplot-Jacklin. No changes are anticipated for present management and employees.

Simplot has grown turfgrass seed for Jacklin for the past two years on its farms in Idaho and Washington, and has a joint marketing agreement in China.

Jacklin reports annual revenues of \$40 million. Simplot is also privately held with annual sales of \$2.8 billion and more than 12,000 employees around the world. Its primary businesses are food processing, agriculture and ag fertilizer production.

Northwestern goes 'natural'

EVANSTON, IL—The ESPN Thursday night game on Oct. 16 was a coming out party for the new field at Northwestern University's Dyche Stadium. The national television audience focused on the

Wildcats, but some of us took special notice of the custom-designed field.

S.W. Franks, Cleveland, installed the field in July after lowering it 5½ feet to improve the sight lines of lower seats.

Franks put in the drainage, irrigation and prepared the field's 10 inches of 90/10 sand/peat rootzone mix. Fibers known as "turf grids" were uniformly mixed

Yard work a stress reliever

A survey by Pennington Seed, Inc. finds 42 percent of people with gardens say they use yardwork to relieve stress. While 53 percent

said they still consider yard work to be a "chore," 32 percent said yard work provides the escape they say they need from fast-paced life. Five hundred were surveyed.

Dingo/Toro now partners

The Toro Co. will build Dingo Digging Systems landscape products under the Toro brand name in

North and South America. This sets up the Toro SiteWork Systems line. The Dingo name will remain on the flagship product under the Toro SiteWork Systems label.

New challenge to blower ban

A complaint was filed Oct. 2 against the City of Los Angeles by companies and associations to challenge the city ban on gas-powered leaf blowers within 500 feet of city homes.

One in five get tree care

Nearly 20 percent (20 million) of all U.S. households bought tree care services in 1996, says the Gallup Organization. In the past five years, U.S. households have spent an average of \$1.48 billion/year for tree care, says the International Society of Arboriculture.

throughout the rootzone mix. Their purpose is to resist wear and to make the playing surface more stable. The field was grassed by big-roll (48") Kentucky bluegrass sod from a farm about two hours away.

The Wildcats had played on synthetic turfgrass since 1972 and continue the movement back to "real" turfgrass. The trend is particularly evident in the Big 10 where, for several years, Purdue University held out—almost alone—against synthetic turf. (Penn State was not a Big 10 member at the time.) Indiana, Wisconsin and Illinois are reportedly considering a return to turfgrass as well.

Randy Stoneberg gives Chicago-area STMA members tour of Northwestern's football field.

