

solutions center

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Get gone geese



Veteran grounds manager hopes his latest strategy no wild goose chase

BY RON HALL / EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Mama goose flew in low with murder in her eyes. Her flapping, squawking attack sent co-worker Larry Aylward sprawling to the ground, his hands protecting his head.

Larry is Editor of *Golfdom* magazine, sister publication of *Landscape Management*. Our magazines are produced at the Advanstar Communications site in a suburban community 12 miles southwest of Cleveland, OH.

Grounds Manager Tom Sprague is taking steps to prevent this from happening again. He applied a product to the site's turfgrass to discourage geese from feeding. They're stubborn creatures, however, and the threat, although lessened, remains. One mother goose is nesting near a sidewalk, and we're giving her lots of room.

Although we see far fewer geese at our site this spring, we remain on high alert.

Sprague attributes fewer geese on our property to application of the product FlightControl Plus. He's hopeful it continues to discourage the geese.

The problem: messy honkers

Our editorial offices are situated on seven acres, about half being asphalt parking lot and the other half turfgrass and a pair of quarter-acre ponds.

Sprague has tried many strategies to discourage the geese from hanging around our property. The geese always see through these ruses and return to foul our sidewalks.

By mid-summer each year, as many as 20 to 30 geese are swaggering around our headquarters like they own it.

The solution: "anti-feedant" product

Sprague applied the FlightControl Plus full strength in mid March (one gallon per acre). He obtained the product from the nearby LESCO store and put it down with a 50-gallon sprayer pulled behind a Steiner tractor. He expects the product to remain on the turfgrass at least until he mows.

The product is described as an "anti-feedant." After geese ingest turfgrass treated with the product, they go elsewhere to feed. It reportedly causes an unpleasant but harmless reaction in the guts of geese. Geese can see the compound in the ultraviolet light spectrum and will fly over and avoid treated sites.

As of the third week of April, there have been just the occasional goose sighting on our property. Sprague feels that it will take several treatments this season to convince the geese to stay away.

For updates on our experiences, e-mail us at tsprague@advanstar.com or rhall@advanstar.com. **LM**

