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and training programs. Business and legal newsletters targeted to their interests, their profession. Cost-saving group health insurance. Environmental and governmental updates and action reports. And a powerful, single voice to defend them in an increasingly hostile political arena. PLCAA is all of this, and much more.

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JUNE 1987/LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT 71

### RESEARCH UPDATE More research on athletic fields

John R. Hall III, Ph.D., Virginia Tech

Many excellent research papers on turfgrass management were presented at the meetings of the American Society of Agronomy held in New Orleans in December, 1986. Some of these research papers have particular relevance to athletic field management and may assist professionals in making decisions.

A.D. Brede, formerly of Oklahoma State University, discussed his work evaluating cultural methods of reducing Bermudagrass encroachment into tall fescue turf. Surprisingly, there was no difference in encroachment of the Bermudagrass into K-31 and Mustang tall fescue. One would have thought that the more dense Mustang would have slowed Bermuda advancement. In general the Bermudagrass was most invasive under lower mowing heights, higher nitrogen levels, lower tall fescue seeding rates and in spring seeding situations.

PRACTICUM: Maintain tall fescue athletic fields with moderate levels of nitrogen (3 to 4 lbs. N/1000 sq. ft./ year), reasonable mowing heights (1.5 to 2.5 inches), fall fertilization, which does not favor the Bermudagrass, and when repairing areas utilize adequate seeding rates (4 to 6 lbs/1000 sq. ft.).

P.H. Dernoeden of the University of Maryland presented a literature review on the effect of herbicides on turfgrass rooting. In Kentucky bluegrass the severity of root inhibition among the most commonly used preemergence herbicides at normal use was generally: bensulide>benefin>oxadiazon>DCPA>siduron.

He noted that on Bermudagrass, siduron, napropamide, prosulfalin,

metribuzin and bensulide have been reported to inhibit rooting. Root inhibition on both Kentucky bluegrass and Bermudagrass has been reported within four weeks of 2,4-D or dicamba 1150

Z.J. Reicher and N.E. Christians of Iowa State University looked at preemergence herbicide-induced rooting inhibition as it was affected by maintenance level and noted that pendimethalin produced root inhibition on Kentucky bluegrass at normal use rates under low maintenance, but did not produce a significant negative effect under high maintenance.

PRACTICUM: When using herbicides be aware of the possible negative effects associated with their use and if possible alter management to minimize the stress. Irrigation, higher mowing heights, proper mowing frequencies, adequate aeration and proper nitrogen timing and amounts to enhance root growth can all minimize the negative effect of any herbicide-induced root inhibition.

R.S. Sowers and M.S. Welterlen of the University of Maryland reported on the use of clear polyethylene covers to enhance the sprig establishment of Midiron and Tufcote Bermudagrass. Early summer sprig establishment success was reduced with the use of tarps because of excessive heat buildup. Late season spriggings made in August, September and October with clear plastic tarp cover, established quicker, went into dormancy later and showed increased winter survival.

August and September spriggings kept under the tarp for the entire



R.L. Henderson and D.V. Waddington reported on their attempts to measure impact absorption on athletic field soils. Impact absorption was measured by quantitating the peak decelerations imparted to a falling object when dropped on various grassed

winter provided 100 percent ground

cover by July 1. October spriggings

tarped for winter showed poor estab-

lishment cover on the following July 1.

hance late season Bermudagrass sprig

establishment can be beneficial, how-

ever there are limits to the ability of

the tarp to produce 100 percent winter

survival. Avoid use of tarps under

mid-summer conditions unless you

can monitor them closely and avoid

that will enhance establishment rate

and winter survival include balanced

nitrogen and potassium nutrition (2.0

to 2.5 lbs. of nitrogen and potassium/ 1000 sq. ft. disc into the sprig bed).

High mowing heights late in the sea-

son will help retain soil heat and insu-

late crown tissue. Adequate irrigation

will promote rapid growth. Addi-

tional potassium applications late in

the growing season will likely im-

prove winter survival of the less

winter hardy Bermudagrass cultivars.

Additional management factors

excessive heat buildup.

PRACTICUM: Use of tarps to en-

and ungrassed surfaces. Grassed clay soils had 21 percent higher peak decelerations ("hardness") than grassed sand soils. When these same soils were bare, the peak deceleration rates increased 21 percent on the clay soil and 100 percent on the sand soil. Core aerification of a bare surface reduced peak decelerations 33 percent.

**PRACTICUM:** Reduce potential athletic field-related injuries by maintaining a good dense turf cover. Utilize core aerification on athletic fields as often as growth rates, soil moisture and air temperature conditions are adequate to minimize the time the field surface is disrupted by the cultivation. LM



Circle No. 137 on Reader Inquiry Card 72 LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT/JUNE 1987



## When you use Poast herbicide, the grasses are always greener on the other side.

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With Poast, you don't have to bother with directed or shielded sprays. Because Poast is proven gentle to ornamentals. You can apply Poast over-the-top at all stages of ornamental growth. So you don't have to worry about soil residue or leaching. And you



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## IOBTALK

### Turf disease diagnosis on the course

For fans of the old Bullwinkle cartoon shows, this is a familiar scenario:

Bullwinkle (in magician's outfit): "Hey Rocky, watch me pull a rabbit out of m'hat."

Rocky: "Again?" Bullwinkle: "Nuthin' up my sleeve and...presto!"

And out of the hat comes an angry lion, tiger, rhinocerous, etc.

For a long time, turfgrass managers have used similar tactics trying to diagnose turf diseases, often with similar unpleasant results. And it took a lot longer. Fortunately, a solution could be at hand.

Agri-Diagnostics Associates of Cinnaminson, N.J. has introduced, via limited distribution, a disease detection kit that is both accurate and fast.

The kit, which involves a series of 12 steps (see diagram), is designed to detect turf diseases before visible symptoms appear. In doing so, it makes a preventive spraying program more effective. The kits identify pythium blight, brown patch and dollar spot.

#### How it works

The diagnosis process, which takes roughly 31/2 hours, works by matching antibodies in an assay on the end of a dipstick with a specific plant pathogen. A positive reaction creates a deposit of insoluble colored product on the end of the dipstick.

By comparing the intensity of the color on the dipstick to known standards, a diagnosis of the extent of the disease can be made. The color's intensity is measured in a field-adaptable reflectometer, the disease detection meter included when kits are ordered. The higher the number displayed by the reflectometer, the more pathogen present.

Ohio State University turf pathologist Bill Shane has tested the pythium kit at four sites: three at the university's Scarlett and Gray golf courses; one at a test plot. "It seems to be accurate in that if a sample has pythium the kit will pick it up," Shane comments. "In no case did I feel pythium was in the sample at a significant level that the Agri-Diagnostics kit couldn't pick it up.

"It's good to use as an informative tool to verify what (the superintendent) believes is pythium," he says. "It does provide that extra bit of knowledge they need to feel good about their spray program." University of Minnesota plant pa-

thologist Philip Larsen has also been testing the pythium detection kit in his lab. He has found that perhaps the best time to use it is when the first visual symptoms of a fungus appear, before they are distinctive enough for a specific identification. "You can't tell the difference in the early stages, but the kit can," he notes. He adds that the kit is a good monitoring tool to see if and when further applications of fungicide should be made.

"A more subtle use would be to be able to detect the presence of fungus before visual symptoms appear," Larsen says.

Shane concurs. "It will be curious to see if the kit can be used before the fungus reaches symptomatic levels.'

Vonnie L. Estes, Agri-Diagnostics' product support specialist, says the kit can be used in such a capacity, adding that the company uses this ability as one of the kit's selling points.

While the kit has been marketed to golf course superintendents thus far, Estes says that kits for ornamentals and lawn care are forthcoming, probably in 1988.

Distribution of the kit has reached only Indiana, the Chicago area and northern New Jersey thus far, but distribution will be widened in 1988. LM

If you'd like more information on the disease detection kits, contact Agri-Diagnostics at (609) 829-0110 or write: 2611 Branch Pike, Cinnaminson, N.J. 08077.



This illustration shows how to use the turf disease detection kits.



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To find out how you can benefit by having Magnum engines on your equipment contact: Kohler Engine Division, Kohler Co., Kohler, WI 53044, 414-457-4441.



Circle No. 122 on Reader Inquiry Card



### DURSBAN\* sends pests packing.

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Circle No. 123 on Reader Inquiry Card 76 LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT/JUNE 1987

### PROBLEM MANAGEMENT

by Balakrishna Rao, Ph.D.

#### Preventing weed growth

**Problem:** Can you suggest any method which would control growth before germination in a large bed of wood chips (without damage to large locust trees)? (New York)

**Solution:** To manage weed (annual or perennial) growth before germination in wood chip beds, apply pre-emergence herbicides in the fall or early winter and again in the spring or summer as needed. For annual weeds, apply Princep in fall at 3 lbs. active ingredient (AI) per acre. This treatment will provide weed control until late spring or early summer at which time another pre-emergence herbicide application should be provided.

Other pre-emergence herbicides, such as Ronstar, Dacthal, Devrinol, Dual, Enid, Lasso or Surflan, can be used alone or in combination with 1 lb. of Princep in summer. These combination treatments will increase the residual activity period as well as provide control of a wider spectrum of weeds. If the Princep was used at 3 lbs. AI per acre rate in fall or winter, do not use 2-3 lbs. AI per acre of that material again in spring or summer. However, if Princep was not used in fall or winter, then it can be used at the 3 lbs. AI per acre rate in spring or summer.

#### **Rangeland herbicides**

**P1 sblem:** Is there a herbicide for rangeland that would control big and little sage brush (greasewood)? (Canada)

**Solution:** In reviewing the literature, no specific recommendations for sage brush control were found. Sage brush along with mugwort (chrysanthimum weed) and wormwood belong to the same genus Artimisia (Compositae). Most of these are aromatic herbaceous plants growing in dry areas in the northern hemisphere. Since both mugwort and wormwood can be managed by the application of a preemergence herbicide like Dacthal, it is probable that sage brush also can be managed by the same chemical.

In addition, mugwort can be managed by the use of post-emergence herbicides, like Casoron or Eptam. These need to be incorporated into the soil. These post-emergents also may be active on sage brush. Since we were unable to find any recommendation for sage brush control, check with the Canada Department of Agriculture or Ministry of Agriculture to learn more about the activity and feasibility of using the above-mentioned products. Read and follow label specifications for best results. LM



Balakrishna Rao is Director of Lawn Care Technical Resources for The Davey Tree Co., Kent, Ohio.

Questions should be mailed to Problem Management, Landscape Management, 7500 Old Oak Boulevard, Cleveland, OH 44130. Please allow 2-3 months for an answer to appear in the magazine.

# **A Perfect Marriage**





In recent years more university studies (such as Michigan State, Ohio State, Penn State, Texas A&M, VPI, University of Illinois, etc.) have shown that balanced rates of N&K are ideal for summer feeding program on all fine turf.

#### WHY:

- the reason is simple N without K gives soft, lush growth — N with balanced K gives strong, hard growth.
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- (4) 8 oz. of Fluf<sup>®</sup> 10-0-10 per 1,000 square feet will cost less than \$.50/1,000 square feet - or approximately \$20/acre.

For additional information, see your local dealer or contact W.A. Cleary Chemical Corporation, 1049 Somerset Street, Somerset, N.J. 08873 (201) 247-8000. Toll free numbers: 1,800,524,1862 (Fast of the Mississippi)

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A back-up satellite system allows for the field program to take control of the system if the main computer goes down or the wiring is severed. Water budgets can also be programmed. The system also has the capacity to adjust to managerial practices and conditions such as fertilizing or seeding. **Circle No. 190 on Reader Inquiry Card** 

### Greens conditioner attaches to mowers

Jacobsen's exclusive Turf Groomer greens conditioner will be available for use on the company's line of walkbehind greens mowers. It can now be attached to the Greens King IV plus 19- and 22-inch greens mowers.

The Turf Groomer lifts up and cuts horizontally-growing grasses and surface runners, which are then clipped by the mower reel.

The strong vertical grass resulting from regular use of the groomer provides a smooth putting surface, in-



creasing green speed by as much as 25 percent without lowering cutting height or disrupting play. **Circle No. 191 on Reader Inquiry Card** 

#### Weed control fabric is made of polyester

New Weed Arrest from Warren's Turf Nursery is 100 percent polyester for resistance to sun damage and decomposition, according to Emory Hunter of Warren's.

The product is made by Hoechst Fibers to be highly water-permeable, and it has a good coefficient of friction so it will not slip as much as some other materials, Hunter notes.

Because of its composition, Weed Arrest is highly pliable and its high elongation (stretch) allows it to conform to every contour of the landscape.

In a study done at Clemson University, Weed Arrest provided excellent control of johnsongrass, yellow nutsedge and large crabgrass.

Circle No. 192 on Reader Inquiry Card

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Heide Aungst Landscape Management 7500 Old Oak Blvd. Cleveland, OH 44130



Circle No. 126 on Reader Inquiry Card LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT/JUNE 1987

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PROJECT MANAGER: Excellent opportunity for career and goal oriented individual to work with a commercial landscape firm in Atlanta, Georgia. Must be experienced in all aspects of landscape construction and willing to assume total responsibility. Good salary, benefits and incentive program. Scapes, Inc. 404-956-7500. 6/87

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EXPERIENCED FOREMAN: Landscape Design & Construction Firm, seeking an EXPERIENCED Foreman, 3-5 yrs. Individual must be able to take total responsibility of projects, from start to finish. Plant knowledge, Construction Techniques, and Blue Print reading a must. SALES: Landscape Sales person, 1-2 yrs. experience. Individual must be aggressive, and willing to learn. Design ability a must. Contact Jim at Vander Veen Landscape Co., 840 West Columbia St., P.O. Box 164, Mason, MI 48854, (517) 676-1093. 6/87

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THE TRUTH IS: Most management positions are never advertised outside the company. They are filled from within or by word of mouth. We have access to the inside jobs that companies do not advertise in the newspapers or trade magazines. GREEN INDUSTRY RESOURCES CORPORA-TION can locate management positions suited to your needs. Write or call Beecher Smith, 25230 Conrad Ct., Damascus, MD 20872, (301) 253-5787. All inquiries are confidential. 6/87

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