

Ever see that commercial?

You know the one – the man or woman knocks on the door of the child’s room and announces a sick day is needed. The look on the child’s face borders on confused.

So, have you recently knocked on your employer’s door and said...

“I know absolutely everything! It is impossible for me to learn anything new. So... I’ll just skip the next Inland Empire GCSA educational event.”

Probably not. Not only does your course deserve their management team to keep seeking ways to improve their facility– you know you benefit by spending time with your peers. And this is why the Inland Empire GCSA exists – for you.

We have another great – and diversified - meeting planned for March 16 & 17, 2015, at the Wildhorse Resort, Pendleton, Oregon.

- Interesting** ✓
- Beneficial** ✓
- Different** ✓

We are honored to have one of the top golf course architects join us – and he just happens to be an especially familiar name in the northwest - David McLay Kidd.

“David Kidd grew up in a classic Scottish, links-inspired golf environment and has finally figured out that the best way to go forward in design is to back to those traditional influences; golf as a ground game that's fun, brown and walkable.”

Bradley S. Klein, Golfweek

Kidd is enjoying another success with the recent opening of Gamble Sands in Brewster, Washington. His first solo venture as an architect nearly 20 years ago – Bandon Dunes - remains one of the favorite all-time of many. Kidd will offer two presentations, “The Story of Bandon Dunes” and “What Makes Gamble Sands so Different.” An interesting article about Kidd can be found in the July 18 issue of Golfweek, written by Martin Kaufmann.

Joel Simmons really doesn’t like it when I say he is one of the most dynamic and energetic speakers in the industry. After all of these years, I should respect his request and stop saying it. Simmons’ 30-year history in the turf industry includes being a soils instructor in the two-year Turf Management Program at Rutgers University where he taught over 1000 students soil fertility for the turf management program and other

continued page 8

Auction Rounds – Today!

Our silent auction for rounds for four plus carts will take place at The Spokane Golf Show. We are asking for high course participation– and every submission helps.

Chris Concienne, Sun Dance Golf Course, is our chair for the event this year and he encourages you to call him (509) 840-4074 with your commitment.

Please take time, now, to gather your certificate in either one certificate of four, or two certificates of two, along with a score card and mail them to the association office - P.O. Box 807, Lolo, MT., 59847.

Proceeds from this auction help fund our continuing education and research programs, and keeps our user fees from increasing at a rapid rate, as association expenses continue to rise.

Can we beat \$10,000?

Actually the figure was more like \$11,000. We are referring to the value of the items donated to the Idaho GCSA silent auction held at their fall meeting. The Idaho GCSA members responded with putting their pens into action and bidding away. What does the Idaho GCSA have that we don’t have? Not a thing!

So we challenge everyone to participate either through bidding or donations! If you would like to donate items to OUR upcoming silent auction March 17 & 18 at the Wildhorse Resort, please contact Chairman Todd Lupkes, CGCS (509) 332-1874, Jake Leiser (509) 994-4735 or Roy Studebaker (509) 994-3943, with your donation!

Buckhorn Saloon and Museum

Sponsors are appreciated for the 2015 Chapters of the Northwest Hospitality Room! The event is going to be at a special location in San Antonio, Wednesday, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. February 25, 2015 - at the Buckhorn Saloon and Museum. This is a highly popular venue in San Antonio and one that offers a great atmosphere.

Delicious complimentary food will be offered during the evening, as always! Our usual event budget is not large enough to cover beverages at this venue and this event will be a cash bar. Contact Lori to help sponsor the event.

“The Inland Empire GCSA is established to serve members, advance the profession and promote the enjoyment of golf through responsible golf course management practices.”

Do you know Bo? A Member Profile

Britton "Bo" Lacy

Tri-City Country Club, Kennewick, Washington

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I was born and raised on a dry-land grass and wheat farm two miles from Circling Raven Golf Club. Back then it was just wheat fields, trees and a great place to get a four-wheel drive tractor stuck. I thought I was going to farm, but my dad told me I had to get a college education first, so I got my BS in Management from George Fox University. I met Michelle, my wife, while I was there and we were married shortly after my senior year. My senior year I started

selling grass seed on the farm and I had a friend of mine who asked if I would take a contract, seeding the driving range in the fall. I did, and found a new career. The next spring, I worked for Brian Woster on the seasonal staff and that fall enrolled at The Pennsylvania State University. That summer was also when our daughter Sienna was born.

The next year I worked for Brian again, before heading off to Waverley Country Club in Portland, Oregon. I spent a year as a spray technician for John Alexander. John taught me a lot over that year and I have appreciated his mentorship greatly. I then spent 15 months as the assistant at Persimmon Country Club in Gresham, Oregon, before coming to the Tri-City Country Club. While I was at Persimmon, we added Ethan to the family.

The Tri-City Country Club has been wonderful to work for these past almost nine



working claims for Progressive Insurance and was hired on fulltime after graduation. I worked insurance for over three years before deciding I hated that life.

I returned to the farm life, where for my dad and me, it was get more acres of ground or get out. At the time Circling Raven was being built. We had been cleaning and

years. We are a lower-budget country club, but I am still surprised with projects to do. As we all are doing more with less, we have really become very good at efficiencies. I have two fulltime year-round employees (including continued page 4

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Know Bo? continued from page 2

myself), and five seasonal staff, for a course open year round. Still, we have rebuilt 11 tee complexes, seven cart paths, and removed several hundred trees. Yes, several hundred trees! I am known by some of the members affectionately as “Bo, the Tree Slayer.” We have more to go, too. While at the Tri-City Country Club we added Callie, the black lab.

Golf is not the only thing that keeps me occupied for time. My father and I have a patent. The patent is for a remote device that can be set up to shut off any gas/diesel engine or electric motor. The product basically uses a remote control to shut down the device from anywhere (including via satellite). The product has many uses from machinery, to rock crushers, to locomotives. Customers have been anywhere from family friends to the Department of Defense, NASA, and to the oil fields of Saudi Arabia. For more information, you can check out the website www.redfoxenterprises.com.

What I have learned in my journey so far is that communication is the key to success. If we don't talk about what we do as a superintendent and help to educate people about what we do, we will never elevate ourselves as a profession. I encourage you to get involved with a program like the First Green and share the information or sign up to be a Grass Root Ambassador with GCSAA.

2014 Turfgrass Seed Harvest Update

Article provided by: Jason Aerni, Simplot Partners

BLUEGRASS: Proprietary bluegrass 2014 crop was significantly down from earlier projections, with most areas seeing anywhere from 15-30% reductions in yields from crop estimates and off of average. Why? Most likely, heat during pollination caused a short pollen period that, coupled with a sub-zero cold snap with no snow cover in January, hurt the plant. The seed heads were visually there for a good crop, so all indicators would point to poor pollination period and poor seed fill from heat.

Quality continues to be a challenge in the production areas of Washington where burning is no longer an accepted cultural practice. This has led to more issues with *Poa annua* and Alkaligrass and also a new-comer to the list of problem other grasses that we battle, Rattail Fescue.



Look for high-end elite bluegrass to continue to be in short supply through the next selling season. Common Kentucky bluegrass and low-end proprietaries in the dryland production areas had average yields, however, acreage is still very low from historical numbers, so look for supplies to remain somewhat tight.

RYEGRASS: Perennial ryegrass is coming in about average, however supplies are very tight as carryover was near zero coming in to new crop. Cleaners are busy trying to get product into the pipeline as fast as they can. Quality has been spotty, with cleaners having to re-clean more than normal to get *Poa* out. Look for this specie to continue to be very tight on into the winter and spring.

TALL FESCUE: Yields are coming in average to slightly aboveaverage. Quality looks good and inventories are stable and seed is available. Consumption of tall fescue has increased due to the price point of turf type tall fescue versus other species that are in short supply. Look for pricing to remain firm and supplies to be in line with demand.

FINE FESCUES: Yields were spotty and below normal, good quality fine leafs will continue to be hard to find, especially hard and sheep's. Look for prices to remain strong and possibly increase down the road.

BENTGRASS: Above average consumption last spring to repair winter-damaged fairways has brought inventories to lower than projected numbers with few acres in the ground for harvest 2014. This will certainly put a pinch on supplies until we roll into 2015 crop when newly planted acres will come on line. Look for tight supplies the next 12 month cycle on into fall 2015.



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Efficacy of 'Tenacity' in Late Spring to Eliminate *Poa annua* in Kentucky Bluegrass Fairways

W.J. Johnston, PhD and C.T. Golob, MS
Crop and Soil Sciences, Washington State University,
Pullman, WA

INTRODUCTION

Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis* L.) golf course fairway infested with annual bluegrass (*Poa annua* L.) can be unattractive, hard to manage, and have reduced playability during much of the golf season. The objective of this study was to determine the efficacy of Tenacity 4SC combined with several herbicides to eliminate *Poa annua* from Kentucky bluegrass fairways.

MATERIALS & METHODS

Research was conducted on a Kentucky bluegrass fairway, infested with *P. annua* at the Palouse Ridge Golf Club at Washington State University in Pullman, WA. Treatments were: Tenacity 5 fl oz/A + Xonerate 2 oz/A, Tenacity 4 fl oz/A + Xonerate 1 oz/A, Tenacity 5 fl oz/A + Turflon 16 fl oz/A, 19660A 1 fl oz/A + Turflon 16 fl oz/A, Tenacity 5 fl oz/A + Trimit 16 fl oz/A, and Tenacity 5 fl oz/A + Trimit 16 fl oz/A + Turflon 16 fl oz/A. Repeat treatments were made on May 2, May 23, and June 13, 2013. Applications in 2014 are currently being evaluated in a spring/spring program (only 2013 data presented).

RESULTS

Tenacity 5 fl oz/A + Xonerate 2 oz/A and Tenacity 4 fl oz/A + Xonerate 1 oz/A resulted in the greatest reduction of *P. annua*, 86 and 82%, respectively, compared to the controls (Fig. 1). However, associated with the Tenacity 5 fl oz/A + Xonerate 2 oz/A treatment was a high level of *P. annua* phytotoxicity and at times an unacceptable phytotoxicity on Kentucky bluegrass (Fig. 2). In addition, open, depressed areas in the fairway where the *P. annua* had died presented undesirable playing conditions during peak summer play. It was not till the early fall that the Kentucky bluegrass aggressively began to fill these depressions and a noticeable shift in the fairway population

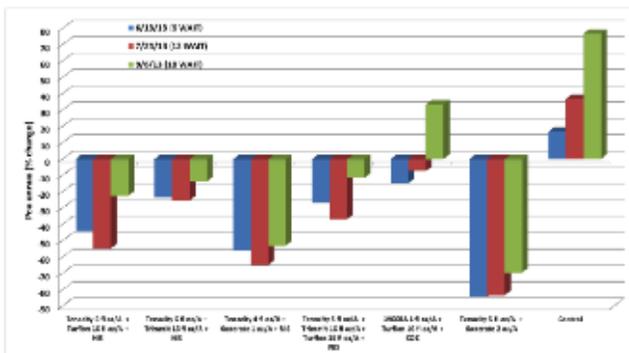


Fig. 1. Percentage change in *Poa annua* in a Kentucky bluegrass fairway 6, 12, and 18 weeks after initial treatment (May 2, 2013).

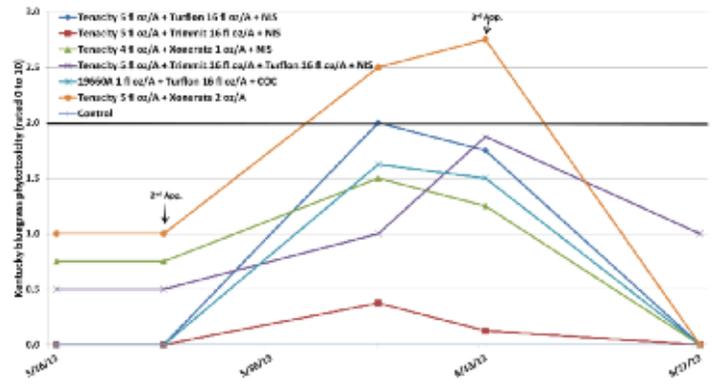


Fig. 2. Kentucky bluegrass phytotoxicity following repeat application on May 2 + May 23 + June 13, 2013.

toward Kentucky bluegrass was evident (Fig. 3 and 4). Tenacity 4 fl oz/A + Xonerate 1 oz/A also resulted in a high level of *P. annua* phytotoxicity for several weeks, but at a lower level of Kentucky bluegrass phytotoxicity, and did not cause *P. annua* to quickly disappear, creating open areas and depressions in the fairway.



Fig. 3. Tenacity combined with other herbicides to control *Poa annua* 18 WAT on a Kentucky bluegrass fairway.

CONCLUSIONS

Tenacity 4 fl oz/A + Xonerate 1 oz/A may be the most desirable *P. annua* control option to consider in terms of seasonal playability. Complete *P. annua* control was not achieved with any treatment; therefore, a multi-year program may be needed to achieve this goal.



Fig. 4. Tenacity combined with other herbicides to control *Poa annua* 18 WAT on a Kentucky bluegrass fairway.

With the subject of Tenacity from WSU, we thought a superintendent's experience may be interesting, reprinted from the Grass Clippings, Dec 2014...

Dead Poa Society

by Gerald Flaherty, CGCS
The Valley Club, Hailey, Idaho



What to write about for my peers? First of all, everyone should think about writing an article so Lori doesn't need to beg the same guys every year. I'm sure there is some unique bit of information, observation, or a complaint that you could write about.

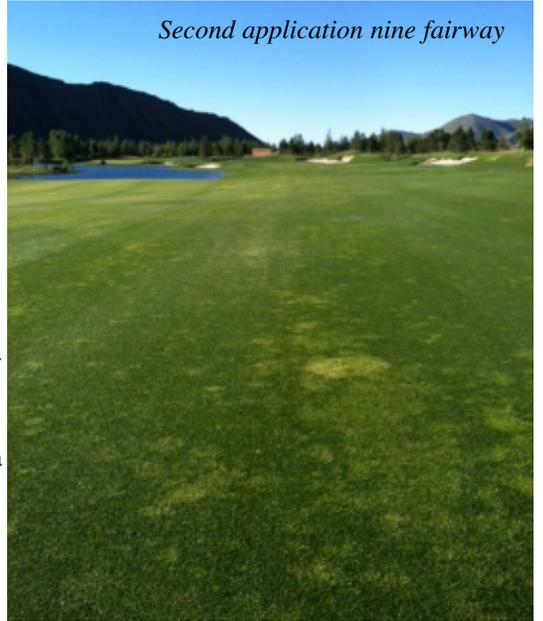
What I would like to write about is The Valley Club's bluegrass tees and fairways that were constructed on the new nine holes in 2006. *Poa annua* has wasted no time invading the new nine.

The first year was the year we should have made our move and started the program. But we didn't, due to heavy play and fear of golfers tracking herbicides on the greens. There was a small amount of poa in the sod when it was delivered in 2006. We spot sprayed those areas with Trimit and Pro-Grass to keep things clean and in check. After about the third year, there was a tremendous amount of seed head tracked over from the 17 year-old existing course. The poa germinated quickly, so we sprayed Paclobutrazol to weaken the poa plant. After a full season of Paclobutrazol, we followed up that fall with some

Barricade to help prevent seed germination.

The Barricade was giving us a fighting chance with the battle, but we were only hanging on by a thread. This course could convert to poa overnight if we were not careful. The following year, we continued with the Barricade, Paclobutrozol and threw in some Xonerate. We were still just hanging on and starting to consider applying Embark and giving up completely on controlling poa.

I looked at some notes from Dr. Bruce Branham's class last fall. Bruce said, with confidence, to use Tenacity on the bluegrass to eliminate poa. The first thing we did was estimate the percentage of poa population on fairways and tees. It seemed like the population was about 30%. Our thought was although the fairways are 30% poa; we believed we could still see some healthy Kentucky bluegrass within the poa patches. We decided



Second application nine fairway

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Third application, tee three



to apply Tenacity at 4 oz. per acre every four days for four applications. Tenacity will eliminate bentgrass so it was important to find the best time on the tee sheet to avoid golfers tracking the herbicide on the greens. The first two applications went smoothly, beginning on June 19 and then the 23. The third application needed to be delayed due to a pro-shop curve ball. The curve gave us chance to take a breath and think about the 3rd and 4th application, because the poa was unsightly and we were nervous. The tee sheet would delay us seven full days before the next application, if we selected to move forward and complete the program. The struggling poa made it easy to confirm there was plenty of Kentucky bluegrass waiting to reclaim the area. We buckled up for a rough ride and sprayed our next application on the 30th and then again we were delayed due to the tee sheet. On July 6th, the final application was applied. Oh yeah, I forgot to mention the Member Guest began on July 9th.

So far, we see a great deal of progress eliminating poa. However, there are some poa types that have not been affected. As far as the Member Guest, the weakened and dying poa seemed to clean up after we mowed, taking off the dead leaf blades and exposing some underlying bluegrass. The Kentucky bluegrass did yellow slightly, but not to the point that anyone had commented. I think it's weird how the membership will complain about things like a pin placement, smelly ball-washer water, misaligned tee markers, or frost delays, but they don't notice the obvious things we see on the course. As a side note,



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the patches of bentgrass in the tees or fairways were hit extremely hard.

In summary, what we had discovered was the Tenacity does work. However, it seems to work best on younger plants and only certain poa varieties. This year, we did go down with the full annual rate of 16 oz. per acre and we did see some benefit. Our plan for next year is to spray slightly sooner and perhaps try adding some Xonerate at a 1 oz. rate and continue applying pre-emergences. I didn't mention that we tinkered with some test plots on the older fairways, which I thought were predominantly Kentucky bluegrass. I was wrong. They were about 95% poa, which took an extremely hard hit from the Tenacity. With that being said, if we ever do a renovation and the course is closed, I would apply Tenacity and drill seed the fairways during the course closure.

Golf & Trade Show fun at the Coeur d'Alene Resort!



2015 Roundtable Event - Thank you tim Mack and Avondale GC for hosting!

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Spring Meeting continued from page 1

short course programs. His presentation, "Soil First," focuses on soil chemistry as it relates to soil physics and soil biology. It is an in-depth soils class that covers how to read and interpret a host of soil tests including the colloidal soil test, water-soluble reports and water analysis.

Also included on the agenda are our own resident experts ...

- Gwen Stahnke, Ph.D., the Director/Instructor of the Turfgrass Management program at Walla Walla Community College. Stahnke came to Walla Walla after a successful 24 years as an Extension Turfgrass Specialist for Washington State University in Puyallup, Wash. Stahnke will present, "Insect Problems and Controls on Turf."

- Bo Lacy, CGCS, Tri-City Country Club, and Kevin Hicks, Coeur d'Alene Resort will team up to offer, "Enhance Your Communication with Technology."

Put this Spring Meeting on your calendar; our education committee has put together a conference worth your attendance.

2014 Trade Show!

