

# FLORIDA

## TURF DIGEST

FLORIDA  
TURFGRASS  
ASSOCIATION

VOL. 41 / NO. 4

Summer 2023



### Dr. Pavel Petelewicz's Evaluation of Herbicides for Postemergent Control of Goosegrass in Bermudagrass Turf

**ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:**

- 70th Annual FTGA Conference
- Conway Little League Cleanup
- Aerification Demystified
- Fragrant Plants for Florida Landscapes



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bermudagrass

# Loxahatchee Club

Jupiter, FL



## James Sprankle

Superintendent

Just north of Palm Beach, the Loxahatchee Club stands out as one of the most eye-catching courses in all of South Florida. Superintendent James Sprankle has been working with Latitude 36<sup>®</sup> Bermudagrass for a number of years, shaping it to highlight a spectacular Jack Nicklaus design of 7,240 yards. His constant innovation with the grass has this course in the top 100 in North America on a regular basis.

**“The Latitude performs well. We have nine holes of cart paths and there is very little wear and tear that’s visible. The members love the Latitude.”**

– James Sprankle, Superintendent – Loxahatchee Club



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# FLORIDA TURF DIGEST

FLORIDA TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

Summer 2023  
VOL. 41 / NO. 4

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Photo credit: Nathan S. Boyd, UF/IFAS.

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Photo credit: Dr. Bonnie Wells.

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**FLORIDA TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION**

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MJ Plaster

**Guest Editor**  
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**Advisor**  
Association Manager Heather Russo

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- **Address Changes:** Please contact Heather Russo, Association Manager, at 863-688-9413 or [Heather@FTGA.org](mailto:Heather@FTGA.org).



**FTGA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**PRESIDENT**

**Jason Frank**  
Harrell's LLC  
(386) 804-6768  
jfrank@harrells.com

**VICE PRESIDENT**

**Pat Marsh**  
SiteOne Landscape Supply LLC  
(727) 243-3717  
pmarsh@siteone.com

**SECRETARY/TREASURER**

**Eric Dixon**  
Golf Club Reserves  
(352) 870-8322  
eric@golfclubreserves.com

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**

**Lance Tibbetts**  
ABM  
(786) 518-0332  
lance.tibbetts@abm.com

**FTGA DIRECTORS**

**Christopher Brown**  
Nufarm  
(630) 601-8069  
chris.brown@nufarm.com

**Bill Cohn**  
Massey Services  
(407) 645-2500  
bcohn@masseyservices.com

**Cordel Dietzig**  
City of Daytona Beach  
(386) 956-2714  
dietzigcordel@codb.us

**Peyton Edwards**  
Corteva Agriscience  
(765) 484-3701  
peyton.edwards@corteva.com

**Jimmy Evans**  
P.P.M. Sports Turf  
(850) 321-0792  
jimmysppmst@gmail.com

**Bryce Gibson**  
Interlachen Country Club  
(407) 657-0850  
bgibson@interlachencfl.com

**Chris Hoder**  
Council Growers Inc.  
(863) 528-1216  
cmhoder@gmail.com

**Jason Horn**  
ABM Inc.  
(786) 314-6659  
jason.horn@abm.com

**Mark Kann**  
Sod Solutions  
(352) 538-7642  
mark@sodsolutions.com

**Cal Leggett**  
Brightview  
(407) 341-1729  
cal.leggett@brightview.com

**David Robinson**  
Marriott Golf  
(407) 206-6081  
david.robinson@marriottgolf.com

**TJ Shine**  
Heritage Professional Products  
(239) 784-7449  
timothy.shine@heritageppg.com

**Travis Teuton, Ph.D.**  
Sand Meadows Research  
(352) 817-1912  
tteuton@sandmeadows.com

**Kevin Wasilewski**  
Syngenta Professional Products  
(863) 860-4293  
kevin.wasilewski@syngenta.com

**FTGA MEMBERSHIP**

The Florida Turfgrass Association is committed to provide services, communications and networking opportunities for professionals in and associated with the turfgrass industry.

Florida ranks No. 1 in the nation for turfgrass-related economic activity, with total revenues estimated at \$7.82 billion and a total employment of more than 173,000 jobs. Today, the FTGA continues to advocate for and promote the turfgrass industry with extensive research, continuing education and opportunities for turfgrass professionals to network with their colleagues.

**MEMBER BENEFITS INCLUDE**

- Florida Turf Digest Magazine
- Membership Directory & Industry Guide
- E-Newsletter Industry Alerts
- Annual Conference
- Regional Turf Seminars
- Legacy Scholarship

**BECOME  
A NEW  
MEMBER  
TODAY!**



**INDUSTRY CALENDAR**

**SEPTEMBER**

**19** Arborist Certification Workshop

**OCTOBER**

**2** Florida GCSA 2nd Annual Benevolent Tournament

**4** UF/IFAS North Central Florida Turfgrass Field Day

**NOVEMBER**

**2-5** North Florida GCSA Fall Classic & Crash Cup

**28-30** FTGA 70th Annual Conference

**DECEMBER**

**8** Larry Kamphaus Crowfoot Open

**FOR UPDATED  
INFORMATION, VISIT**



[https://www.ftga.org/events/event\\_list.asp](https://www.ftga.org/events/event_list.asp)

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**Jason Frank**  
FTGA President

## Forging Unity for a Successful Future

As we stand at the crossroads of an ever-evolving landscape, it is essential for us to come together as a united front in the turfgrass industry in Florida. Our industry's future success and growth are fundamentally linked to our ability to foster unity, collaboration and innovation. The lush, green surfaces that cover our golf courses, sports fields, parks and landscapes are not just mere patches of grass; they are symbolic of our shared dedication to creating spaces of beauty, functionality and environmental harmony. The challenges we face, from changing political conditions and regulations to advancing technologies, are daunting but possible to overcome. It is during these times that unity becomes our greatest asset.

In the last message, we wrote about a new chapter of the Florida Turfgrass Association; with many challenges behind us and a newly inspired strategic path, we set out to partner with all, determined to unify our industry efforts. In the last few months, we have demonstrated our intentions with two significant industry events that hopefully helped bring our industry closer, working together to accomplish remarkable things.

Unity is not about homogenizing our approaches but celebrating the diversity of our perspectives, experiences and expertise. Our industry comprises professionals with a wealth of knowledge spanning agronomy, research, business management and more. By pooling our collective wisdom and experience, we can forge innovative solutions that address our unique challenges. This materialized in our inaugural cross-industry meeting on July 27, where professionals representing every facet of our industry convened from across the state. The exchange of ideas ignited during this assembly highlighted shared challenges and laid the groundwork for collaborative strategies to surmount them.

As we forge ahead, remember that unity extends beyond our professional realm. It is also about strengthening our ties as a community. On August 4, a confluence of volunteers from across the industry converged to renovate the Conway Little League fields, an all-volunteer league. More than a rejuvenation project, this endeavor symbolized our ability to rally around meaningful causes and channel our collective skills toward transformative achievements.

In our next steps, our unity must also extend to nurturing the next generation of turfgrass professionals. By mentoring and supporting emerging talents, we invest in the sustainability and vibrancy of our industry. Let us inspire them with our technical expertise and commitment to integrity, ethical practices, and responsible stewardship of our natural resources.

Furthermore, let us be advocates for our industry. By fostering relationships with policymakers, educators, the public, and most importantly, us, we can highlight turfgrass's vital role in enhancing our quality of life, supporting recreational activities, and contributing to the environment.

In conclusion, the path to a more robust, more vibrant turfgrass industry in Florida is paved with unity, collaboration and a shared commitment to excellence. Let us rise above challenges and differences, working hand in hand to shape a future that embraces innovation, sustainability and growth. Together, we can transform the challenges we face into opportunities for progress.

As discussed in this issue, our next opportunity to unite and come together will be at the 70th Annual Florida Turfgrass Association at Omni ChampionsGate Resort, November 28–30. We hope to see many new and old faces as we work toward enhancing our united efforts as an industry! 🌱

# 2023 ASSOCIATION PARTNERS

## PRESENTING



## PLATINUM



## GOLD



## SILVER



## BRONZE



# ASSOCIATION PARTNERS PROGRAM

### PRESENTING PARTNER \$17,000

- Membership** up to 20 members
- Turf Seminar** table at each location
- Annual Conference** up to 4 members
  - 1 Golf Foursome
  - Annual Meeting Lunches
  - Corn Boil Tickets
  - Opening Reception Tickets
  - Logo on brochures, signage, notepads, lanyards, golf tee sign
  - Golf Tent & Vendor Table
- Advertising** recognition every issue
  - 5 Full Page Print Ads
  - 3 e-Newsletter Banner Ads
  - Each Month Social Media Post
- Webinars** logo recognition in presentation
- Website** logo on home page recognition
- Advocacy** participation on Legislative Day Support lobbying firm

### GOLD PARTNER \$8,500

- Membership** up to 5 members
- Turf Seminar** table at each location
- Annual Conference** up to 2 members
  - Annual Meeting Lunches
  - Corn Boil Tickets
  - Opening Reception Tickets
  - Logo on specific item
- Advertising** recognition every issue
  - 5 1/2-Page Print Ads
  - Each Month Social Media Post
- Webinars** logo recognition in presentation
- Website** logo on home page recognition
- Advocacy** participation on Legislative Day Support lobbying firm

### BRONZE PARTNER \$2,500

- Membership** up to 2 members
- Turf Seminar** table at each location
- Annual Conference** up to 1 member
  - Annual Meeting Lunch
  - Corn Boil Tickets
  - Opening Reception Ticket
  - Logo on specific item
- Advertising** recognition every issue
  - Each Month Social Media Post
- Webinars** logo recognition in presentation
- Website** logo on home page recognition
- Advocacy** participation on Legislative Day Support lobbying firm

### PLATINUM PARTNER \$12,000

- Membership** up to 10 members
- Turf Seminar** table at each location
- Annual Conference** up to 3 members
  - 1 Golf Foursome
  - Annual Meeting Lunches
  - Corn Boil Tickets
  - Opening Reception Tickets
  - Logo on specific item
  - Golf Tent & Vendor Table
- Advertising** recognition every issue
  - 4 Full Page Print Ads
  - Each Month Social Media Post
- Webinars** logo recognition in presentation
- Website** logo on home page recognition
- Advocacy** participation on Legislative Day Support lobbying firm

### SILVER PARTNER \$5,500

- Membership** up to 3 members
- Turf Seminar** table at each location
- Annual Conference** up to 2 members
  - Annual Meeting Lunches
  - Corn Boil Tickets
  - Opening Reception Tickets
  - Logo on specific item
- Advertising** recognition every issue
  - 3 1/3-Page Print Ads
  - Each Month Social Media Post
- Webinars** logo recognition in presentation
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### CONTACT:

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FLORIDA  
TURFGRASS  
ASSOCIATION

70<sup>th</sup>

# Annual Conference

NOVEMBER 28-30, 2023

OMNI CHAMPIONSGATE, CHAMPIONSGATE, FL

ONLINE REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

[www.ftga.org/page/CS](http://www.ftga.org/page/CS)



## PRESENTING SPONSORS



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## CONFERENCE SPONSORS

### PLATINUM

### GOLD

### SILVER

### BRONZE

### SPECIAL



Sponsors as of August 23, 2023



# 2023 CONFERENCE AGENDA

## Tuesday, November 28

- 8:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m. Golf BMP Education
- 4:00 p.m. — 5:30 p.m. FTGA Board of Directors Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m. FTGA Board of Directors Dinner

## Wednesday, November 29

- 7:30 a.m. — 5:00 p.m. FTGA Registration
- 9:00 a.m. — 10:00 a.m. Leadership & Development Breakfast **\*\*New\*\***
- 11:30 a.m. — 4:30 p.m. Scramble Golf Tournament
- Noon — 4:00 p.m. Sports Turf Tour
- Noon — 4:00 p.m. CORE & Turf CEU Workshop
- 6:30 p.m. — 7:00 p.m. Opening Reception
- 7:00 p.m. — 10:00 p.m. Corn Boil & Networking Event
  - Cornhole 50/50 Challenge
  - 50/50 Raffle

## Thursday, November 30

- 7:00 a.m. — 1:30 p.m. FTGA Registration
- 8:15 a.m. — 8:45 a.m. Continental Breakfast
- 8:00 a.m. — 9:30 a.m. FTGA Past Presidents' Breakfast
- 9:00 a.m. — 11:00 a.m. Educational Workshops
  - Athletic Field Management Workshop
  - Golf Management Workshop
  - Landscape & Irrigation Management Workshop
  - Sod Management Workshop
- 11:15 a.m. — 1:15 p.m. Annual Meeting & Awards Lunch
- 1:30 p.m. — 4:20 p.m. Cross-Industry Roundtable



## HOTEL INFORMATION

### OMNI CHAMPIONSGATE

CHAMPIONSGATE, FLORIDA

800.843.6664

#### CONFERENCE GROUP RATES

One-Bedroom Suites

**\$199** per night, plus tax  
NO Resort Fee, Parking \$10

Omni ChampionsGate is surrounded by 36 holes of championship Orlando golf, the Leadbetter Golf Academy World Headquarters and 15 acres of recreation. This Four Diamond resort is one of the nation's premier golf, meeting and leisure retreats.

The resort accommodations, including 862 guest rooms and suites as well as two- and three-bedroom villas, are equipped with every modern convenience and a host of luxury amenities. In addition to walk-out golf, guests may choose to relax in the signature Mokara Spa, dine in one of nine restaurants or enjoy 15 acres of pools and recreation activities, including the 850-foot lazy river and Orlando's only resort wave pool.



## Wednesday, November 29

### LEADERSHIP & DEVELOPMENT BREAKFAST

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Please join us at the inaugural Leadership & Development Breakfast where conference attendees will have the opportunity to socialize with committee and board members to share their thoughts. We want to hear from our talented members on how we can showcase the success of our members within the association.

### ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Boxed Lunch: 11:00 a.m.

Tournament: 11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

The Annual Golf Tournament is one of the most popular events during the conference. This year, the scramble tournament is perfect for the casual golfer who is looking for a relaxing afternoon on the greens.

This year, golfers will compete for the following prizes:

- 1st place gross \$100 team
- 1st place net \$75 team
- Closest-to-pin \$50 for 4 players
- Hole in One \$10,000

### OPENING RECEPTION

6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

During the reception, golfers will be able to commiserate about the “putt that got away,” and we will recognize winners with a Golf Awards presentation. Please join us for drinks and networking.

### CORN BOIL & NETWORKING EVENT

7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

The Corn Boil has been the Conference’s premier social event for decades. This year, we offer two new features at the corn boil. Association Partners and selected Conference Sponsors are offered the opportunity to display their companies’ latest new products and services, updates and more. Bring your appetite, because there will be a friendly grilling competition!

### CORNHOLE 50/50 CHALLENGE

Who doesn’t love a fun game of cornhole? You have just 20 seconds per bean bag to deliver your best shot. Be the first person to reach 21 points to win the game. The winners of each game will be entered into a bracket, and the two finalists will play for 1/2 the ticket sales. Tickets are \$20 per ticket. (Players can buy multiple tickets.)

### 50/50 RAFFLE

Get ready for a two-stage 50/50 Showdown! Fifteen finalists will be drawn from tickets sold and systematically whittled down to a final few. Those who remain will decide how to split the pot: Will it be share and share alike? Or “No Deal?” Don’t miss the fun!



# CONFERENCE

Thursday, November 30

## CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

8:15 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

Start the day with a light continental breakfast with the vendors.



## NATIONAL GOLF COURSE

With its traditional American-style design, the National Course at Omni Orlando Resort at ChampionsGate challenges golfers through 18 holes that wind through 200 acres of secluded woodlands, wetlands and former orange groves.

The golf course features gently sweeping fairways, 80 sculpted bunkers, greens maintained in tour condition, clever doglegs and scenic water hazards. Water comes into play on many holes, but few forced carries mean that this layout can be maneuvered by all levels of players. The sharply framed golf holes end up on smaller greens, making it a shot maker's delight.



# KEYNOTE SPEAKER

## Rep. Keith Truenow



Rep. Keith Truenow is the founder of Lake Jem Farms based in Mount Dora. Lake Jem is a major sod producer that supplies turfgrass throughout the State of Florida.

Following graduation from high school, Keith enlisted in the United

States Air Force and served his country for the next four years. Following his military service, he returned home to Lake County and his agricultural roots.

Keith serves on several local and statewide boards including Turfgrass Producers of Florida, Lake County Farm Bureau and the Lake County Fair Association.

Keith's devotion to his wife Dodi of twenty years and their two sons, Dylan and Ashton, serve as the foundation for his commitment to always putting Florida families first.

He serves on the following Committees:

- Chair of Criminal Justice Subcommittee
- Judiciary Committee
- Infrastructure Strategies Committee
- Agriculture, Conservation, & Resiliency Subcommittee
- Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations Subcommittee
- Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee

## 2022 WREATH OF GRASS RECIPIENT



Congratulations to Adam Jones, Massey Services Vice President & Director of Quality Assurance

# ATTENDEE REGISTRATION FORM

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:  
OCTOBER 31, 2023**

**DON'T PAY  
Non-Member Prices!**  
Join the FTGA today and  
save on your conference  
registration.

## STEP 1: ATTENDEE INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Company \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## STEP 2: SELECT A MEALS & EDUCATION PACKAGE To ensure an accurate head count, check all the events below that you will attend:

### FULL PACKAGE

#### MEALS

- Leadership & Development Breakfast
- Opening Reception
- Corn Boil & Cornhole Tournament
- Continental Breakfast
- Annual Meeting & Awards Lunch

#### EDUCATION

- Tuesday**  BMP Golf Workshop
- Wednesday**  CORE & Turf Workshop  
 Sports Turf Tour
- Thursday A.M.**  Athletic Field Mgmt.  
 Golf Mgmt. Workshop  
 Landscape & Irrigation Mgmt. Workshop  
 Sod Mgmt. Workshop
- Thursday P.M.**  Cross-Industry Roundtable

### WEDNESDAY PACKAGE

#### MEALS

- Leadership & Development Breakfast
- Opening Reception
- Corn Boil & Cornhole Tournament

#### EDUCATION

- CORE & Turf Workshop
- Sports Turf Tour

### THURSDAY PACKAGE

#### MEALS

- Continental Breakfast
- Annual Meeting & Awards Lunch

#### EDUCATION

- Thursday A.M.**  Athletic Field Mgmt.  
 Golf Mgmt. Workshop  
 Landscape & Irrigation Mgmt. Workshop  
 Sod Mgmt. Workshop
- Thursday P.M.**  Cross-Industry Roundtable

|                                       | EARLY BIRD<br>(until 10/23) | LATE<br>(effective 10/23) |                                       | EARLY BIRD<br>(until 10/23) | LATE<br>(effective 10/23) |                                       | EARLY BIRD<br>(until 10/23) | LATE<br>(effective 10/23) |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> FTGA Members | \$275                       | \$350                     | <input type="checkbox"/> FTGA Members | \$200                       | \$250                     | <input type="checkbox"/> FTGA Members | \$100                       | \$150                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Members  | \$500                       | \$600                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Members  | \$300                       | \$400                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Members  | \$275                       | \$350                     |

## STEP 3: À LA CARTE OPTIONS

|   | Member Early Bird<br>(until 10/23) | Member Late<br>(effective 10/23) | Non-Member Early Bird<br>(until 10/23) | Non-Member Late<br>(effective 10/23) |
|---|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> BMP Golf Workshop                  | \$80                               | \$125                            | \$125                                  | \$175                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CORE & Turf Workshop & Lunch       | \$50                               | \$100                            | \$100                                  | \$150                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership & Development Breakfast | \$50                               | \$100                            | \$100                                  | \$150                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golf Tournament & Lunch            | \$135                              | \$175                            | \$175                                  | \$225                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sports Turf Tour & Lunch           | \$50                               | \$100                            | \$100                                  | \$150                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Opening Reception                  | \$60                               | \$100                            | \$100                                  | \$175                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corn Boil & Cornhole Tournament    | \$100                              | \$150                            | \$150                                  | \$200                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Continental Breakfast              | FREE                               | FREE                             | \$50                                   | \$75                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Meeting & Awards Lunch      | \$75                               | \$100                            | \$100                                  | \$125                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday Education Workshop        | \$50                               | \$100                            | \$100                                  | \$150                                |

## STEP 4: GOLF TOURNAMENT

|                |                |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Player 1 _____ | Handicap _____ | Player 3 _____ | Handicap _____ |
| Player 2 _____ | _____          | Player 4 _____ | _____          |

## STEP 6: PAYMENT

Package Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_ + A La Carte Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_ = Grand Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

OR Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Billing City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Apply deferred 2022  
Conference Registration.

## STEP 7: SUBMIT REGISTRATION FORM & PAYMENT TO:

**Contact:** Heather Russo  
 (863) 688-9413 | heather@ftga.org

**Mail Registration:**  
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## STUDY SYNOPSIS:

# Evaluation of Herbicides for Postemergent Control of Goosegrass in Bermudagrass Turf

By Dr. Pawel Petelewicz, Patrick McLoughlin, Karen E. Williams and Dr. Marco Schiavon, University of Florida/IFAS

Goosegrass [*Eleusine indica* (L.) Gaertn.] is not only a difficult-to-control grassy weed in many cropping systems. A 2021 survey conducted in cooperation with the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association (Florida GCSA) has shown it is the #1 most common and troublesome weed issue in Florida turf as indicated by 69% of respondents.

But why is it considered such a challenging weed? There are multiple reasons for this. Firstly, it is simply because of how common it is. It can easily establish and survive under close-mowing conditions—not only those of a home lawn, athletic field or a fairway but even under extremely low heights of cut of golf course putting greens. In situations where proper growth conditions for turfgrass are not provided, goosegrass, due to its vigorous growth and adaptation to adverse environments, can easily outcompete either thin or weak turf stands. It is especially frequently observed in areas exposed to heavy traffic as goosegrass can grow exceptionally well in compacted soils—both dry and wet. It is thus considered an indicator weed of such conditions. Moreover, goosegrass is a warm-season grassy species—just like most of the Florida turfgrasses. Therefore, selective control of this weed is difficult from the very beginning, as herbicides, which could potentially be used for that purpose, can also result in damage to the desired sward. Furthermore, although it generally behaves as a summer annual in tropical climates such as Florida's, goosegrass can easily survive as a short-lived perennial—especially in the southern part of the state, which results in a nearly 12-month growing season. This not only results in a presence of mature plants at the onset of the season but also reduces the efficacy of preemergence control measures. And its infestation capacity is remarkable! An individual plant can produce up to 140,000 seeds. Therefore, the employment of postemergence control options is practically a necessity when managing this weed.

Historically, monosodium methanearsonate (MSMA) and diclofop were considered reliable options available to turfgrass managers aiming for a successful selective postemergence control of goosegrass, although those are no longer available to them in Florida. Currently, the widest range of herbicides used for that purpose is available in bermudagrass (*Cynodon* Rich.) and comprises of five different modes of action. Specific active ingredients (AIs) used include foramsulfuron (e.g., Revolver, one of AIs in Tribute Total), metribuzin (e.g., Sencor 75%), simazine (e.g., Princep Liquid), sulfentrazone (e.g., Dismiss), topramezone (e.g., Pylex) and mesotrione (e.g., Tenacity), but also—recently reported to provide successful goosegrass control—

a popular broadleaf herbicide pre-mix of carfentrazone + 2,4-D + MCPP + dicamba (i.e., SpeedZone). Unfortunately, the eradication of goosegrass becomes more challenging when plants are allowed to mature and start to tiller and/or to develop seedheads. Some of the aforementioned herbicides may show reduced efficacy in such cases. Moreover, none of the discussed solutions are entirely safe for desired turf. This may, of course, lead to further limitations in available control options depending on situation and subsequently pose an elevated risk for resistance evolution in goosegrass, which already has been documented for this weed in various crops including turf. Therefore, the identification of efficacious and non-turf injurious postemergence goosegrass control remains crucial.

In the summer of 2021, a study was conducted at the Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center (FLREC) in Davie, Florida, to evaluate the ability of various herbicide rates and formulations to control mature goosegrass in 'Tifway 419' bermudagrass maintained as a golf course fairway. A total of 34 treatments containing commercially available and experimental herbicides were tested alone or in combination against a nontreated control as described in Table 1. Herbicide treatments were applied once or two times (2-wks or 6-wks time intervals) starting June 2021, using a

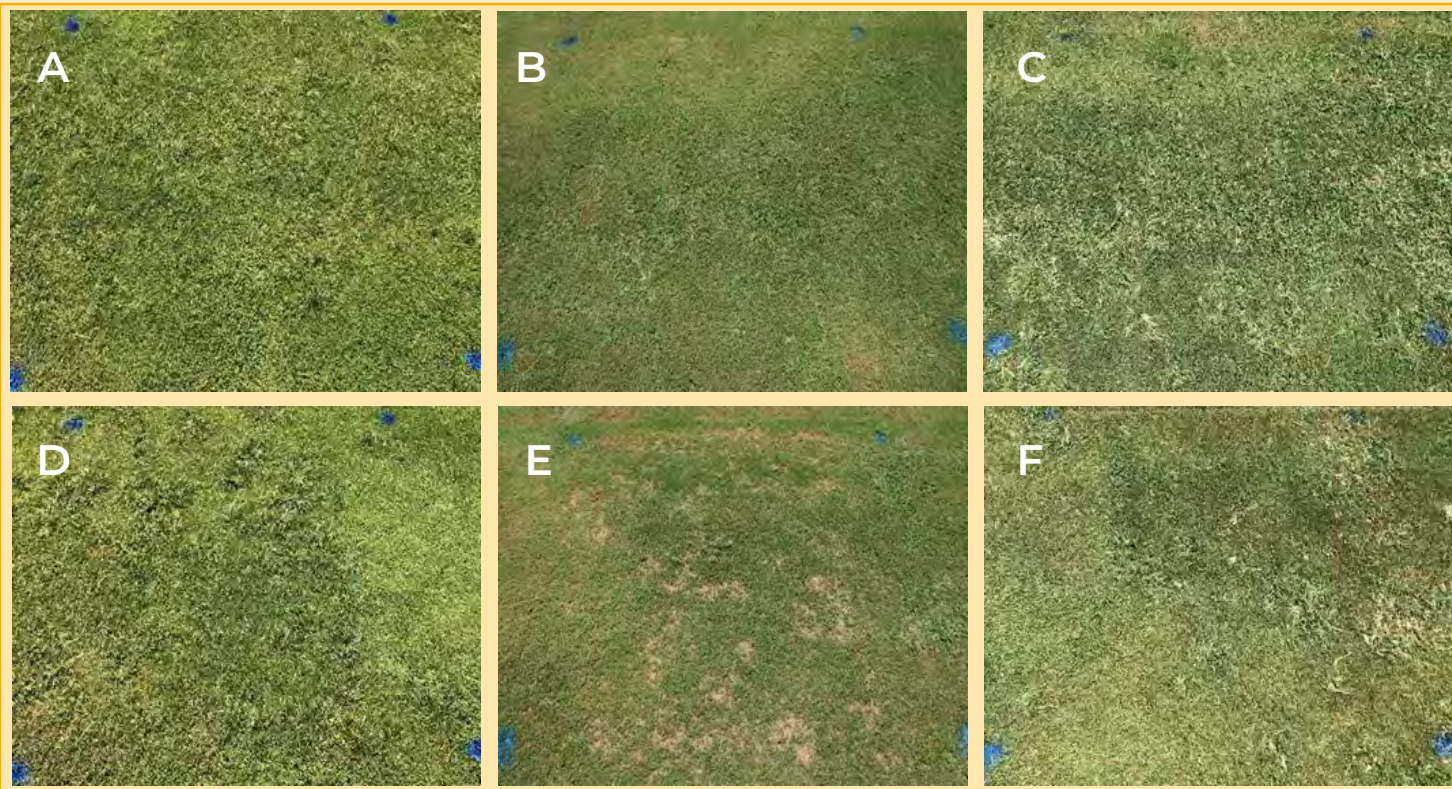
(Continued on page 16)



Fig. 1. Effects of chosen (best performing) herbicide treatments on the postemergence control of goosegrass (0-100%, y-axis) in bermudagrass turf. 2021. FLREC, Davie, Florida.

| No. | Treatment        | Active ingredient | HRAC & WSSA Code | Company          | Rate (oz/A) | Post-app. irrigation | No. of apps. | Freq. (wks) | Timing |
|-----|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|----------------------|--------------|-------------|--------|
| 1   | Nontreated       |                   | -                |                  |             | -                    | -            |             |        |
| 2   | Nontreated + IRR |                   | -                |                  |             | 0.25"                | -            |             |        |
| 3   | UF 01            |                   | classified       |                  |             | -                    | 2            | 6           | AC     |
| 4   | UF 01 + IRR      |                   | classified       |                  |             | 0.25"                | 2            | 6           | AC     |
| 5   | UF 01            |                   | classified       |                  |             | -                    | 2            | 6           | AC     |
| 6   | UF 01 + IRR      |                   | classified       |                  |             | 0.25"                | 2            | 6           | AC     |
| 7   | Sencor 75%       | metribuzin        | 5                | Envu             | 4.0         | -                    | 2            | 2           | AB     |
| 8   | Sencor 75% + IRR | metribuzin        | 5                | Envu             | 4.0         | 0.25"                | 2            | 2           | AB     |
| 9   | Pylex            | topramezone       | 27               | BASF             | 0.25        | -                    | 2            | 2           | AB     |
| 10  | Pylex + IRR      | topramezone       | 27               | BASF             | 0.25        | 0.25"                | 2            | 2           | AB     |
| 11  | Pylex            | topramezone       | 27               | BASF             | 0.5         | -                    | 1            | -           | A      |
| 12  | Pylex + IRR      | topramezone       | 27               | BASF             | 0.5         | 0.25"                | 1            | -           | A      |
| 13  | Sencor 75%       | metribuzin        | 5                | Envu             | 4.0         | -                    | 2            | 2           | AB     |
|     | + Pylex          | topramezone       | 27               | BASF             | 0.15        |                      |              |             | AB     |
| 14  | Sencor 75%       | metribuzin        | 5                | Envu             | 4.0         | 0.25"                | 2            | 2           | AB     |
|     | + Pylex + IRR    | topramezone       | 27               | BASF             | 0.15        |                      |              |             | AB     |
| 15  | Sencor 75%       | metribuzin        | 5                | Envu             | 4.0         | -                    | 2            | 2           | AB     |
|     | + Pylex          | topramezone       | 27               | BASF             | 0.25        |                      |              |             | AB     |
| 16  | Sencor 75%       | metribuzin        | 5                | Envu             | 4.0         | 0.25"                | 2            | 2           | AB     |
|     | + Pylex + IRR    | topramezone       | 27               | BASF             | 0.25        |                      |              |             | AB     |
| 17  | Target 6.6       | MSMA              | 0                | Luxembourg-Pamol | 40.0        | -                    | 2            | 2           | AB     |
| 18  | Revolver         | foramsulfuron     | 2                | Envu             | 17.4        | -                    | 2            | 2           | AB     |
| 19  | Revolver         | foramsulfuron     | 2                | Envu             | 26.2        | -                    | 2            | 2           | AB     |
| 20  | Sencor 75%       | metribuzin        | 5                | Envu             | 6.0         | -                    | 2            | 2           | AB     |
| 21  | Sencor 75%       | metribuzin        | 5                | Envu             | 8.0         | -                    | 2            | 2           | AB     |
| 22  | Aquesta 4F       | sulfentrazone     | 14               | Atticus          | 8.0         | -                    | 2            | 2           | A      |
|     |                  |                   |                  |                  | 4.0         | -                    | 2            | 2           | B      |
| 23  | Tribute Total    | thiencarbazon     | 2                | Envu             | 3.2         | -                    | 2            | 2           | AB     |
|     |                  | + foramsulfuron   | 2                |                  |             |                      |              |             |        |
|     |                  | + halosulfuron    | 2                |                  |             |                      |              |             |        |
| 24  | Tenacity         | mesotrione        | 27               | Syngenta         | 5.0         | -                    | 2            | 2           | AB     |
| 25  | Princep Liquid   | simazine          | 5                | Syngenta         | 15.0        | -                    | 2            | 2           | AB     |
| 26  | Manuscript       | pinoxaden         | 1                | Syngenta         | 42.0        | -                    | 2            | 2           | AB     |
| 27  | Target 6.6       | MSMA              | 0                | Luxembourg-Pamol | 40.0        | -                    | 2            | 2           | AB     |
|     | + Sencor 75%     | metribuzin        | 5                | Envu             | 6.0         | -                    | 2            | 2           | AB     |
| 28  | Revolver         | foramsulfuron     | 2                | Envu             | 17.4        | -                    | 2            | 2           | AB     |
|     | + Aquesta 4F     | sulfentrazone     | 14               | Atticus          | 8.0         |                      |              |             | A      |
|     |                  |                   |                  |                  | 4.0         |                      |              |             | B      |
| 29  | Revolver         | foramsulfuron     | 2                | Envu             | 26.2        | -                    | 2            | 2           | AB     |
|     | + Aquesta 4F     | sulfentrazone     | 14               | Atticus          | 8.0         |                      |              |             | A      |
|     |                  |                   |                  |                  | 4.0         |                      |              |             | B      |
| 30  | Revolver         | foramsulfuron     | 2                | Envu             | 17.4        | -                    | 2            | 2           | AB     |
|     | + Sencor 75%     | metribuzin        | 5                | Envu             | 6.0         |                      |              |             |        |
| 31  | Revolver         | foramsulfuron     | 2                | Envu             | 26.2        | -                    | 2            | 2           | AB     |
|     | + Sencor 75%     | metribuzin        | 5                | Envu             | 6.0         |                      |              |             |        |
| 32  | Sencor 75%       | metribuzin        | 5                | Envu             | 6.0         | -                    | 2            | 2           | AB     |
|     | + Aquesta 4F     | sulfentrazone     | 14               | Atticus          | 8.0         |                      |              |             | A      |
|     |                  |                   |                  |                  | 4.0         |                      |              |             | B      |
| 33  | Sencor 75%       | metribuzin        | 5                | Envu             | 8.0         | -                    | 2            | 2           | AB     |
|     | + Aquesta 4F     | sulfentrazone     | 14               | Atticus          | 8.0         |                      |              |             | A      |
|     |                  |                   |                  |                  | 4.0         |                      |              |             | B      |
| 34  | Tenacity         | mesotrione        | 27               | Syngenta         | 5.0         | -                    | 2            | 2           | AB     |
|     | + Princep Liquid | simazine          | 5                | Syngenta         | 15.0        |                      |              |             |        |
| 35  | Tenacity         | mesotrione        | 27               | Syngenta         | 5.0         | -                    | 2            | 2           | AB     |
|     | + Princep Liquid | simazine          | 5                | Syngenta         | 15.0        |                      |              |             |        |
|     | + Manuscript     | pinoxaden         | 1                | Syngenta         | 42.0        |                      |              |             |        |

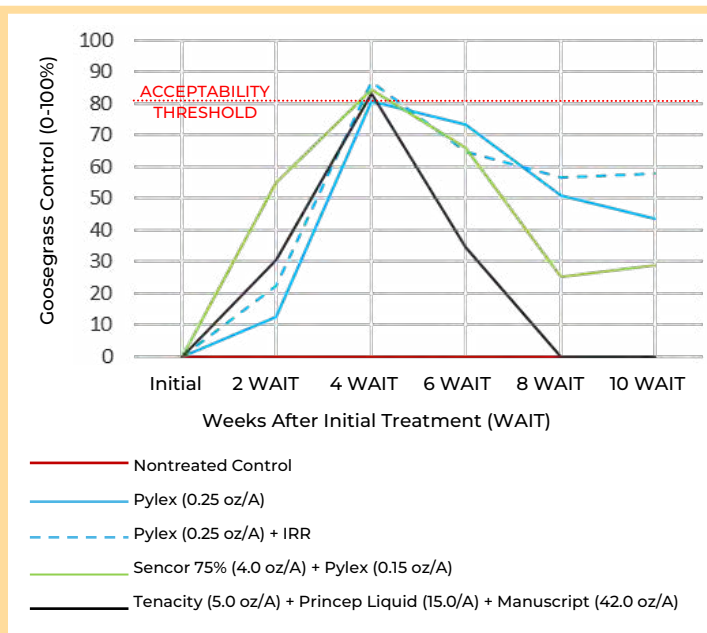
**Table 1.** Herbicide treatments and application timings (A – June 11, B – June 23, C - July 23) used in the study to evaluate goosegrass control in bermudagrass 'Tifway 419' maintained as a golf course fairway or athletic field. Non-ionic surfactant (NIS; Induce by Helena) at 0.25% v/v, methylated seed oil (MSO; MSO Concentrate by Loveland) at 0.5% v/v and or Adigor (Syngenta) at 0.5% v/v were added to the tank mix as prescribed by the herbicide treatment. FLREC, Davie, Florida. 2021.



**Fig. 2.** Goosegrass cover in nontreated control (A, B, C) and Sencor 75% at 4.0 oz/A + Pylex at 0.25 oz/A (D, E, F) treated plots at study initiation on June 10 (A,D), at 4 weeks after initial treatment (WAIT) on July 9 (B, E), and at 10 WAIT on August 20 (C, F), 2021. FLREC, Davie, Florida. Photos by Dr. Pawel Petelewicz.

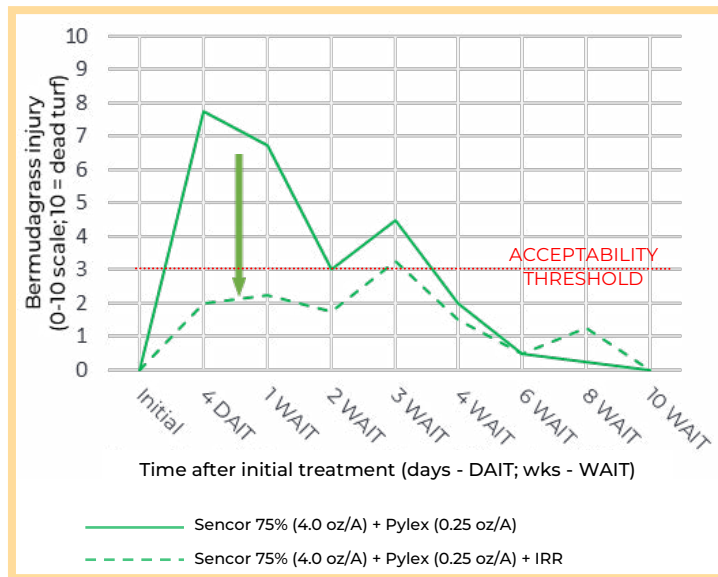
CO<sub>2</sub>-powered backpack sprayer calibrated to deliver 1 gallon/1000 ft<sup>2</sup> of spray solution. Additionally, post-herbicide irrigation was applied to chosen treatments as described in Table 1 to evaluate its impact on turfgrass safety and efficacy against goosegrass. This irrigation treatment was applied by hand using a hose calibrated to deliver known amount of water immediately following herbicide application. The remaining treatments received no irrigation and/or no pre-cipitation (rain) for at least six hours following the application. Plots were visually evaluated for goosegrass cover (0–100%), which was used to express control—percentage of ratio between initial cover and cover at the time of evaluation (0–100%), and for turfgrass injury (i.e., phytotoxicity; 0–10, 0 = no damage, 3 = maximum acceptable injury level, 10 = dead turfgrass) on either weekly or biweekly schedule (from June 10 to August 20, 2021).

The best performing treatments, i.e., the ones that provided the highest level of goosegrass control were Target 6.6 at 40.0 oz/A + Sencor 75% at 6.0 oz/A and Sencor 75% at 4.0 oz/A + Pylex at 0.25 oz/A tank-mixes when not watered-in (Figs. 1 and 2). It should be noted that Target 6.6 (MSMA) was used as a historical reference only and is currently not labeled for use in Florida turfgrass. These treatments provided control greater than the acceptable threshold of 80% at 6 weeks after initial treatment (WAIT) but declined to ~ 65% at 10 WAIT. Other treatments resulting in >80% control at 4 WAIT were Pylex at 0.25 oz/A regardless of irrigation treatment, and non-irrigated tank



**Fig. 3.** Effects of chosen (peaking at above 80% control at 4 weeks after initial treatment) herbicide treatments on the postemergence control of goosegrass (0–100%, y-axis) in bermudagrass turf. 2021. FLREC, Davie, Florida.

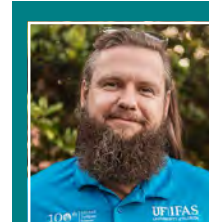




above the acceptability threshold for two to three weeks after final application. In general, immediate post-application irrigation reduced phytotoxicity of treatments which it was employed with, however, not always to the extent where such injury could be considered acceptable (Fig. 4). Unfortunately, none of the treatments provided satisfactory goosegrass control at the termination of the study at 10 WAIT. This is presumably due to the maturity of the goosegrass at the time of study initiation and the absence of preemergence treatments both prior and during the study.

More research is needed to identify other efficacious treatments in various Florida environments as well as at different goosegrass development stages. A full and detailed report on this study is available online via Turfgrass Weed Science Lab website: <https://agronomy.ifas.ufl.edu/turfgrass-weed-science>.

This article first appeared in the Turfgrass Producers of Florida's *Clippings* newsletter and is reprinted here with permission.



*Dr. Pawel Petelewicz is an Assistant Professor of Weed Science whose work focuses on weed management in turfgrass. After joining the faculty last year, he immediately set to work researching the state's tough weed issues, and we're delighted to share his work. Dr. Petelewicz is based in the Agronomy Department in Gainesville and can be reached by emailing [petelewicz.pawel@ufl.edu](mailto:petelewicz.pawel@ufl.edu) or at 352-392-7512.*

**Fig. 4.** Effect of immediate post-herbicide application irrigation (IRR; dashed lines) on bermudagrass injury (0-10 scale, y-axis) with tank-mix of Sencor 75% at 4.0 oz/A + Pylex at 0.25 oz/A, 2021. FLREC, Davie, Florida.

mixes of Sencor 75% at 4.0 oz/A + Pylex at 0.15 oz/A and Tenacity at 5.0 oz/A + Princep Liquid 15.0 oz/A + Manuscript 42.0 oz/A (Fig. 3). However, as shown on the example of Sencor 75% at 4.0 oz/A + Pylex at 0.25 oz/A (Fig. 4), these treatments (except for watered-in Pylex at 0.25 oz/A), resulted in rapid and severe phytotoxicity to bermudagrass, persisting

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# “Why do you **Aerify Greens** when they are in **Great Condition?”**?

By Darren, J. Davis, CGCS

## **A common question in the golf industry is, “Why do you aerify greens when they are in great condition?”**

The quick answer is that weather plays a large role in recovery. Therefore, performing aeration when the weather favors turf growth leads to quicker recovery. Aeration is also stressful on turf, so performing the task when the turf is in “great” condition is also vital.

We are fortunate in Southwest Florida that this coincides with the time of year the majority of the membership has left for the summer. At Olde Florida, we perform various types of aeration throughout the summer; however, we are most aggressive in the early to mid-summer. One reason is the days are the longest. The summer solstice (longest day of the year) was June 21.

We also want to perform aggressive aerification earlier in the summer to avoid cloudy, rainy days. The weather is obviously unpredictable, but in general, as summer in Southwest Florida progresses, we see an increase in cloudy weather. Clouds and rain reduce sunlight, and sunlight is essential to warm season turfgrass recovery. Historically we also have a greater likelihood of severe weather from tropical systems or hurricanes as the summer progresses. The negative impacts from severe storms could delay or cancel scheduled procedures, or at a minimum, slow the turf recovery.

## **Another question that is sometimes asked in the golf industry is simply, “WHY do you aerate?”**

At its most basic, aeration helps keep soil “healthy,” and healthy soil plays a significant role in healthy turfgrass.

Agronomy textbooks teach that “healthy soil” consists of:

- 45% solids
- 25% air
- 25% water
- 5% organic material

In more detail, when done in conjunction with sand topdressing core aeration:

- Reduces compaction
- Dilutes organic matter
- Improves infiltration
- Increases oxygen exchange
- Reduces dry spots

It’s also important to vary the depths of aerification practices to prevent the development of compacted layers in the soil profile. At Olde Florida, we utilize two processes to achieve this: the Drill and Fill and the DryJect aerification methods. Both have advantages, and most years we will contract one of each.

With the **Drill and Fill** method, soil is brought to the surface and the holes are filled with kiln-dried sand. The diameter and length of the bits are customized to each property. At Olde Florida, we utilize a 1" bit, set to a depth



Practice Green—7 Days after Drill and Fill Aerification.



Topdressing—Practice Green.



Core Aeration—Practice Green.

of 10". The top 7–8" of our greens profile is the zone where we have organic buildup from 31 years of growth.

**Traditional Core Aeration**

The Dryject method has a quicker recovery time than the Drill and Fill, but the depth can be variable depending on soil conditions. Also, no organic material is removed with the DryJect. At the end of summer, after numerous cultivations, we can achieve a sand depth of approximately 7" with the DryJect *Maximus* process.

Our goal has been, and will always remain, to perform the more aggressive cultural practices during one of the five, week-long closures to reduce the impact to our summer players.

**Alternate Aeration Methods**

When conditions do not favor quick recovery, we also utilize several less aggressive aeration processes. These include: "Ninja tine," "needle tine" and water injection aeration. The Ninja tine is fairly new to the industry, but it is gaining popularity due to its ability to pull a consistent small core, consequently, removing organic matter with minimal disruption. The needle tine and water injection aeration methods do not "pull a core," so no organic material is removed. These practices have no impact on the surface, and most players never know the procedure has been performed.

**The Benefits Far Outweigh the Inconvenience**

Aerification is often seen as a negative by golfers who are only thinking about their round shortly after the process, but the year-round and long-term benefits of aeration far outweigh the short-term inconvenience. Not only does aeration enable a better year-round playing surface, but it also helps to insure a longer lifespan for the greens. The greens at Olde Florida are more than 30 years old, and we have no plans to rebuild them. The consistent aeration and other cultural practices have saved the club millions of dollars by not requiring renovation.



Drill and Fill Channel.



Drill and Fill—Practice Green.



The Hydroject—8 Green.



*Darren J. Davis, CGCS, has been the Golf Course Superintendent at Olde Florida Golf Club in Naples, Florida since September 1992. He is a Past President of the FTGA, the Florida GCSA, the Everglades GCSA and currently serves on the board of the Musser International Turfgrass Foundation. Find him on X (Twitter), Facebook, Instagram and TikTok at @darrendavisgcs.*



DryJect—Practice Green.



# 5 Fragrant Plants for Florida Landscapes

Photo credit: Derek Ramsey.

By **Dr. Bonnie Wells**, Commercial Horticulture Agent, UF/IFAS Extension Brevard County

If you are like me, life has seemed more stressful than usual lately, and you have been trying to notice and appreciate more of the little things in life that effortlessly bring you a moment of peace and joy. I have been stopping more to smell the roses, so to speak, or I have been stopping to smell the frangipani (a summer favorite), *literally!*

One of the little things in life that can entice my senses and unexpectedly uplift me to my happy place is the fragrance of certain plants. It has always been astonishing to me that some plant cultivars' flowers, bark, leaves and fruit contain compounds that become fragrant with the sun's heat, when crushed, or some only emit their aroma at nighttime. Once inhaled, it is understood that these scent molecules travel directly from the olfactory nerves in your nose to your brain and quickly reach the emotional center. From there, the scent can relax you or take you back to a special place in your memory. It is like music for your nose.

As the commercial horticulture agent for UF/IFAS Extension Brevard, I was contacted by a local golf course superintendent updating the clubhouse landscape, specifically looking for plant recommendations to incorporate to create a fragrant surrounding for visitors. Roses, gardenias, jasmines, lavender, lemongrass and honeysuckle are some plants that instantly came to my mind when challenged for fragrant plant recommendations.

But, knowing that honeysuckle and some jasmines are invasive and wondering if lavender, a historically Mediterranean species, can even grow well here in hot, sticky Florida, I had to dig deeper into the literature to find safe and appropriate plant recommendations.

I performed a literature review, including Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ and UF/IFAS's Assessment of Non-Native Plants, to present these following five recommendations for a fragrant Florida landscape.



Frangipani, *Plumeria pudica*, a profuse bloomer has leaves in the shape of a candlestick. Flowers are white with a yellow center.  
Photo credit: Dr. Bonnie Wells, UF/IFAS.



**2** Star jasmine is a nice addition to Florida landscapes with its climbing habit and prolific white spring blooms.  
Photo credit: UF/IFAS.



**3** Lavender is a perfect choice for fragrant Florida landscapes in North and Central Florida.  
Photo credit: Beth Bolles, UF/IFAS.

## 1. PLUMERIA (*Plumeria spp.*)

Plumerias, or frangipanis, are well-known for their intensely fragrant, spiral-shaped blooms that appear at branch tips from June through November. The tree has an unusual growth pattern, with deciduous leaves that cluster on upright branches and form an umbrella shape with age. Unless frost damage protection measures are applied, plumerias are generally limited to Southern Florida (Zone 10B and beyond). However, protected regions of Central Florida and container plantings that can be moved indoors during colder temperatures in North Florida are also suitable. More than 12 plumeria species are available in white, yellow, pink and red colors. Plumerias can reach 12 to 24 feet high and wide.

## 2. STAR JASMINE (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*)

Star jasmine, traditionally known as Confederate jasmine, is an intoxicatingly fragrant, evergreen vine grown across Florida

and the Southeast. The small, showy, star-shaped flowers pack a massive punch of sweet fragrance that can easily perfume an entire landscape. The fast-growing, twining vine can be grown on trellises and arbors. Star jasmine can be planted throughout Florida in well-drained areas and produce the most flowers in full sun, though partial sun is tolerated. Vines can grow 20 feet or more if left unpruned. Pinching back the vine tips will encourage branching and create fuller plants.

## 3. LAVENDER (*Lavandula angustifolia*)

You will be hard-pressed to find a more calming scent than a lavender plant's delicate, sweet aroma. Mixed with simultaneous floral, herbal and woody scents, lavender is an ideal pick for a fragrant landscape. The buds produce a pleasant smell while the plant has an attractive gray foliage. Flowers come in diverse colors, ranging from traditional purple to pink, blue, and white. Lavender grows as a perennial, ideally in cooler



4 Angel's trumpet has large blooms that are especially fragrant on warm, summer evenings. Photo credit: James DeMers.

regions (Zones 5B–8) and struggles to thrive in the summer heat. However, several cultivars have been developed to better withstand Florida's hot, humid weather. "Phenomenal" is one example of a lavender cultivar that is better adapted for the warmer Zone 9 of Central Florida. Lavender flourishes in well-drained soils in full sun and can reach a height and width of 2–3 feet.

#### 4. ANGEL'S TRUMPET

(*Brugmansia arborea*)

On a warm summer night in Central and Southern Florida, you may be lucky to catch the intoxicating lemony scent of the spectacular angel's trumpet. When in bloom, this shrub is a showstopper with its large, trumpet-shaped flowers that dangle downward and emit their sweet-smelling, powerful fragrance, especially at night. Flowers range from white, yellow, orange, red or peach and bloom from summer to fall (Zones 9B–11). They can be planted in sun or shade, preferably in rich soil. The angel's trumpet is susceptible to frost but will usually grow back. Keep in mind that all parts of this plant are poisonous. It can reach 10 feet tall.



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## 5. MAGNOLIAS


(*Magnolia spp.*)

Nothing smells as Southern as a magnolia tree blooms' sweet and spicy floral punch. With a citrusy lemon edge and slightly earthy musk undertones, the Southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) is probably the most well-known magnolia in Florida. However, there are about 80 species of these trees, both deciduous and evergreen, so finding the right one for your landscape should be easy. Some have pink or even red flowers. All grow best in moist, well-drained, slightly acidic soils with morning sun and afternoon shade.

A magnolia to consider other than the Southern magnolia is the deciduous saucer magnolia (*Magnolia soulangiana*), which flowers pink in the spring before sprouting new leaves. The sweetbay magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*) has leaves with a silvery underside and creamy white, lemon-scented flowers that are more petite than the Southern magnolias. Magnolia trees can reach a height of 40–60 feet and grow throughout Florida in Zones 5–10. 🌱



**5** Sweetbay magnolia is a graceful Southern native with creamy white, intensely fragrant flowers that thrives throughout Florida. Photo credit: jalynn on Pixabay.



*Commercial Horticulture Extension Agent*  
**Dr. Bonnie Wells** is a Doctor of Plant Medicine in Brevard County, based in Cocoa, Florida. She is a lover of all things insects and fungi. Follow her Twitter feed at <https://twitter.com/BrevardPlantDr>.

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## FTGA AND CENTRAL FLORIDA STMA DAY OF SERVICE:

# Revitalization of Conway Little League Facilities



Photos courtesy of Eric Dixon and Heather Russo.

By Eric Dixon and Lance Tibbetts

Conway, Florida—On Friday, August 4, the Florida Turfgrass Association and the Central Florida Sports Turf Management Association, in partnership with Conway Little League, came together for a remarkable volunteer service project. This collaborative effort aimed to rejuvenate the facilities at Conway Little League, located in the heart of Conway, Florida.

**Conway Little League:** Founded in 1964, Conway Little League has been a vital part of the community for generations. Currently it is serving 310 children in various Little League divisions. Notably, in 1999, they hosted the Little League World Series, with Conway Little League ultimately emerging victorious.

Conway Little League Board Member Justin Bauknight expressed his enthusiasm about the project: “This project might have saved the league. It provided hope and brought a new sense of pride and engagement from all involved in the league. It increased the participation of Little League volunteers and brought back some long-time supporters with renewed engagement.”

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROJECT:

The collaborative effort led to the following significant improvements:

**Irrigation Audit and Repairs:** Ensuring the fields receive proper irrigation for optimal turf health.

**Field Enhancements:** Five fields were expertly edged, and infield clay was added to four fields, providing a safer and more enjoyable playing surface.

**Bleacher Restoration:** Bleachers were painted and repaired to enhance the spectator experience.

**Fence Line Care:** The project included meticulous string-trimming of fence lines.

**Fire Ant Control:** Top choice insecticide was applied to tackle fire ant issues, improving safety and comfort for players and spectators alike.







### COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS:

This endeavor wouldn't have been possible without the generous support of community partners:

**Troy Poulin and Duncan Stewart-Orris, SiteOne Landscape,** contributed Turface clay and irrigation supplies.

**Jimmy Evans, P.P.M. Sports Turf,** generously donated essential equipment.

**Bill Cohn, Massey Services and crew,** not only provided equipment but also dispatched irrigation specialists and turf technician staff to ensure the projects' success.

**Jason Frank and Dave Nowakowski, Harrell's LLC,** made a valuable donation of fertilizer to enhance the turf's vitality.

**Sean McNerney, Howard Fertilizer & Chemical Company,** provided Top Choice for fire ant control, ensuring a safer playing environment.

**Pioneer Athletics** donated field marking paint, adding the finishing touches to the revitalized fields.

**Conway Little League** provided lunch for the volunteers.

The Florida Turfgrass Association and the Central Florida Sports Field Management Association played pivotal roles in orchestrating this remarkable initiative.

Thank you to the following volunteers for making the project a success:

**FTGA**—Lance Tibbetts, Jason Frank, Pat Marsh, Eric Dixon, Heather Russo, Dave Robinson, Bryce Gibson, Jimmy Evans, Bill Cohn, Cordel Deitzig.

**CFSTMA**—Chris Lessig (President), Maryanne Baglos and crew from *ESPN Wide World of Sports*.

**UF/IFAS Extension Volusia**—Brittany Council-Morton, Karen Stauderman.

**Massey Services**—Bill Cohn and crew.

**Conway Little League Families.**

The success of this project underscores the power of collaboration and volunteerism in enhancing local sports and recreation facilities. Beyond revitalizing the physical infrastructure, it has breathed new life into Conway Little League, strengthening community bonds, and inspiring engagement. 🌱





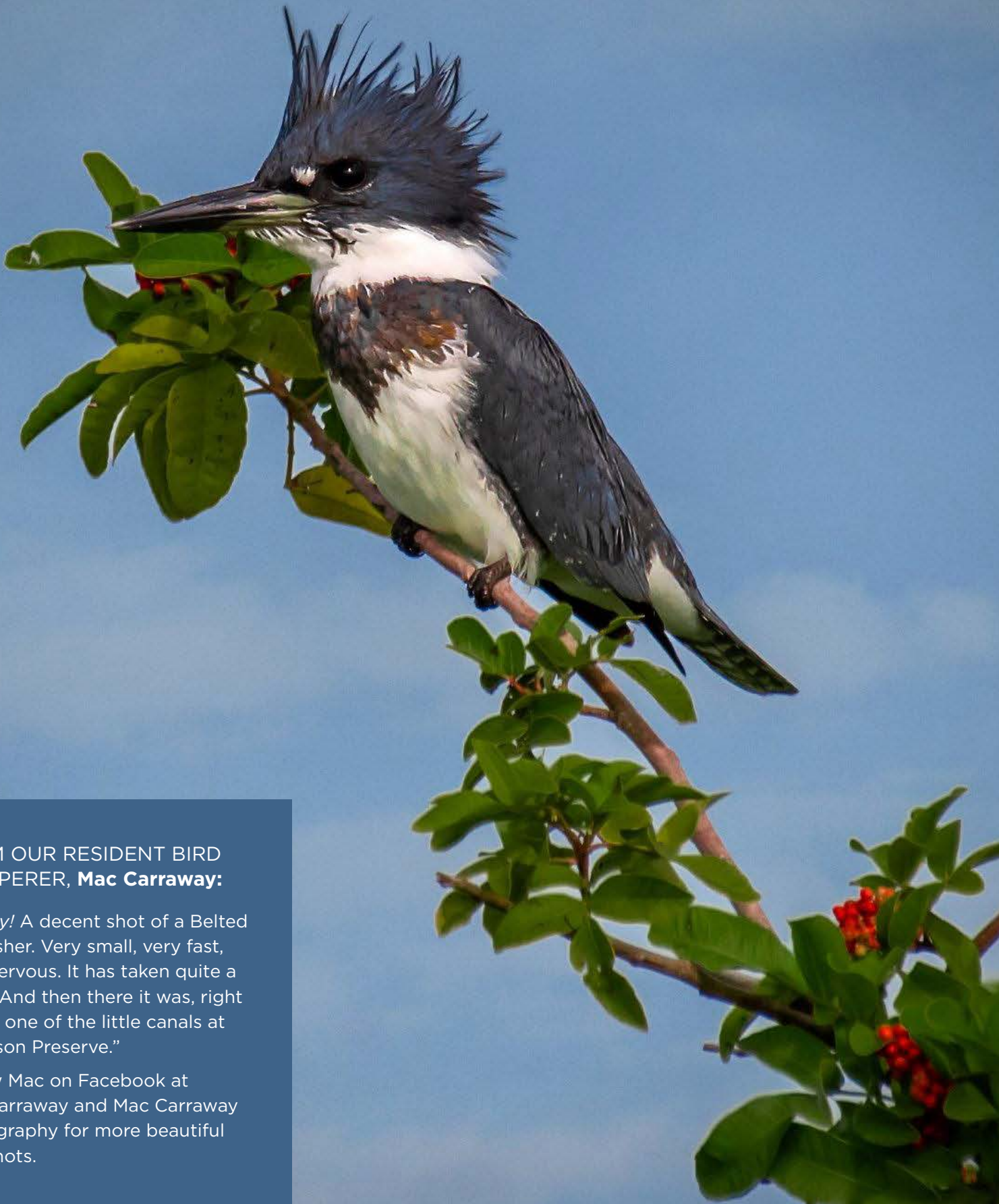
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Follow Mac on Facebook at Mac Carraway and Mac Carraway Photography for more beautiful bird shots.

MEMBER PROFILE:

# Mike Caprio



*This month, FTGA spoke with Mike Caprio, an ardent association supporter, industry advocate and social media enthusiast.*

## Q&A

**Q How did you come to the industry? Were you trained for this, or did you decide after school to pursue a profession in the industry?**

**A** I came to the turfgrass industry after working in the automotive industry. I wanted a change and brought my mechanical experience to Lawn Doctor Inc., a national lawn care franchisor that also manufactures its own patented turf equipment. I held the position of director of equipment support, and after several years, I decided I wanted to pursue a profession in the turfgrass industry.

At that time, I completed and earned my Turfgrass Certification from the University of Georgia. Shortly thereafter, I transitioned into the Operations Department at Lawn Doctor as a franchisee business coach. There I helped and coached franchisees in all areas of their business (profitability, management, agronomy support, etc.). I spent 22 years at Lawn Doctor, and in February of this year, accepted a position at Nufarm as a key account manager.

**Q What does your job entail?**

**A** As a key account manager, I'm responsible for all areas of sales and support to a key account in North America. I also collaborate with the sales, marketing, finance, supply chain departments and other teams regarding key account support, pricing, programs and logistics to fulfill the key account needs.

**Q What is most important and/or gratifying about your current job?**

**A** What's most gratifying about my job is that I work for a company that truly cares about their employees, their customers and our industry. We have an awesome team at Nufarm; they are passionate about what they do, and I'm grateful to be a part of it.

**Q What is the biggest challenge you see facing the industry, and how does your work contribute to the solution?**

**A** Unfortunately, there are several, but I feel that labor has been the biggest. Finding and keeping employees has always been a challenge but has become increasingly harder. I recommend business owners evaluate their employee value proposition (EVP). Make your company a place where candidates want to work. Make it a "destination

company.” Also, business owners should look at their overall compensation plans. Pay is important but shouldn’t be the only thing business owners bring to the table when trying to find qualified applicants. They should consider health insurance, PTO or other forms of compensation.

**Q How long have you been an FTGA member, and why did you join?**

**A** I’ve been a member of FTGA for three years. I joined shortly after moving to Florida. I joined the FTGA because it’s a valuable association that provides support and training. It also provides me with the opportunity to network and build relationships with fellow people that work in our great industry.

**Q Can you share anything interesting about your presidency or board membership, if applicable?**

**A** Unfortunately, I served a short time on the board when I was employed by Lawn Doctor. I stepped down upon accepting the position at Nufarm because my colleague Chris Brown was already serving on the board. As rank-and-file member, I still find ways to support the association and the industry.

**Q Why would you encourage others to get involved?**

**A** Being a member of the FTGA has many advantages. It provides you with the opportunity to build relationships, share ideas and make great friends. As a member, you have access to ongoing training and other valuable resources. It also enables you to have a voice with legislators and to

help make a difference with regulations that have an impact on your business. And lastly, there are opportunities to volunteer and give back to our industry and your community.

**Q Are you active in advocacy? If so, please share what you’ve experienced.**

**A** I’m an advocate for our industry and believe that we need to control the narrative. It’s important that we tell our story and not let others outside of our industry craft it and tell their version. We can do that by getting out ahead of the story.

In addition to being involved locally, I’m a member of The National Association of Landscape Professionals, served on the Government Affairs Committee and currently serve on Lawn Care Committee. Before moving to Florida, I served for five years on the New Jersey Green Industry Council (NJGIC) Board of Directors. The NJGIC mission is identical to FTGA’s mission and vision.

**Q Any personal stories of interest that you care to share; for example, were you raised in Florida and, if not, how did you come here?**

**A** I was born and raised in New Jersey. My wife and I decided to move to Florida during the pandemic. Florida was part of my territory, and I wasn’t allowed to travel to Florida while living in New Jersey.

**Q Do you have any interesting hobbies?**

**A** I enjoy saltwater fishing and making good barbecue. I just recently took up golf, which I think is funny because I’ve been working in this industry for 22 years and never had an interest in it until we moved to Florida.



Mike and Pat Jones at the GCSAA event in Orlando.



Hosting NuFarm’s table at 2023 GROW! Conference led by Marty Grunder in San Antonio, Texas.



Mike and Corporate Communications Manager at STIHL Inc. Roger Phelps at 2023 GROW! Conference.



Nufarm Key Accounts team meeting with SiteOne Key Account team in Sarasota. SiteOne Senior Director of National Accounts Tom "TK" Kundrat (back row, fifth from left) with his team along with Mike Caprio (front row, green shirt), Jamie Heydinger Nufarm Lawn Care Segment Lead, and Rod Marquardt, National LCO & Key Accounts.

**Q Any other interesting tidbits you would care to share?**

**A** I'm married to my wife Jan for seventeen years, and we have four boys between us. Our oldest lives in Miami, and the other three live in New Jersey. I'm licensed in turf and pest control in New Jersey, New York, Maryland, Tennessee and Florida. And yes, it's hard keeping up with CEUs, and that's one of the benefits of association membership—easy access to CEUs.

**Q Do you have any advice for new members in the industry?**

**A** Advocacy starts at the grassroots level "no pun intended." Don't be afraid to get involved. Attend events, reach out to other members, ask questions, take advantage of member discounts and programs and volunteer for committee work. Don't just pay your dues. The more you get involved, the more you'll get out of your membership. I promise you, if you do this, it will be very rewarding, and you'll have tools at your disposal to advance your career and spread the word through advocacy to ensure the viability of our industry. ♻️



Visit to SiteOne branch in North Carolina inside one of their golf stores on wheels.



(L-R) Mike, Greg Roman, and Torrey Bowman.



(L-R) Rod Marquardt and Mike.



Mike and Jan.



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## UNsung HERO SPOTLIGHT



### Spotlight on Brittany Council-Morton

Brittany A. Council-Morton serves as the urban horticulture Extension agent and Master Gardener coordinator for Volusia County. Her duties include developing effective relationships with stakeholders, clientele, volunteers, community partners and fellow agents. In addition to her educational responsibilities,

Brittany also manages a team of 120 Master Gardener volunteers, administers the Green Industries Best Management Practices Training to incarcerated individuals and landscape professionals and educates homeowners on Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles.

Brittany received her B.S. degree in Animal Science from Virginia State University in 2010 and later obtained her M.S. degree in Agriculture Education from North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University in 2012.

According to Brittany, “My favorite part of the job is the joy of learning something new. Each day is unique and rewarding, especially when I can assist a client or volunteer.”

#### Telling Her Story:

“My exposure to extension began at Virginia State University assisting Dr. Marcus Comer and Dr. Pamela Buchanan with programs at the L. Douglas Wilder Building. I’ve always had a deep love for working with animals and was able to cultivate that passion working at Randolph Farm with Dr. Stephen Wildeus with goats, sheep and alpacas. During this time, I also cultivated a deeper love for horticulture as I often had the chance to work in the greenhouses on the research farm.

“My exposure and interest in Extension flourished, and I eventually landed an internship with Virginia Cooperative Extension’s Greenville/Emporia office where I later became the first African American female agriculture Extension agent in the state of Virginia in 2011. My program focus was assisting producers with their traditional row-crop operations of soybeans, corn, tobacco, peanuts, cotton, beef cattle, vegetable crops and introducing new crops such as sorghum to their rotational plan.



“I later transitioned to the City of Richmond Extension office where I served as a multi-role agent focusing on urban agriculture and 4-H youth development. I collaborated with colleagues such as Twandra Lomax-Brown, Dr. Crystal Tyler-Mackey, Dr. Reverend Morris Henderson, Dr. Leonard Githinji and more to create the first USDA urban farm known as 31st Street Baptist Church Farm to combat food insecurities in Richmond, Virginia. As a 4-H agent,

I spread love for agriculture to inner city youth and partnered with community partners to provide tours of Virginia State University’s Agricultural Farm and program and assist with promoting a statewide agricultural commodities tour of Virginia.”

### Brittany Finds a New Home and the University of Florida

In 2021, Brittany moved to Florida to begin a new extension career with the University of Florida. She has made a significant impact in her county thus far and is looking forward to becoming a household name. She has received an achievement award from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA) and holds several leadership roles as a result of her hard work.

Brittany says, “I can be caught sharing my passion for gardening and fishing with my husband and family. When asked, what is next in my extension career, I reply, ‘To continue learning and helping others the best I can.’”



## FTGA NEWS

### Cross-Industry Meeting

Recently, association representatives from every sector of the turfgrass industry associations assembled for a cross-industry meeting hosted by Massey Services.

Participating organizations included: Central Florida Sports Turf Association, EREF, Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association, Florida Fertilizer Association, Florida Nursery Growers and Landscape Association, Florida Pest Management Association, Florida Turfgrass Association, South Florida Sports Turf Association and University of Florida IFAS.

FTGA President Jason Frank says, “It was great to connect as an industry, and I think we all realized we have a lot of the same issues and concerns. This was a major step in helping us come together to unite in our efforts to promote not only the turfgrass industry in Florida but also the green industry as a whole. We look forward to continuing to work together to get more accomplished.”





## Thank You

We would like to pass along our wholehearted thanks to John Mascaro at Turf-Tec International for serving as our winter guest editor and to Dr. Bonnie Wells at Brevard Extension Service, University of Florida for serving as our summer guest editor. Both individuals take time away from their “real” work to help us bring you the best *Florida Turf Digest* possible. We appreciate their many contributions to FTGA over the years.

## On Demand CEU Webinars

If you need FDACS, FNGLA or GCSAA CEUs, the FTGA has two recorded webinars for you from the CEU Round Up. If you have already participated in Session 1 and Session 2, you cannot gain extra CEUs points.

Each **recorded** webinar is three hours long and **FREE** to members and \$60 for non-members. After you register for the recorded webinar, the FTGA office will email you a link to watch the webinar. Register online: [https://www.ftga.org/events/event\\_list.asp](https://www.ftga.org/events/event_list.asp).

## Help With Social Media

X (formerly Twitter) has become overrun with paid ads and posts from people whom we do not follow nor who follow us. It is nearly impossible to find content that we should repost. We do not have the resources to devote solely to X. You can help us by tagging @floridatga in your posts if you would like us to “like” or repost your information.

Also, please add editor@ftga.org to your company mail lists. That way, we won’t miss any of your interesting content to pass along.

## UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA UPDATES



### Dr. Bonnie Wells Scores a Trifecta

Dr. Bonnie Wells took home three national awards this year from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA) conference in Des Moines: feature story, bound book and search for excellence in environmental quality and natural resources! One of the awards was for “Fairy Rings Demystified,” which was written for the summer 2022 *Florida Turf Digest* issue.



## UF/IFAS Study Leads to Milestone Advances in Understanding Lethal Bronzing of Palm Trees



Brian Bahder collects samples in Florida of the planthopper. Photo courtesy UF/IFAS photography.

A University of Florida scientist at the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) has identified a key chemical associated with lethal bronzing-infected palm trees. The study’s findings, published in MDPI Plants, are a landmark in plant disease research that could

save nurseries and consumers from future economic loss of diseased palm trees and potentially other plant diseases.

View the article: <https://tinyurl.com/kvvv9rxe>.

## PEOPLE



### Howard Fertilizer and Chemical Appoints Jonathan Smith as Business Development Manager

Earlier this summer, Howard Fertilizer and Chemical Company Inc. appointed Jonathan Smith to the position of business development manager. In his new role, Smith will be responsible for driving company growth in all sectors throughout the southeast. Smith possesses more than 20 years of experience in business development, marketing, and sales management in the turf and agricultural chemical marketplace. He began his career at BASF, rising through the ranks to the position of Senior Business Representative II/Innovation Specialist II. Smith then served as Market Development Manager for Bayer. Immediately prior to joining the Howard Fertilizer team, Jonathan held management positions with smaller businesses in the industry while leading and guiding sales teams to success.

## PRODUCTS & PROMOTIONS



### PBI-Gordon Unveils New Arkon™ Herbicide Liquid

PBI-Gordon Corporation has announced that Arkon Herbicide Liquid has been approved for use in most U.S. states (excluding California and Alaska). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) previously approved federal registration for the herbicide.

Arkon is labeled for use on established cool- and warm-season turfgrass species across a wide variety of use sites: residential and commercial lawns, golf course greens, fairways and roughs, sports facilities and sod farms. It will be available for sale nationwide in 2024 and will be included in PBI-Gordon’s Green Dividends Early Order Program in fall 2023.

Learn more: <https://www.pbigordonturf.com/products/herbicides/selective-herbicides/arkon-herbicide-liquid/>.

**Resilia™ Root Health Solution From Envu Is Now Available**

**envu™** In August, Envu released Resilia™ root health solution, the newest innovation from the Envu team. It is now available for purchase in registered states. Root health is key to maintaining pristine turf.

Many turf pathogens lurking below the surface, including those responsible for causing Pythium root rot, fairy ring, summer patch and nematode damage, can destroy greens and fairways in short order, laying waste to so much hard work and investment. Meanwhile, the dynamic nature of a root system makes it difficult for golf course superintendents to diagnose and manage the many diseases and pests damaging their roots.

Resilia™ root health solution protects roots from destructive soilborne pathogens for up to 21 days and most up to 28 days, allowing the opportunity for a more robust root system.

Learn more: <https://tinyurl.com/ywkwtsau>.

**NEWS YOU CAN USE**

**Are You Ready for Hurricane Season?**

Hurricane season is upon us, and it really gets going this month. It's time to check your preparations and update as necessary. The



state of Florida has a comprehensive site to keep you up to date on any storms via links to alerts from the National Hurricane Center, how to prepare your home (which also applies to businesses) to a list of items for your preparation kit and more. People tend to forget that ATMs will not function without electricity, so stash some cash.


<https://www.stateofflorida.com/articles/hurricane-preparedness-guide/>.

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