



# TURFNEWS

The Official Publication of the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation | **Spring/Summer 2023**



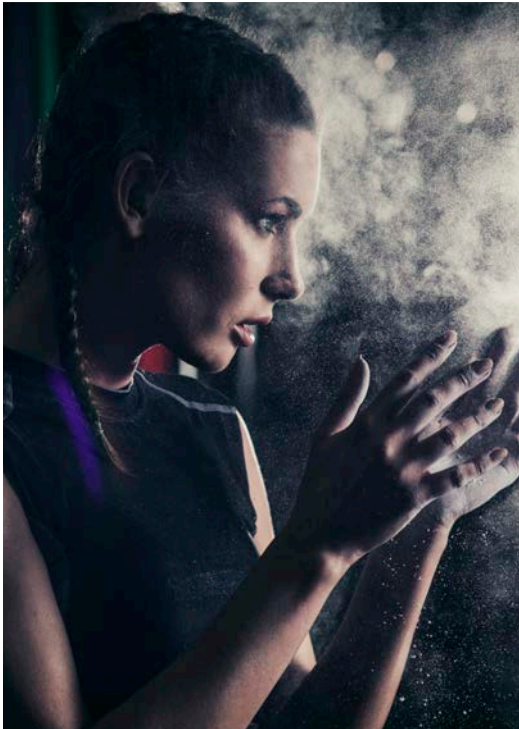
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## President's Message

Tom Grunkemeyer

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As we all have experienced first-hand, it has been a tough spring on all of our industry sectors, including lawn care, golf, and sports turf, to gain traction in the rush to get the growing season started off right, fighting a lot of rain and cold temperatures. Here's hoping for a tranquil summer filled with sunshine, timely rain, and maybe even a little time away from work for some rest and relaxation.

I am humbled and grateful to be your President of the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation in 2023. Much like those who have come before me and the many who will come after me, this organization has fueled my professional growth, grown my network of fantastic people, and has been the one voice that represents all sectors of the turfgrass industry in the state of Ohio.

As we enter our busiest time of year, think about how you got to where you are in your career today. Whether you are just getting your start or a seasoned pro on the cusp of retirement, your path wasn't forged by spending every minute of your professional life at work. It has taken and will continue to take many hours of building relationships, lifelong learning, and the ability to commit to being the best turfgrass professional you can be. There are a multitude of ways you can grow your skills, knowledge and contacts with OTF events this year.

Our popular Field Days series is back in full swing this summer through the generous support of our Partners. Here is a quick summary of what you can expect:

- Our Sports Field Management Council kicks things off on June 27 in Columbus for a field day at the Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center with a tour at The Ohio State University. Golf and Lawn Care folks are cordially invited to enjoy the camaraderie with their fellow members.
- In conjunction with the OSU Turf Team, an educational field day will be held August 1 at the OSU Turf Research Facility at Waterman Farm in Columbus and August 7 at The Ohio State University CFAES, ATI in Wooster.
- Once again, the Ohio Lawn Care Association is graciously extending invitations and member pricing to Ohio Turfgrass Foundation members for their Lawn Care Field Day to be held on August 2 at the OSU Turf Research Facility at Waterman Farm in Columbus and August 7 at The Ohio State University CFAES, ATI in Wooster.

Our organization is built to give back to all sectors of the industry. Whether you are in lawn care, golf, or sports turf, the impact your membership or partnership has on the industry is immense and far-reaching.

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## Executive Director's Message

Mark Bennett, CAE, IOM

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We are well into 2023 and the weather is starting to warm up (or at least be consistently warmer). The Ohio Turfgrass Foundation (OTF) has been busy planning educational events and advocating for your interests in Columbus.

In February, OTF participated with other members of Ohio PLANT (Pesticide, Landscape, Agriculture, Nursery and Turfgrass professionals) in Green Advocacy Day at the Ohio Statehouse. We have followed that up with additional legislative visits to talk to members of the General Assembly about funding in the state's budget bill for turfgrass research to improve water quality.

OTF works in conjunction with the Ohio Lawn Care Association (OLCA) on the Ohio Turfgrass Political Action Committee. This allows OTF and OLCA members to make donations to legislative candidates and amplify the voice of the turfgrass, lawn care, sports turf, and golf course maintenance professionals at the Statehouse. You can give online at <https://ohioturfgrass.org/page/PACDonations> and add your name to the growing list of donors. This ensures your ability to effectively service your customers with the appropriate fertilizers and pesticides. In the past year, we successfully lobbied for a pesticide pre-exemption to prevent local municipalities from establishing their own regulations outside of the statutes and rules set by the State of Ohio and the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

OTF is also participating in Ohio State's Scarlet & Gray Advantage Program to fund student scholarships. OTF has pledged \$125,000 which will be matched by Ohio State and provide scholarships annually in perpetuity for students studying turfgrass science. It's a great investment into the future of the turfgrass industry and I hope you will personally support OTF's efforts. A big thanks to the Ohio Lawn Care Association and Regional Chapters of the Golf Course Superintendent Associations which have pledged toward the \$125,000 goal.

In February, OTF hosted nearly 150 turfgrass professionals at the Grounds & Greens event. The OTF Sports Field Management Council will hold a field day on OSU's campus on June 27, the OTF Field Day is set for August 1 at OSU's Turfgrass Research Center and the OTF Scholarship Golf Outing will be October 2 in Dublin, Ohio. We hope to see you at these events!

And finally, I'd invite you to make a donation to the Ohio Turfgrass Research Trust (OTRT), the charitable arm of the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation. Since its inception, OTF and OTRT provided more than \$2.5 million to The Ohio State University's turfgrass facility, faculty, research and operations. Additionally, OTF and OTRT provided turfgrass management students with more than \$650,000 in scholarships. Your support of OTF through your membership and your attendance at the Conference & Show make an impact on the future of the industry. Simply visit the OTF website and click on Make A Donation under the OTRT tab.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at 614-610-4624 or by email at [mark@bennett-management-llc.com](mailto:mark@bennett-management-llc.com).



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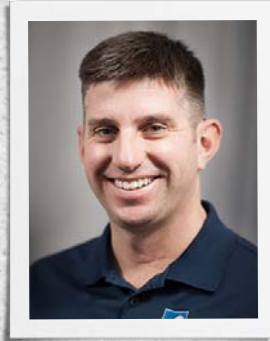
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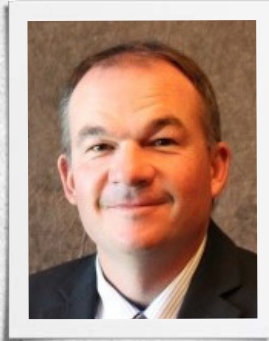
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## Meet the Team

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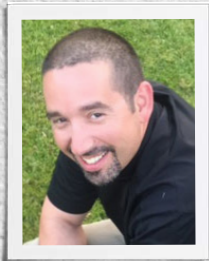
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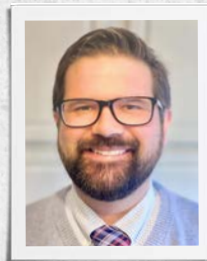
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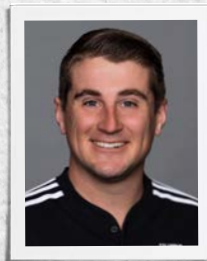
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# Sports Field Management News

Britt Barry, Facilities Manager, Warren County Convention & Visitors Bureau

The Ohio Sports Field Management Council has been busy getting field days planned and ready for the 2023 year. We are excited to announce our first field day will be June 27 at the Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center. We will host education in the morning, including some for ODA pesticide license credit, followed by lunch and a tour of Ohio State Varsity Athletic Facilities. Check your email for a save the date or learn more information as it becomes available on the OTF website. The Ohio Sports Field Management Council wishes you good luck to start your spring seasons, and we hope to see you in Columbus June 27!

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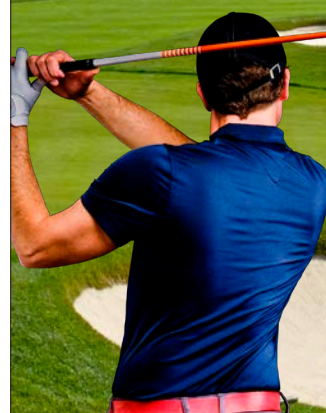
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# Legislative Update

The Batchelder Company

It is officially Spring here in Ohio which means baseball season has begun and lawmakers in Columbus are eager to 'shake off the rust' on their backswing before their summer golf fundraisers. In Columbus, legislators are busy introducing bills and vetting the Governor's introduced version of the biennium state operating budget known as H.B. 33. After taking January and early February to organize committees and the session schedule, the House has been working since mid-February to hear testimony and ask questions about the Governor's proposed budget in the Finance committee chaired by Representative Jay Edwards and four other subcommittees focused on various subjects such as Agriculture, Infrastructure, Public Safety, Education, and Health and Human Services. The House is on schedule to add amendments and vote on the budget by late-April before sending it to the Senate for that chamber's own consideration. Lawmakers have a constitutional deadline of June 25 to pass a budget and send it to the Governor's desk or else they will need to pass a continuing resolution to extend the deadline.

In other news, former Ohio House Speaker Larry Householder was convicted on federal racketeering charges recently along with lobbyist Matt Borges. The two were found guilty by a jury for conspiring to pass a law that would bailout the creditors of two nuclear power plants in Ohio in exchange for political campaign contributions by First Energy. Both men are awaiting sentencing that could possibly amount to 20 years in federal prison.

Your legislative advocates have been holding meetings to garner support for an amendment to the budget that would allocate \$1,000,000 over the next two fiscal years for turfgrass and water quality research studies. We are grateful to Representative Rodney Creech for his continuous support of our industry. Our goal is to get some funding for this amendment included in the House version of the budget so we can then go to the Senate and ask them to either increase our funding to the desired level or maintain our funding if we get the amount requested.

The legislature will break during early April for the Easter and Passover holidays but we will continue communicating with lawmakers about our amendment until the budget is passed out of the House. We hope you all have a successful start to your Spring season and thank you for your continued trust in our team to serve your interests at the Statehouse.

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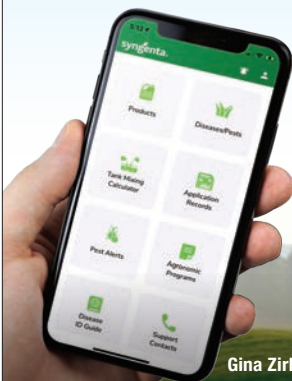
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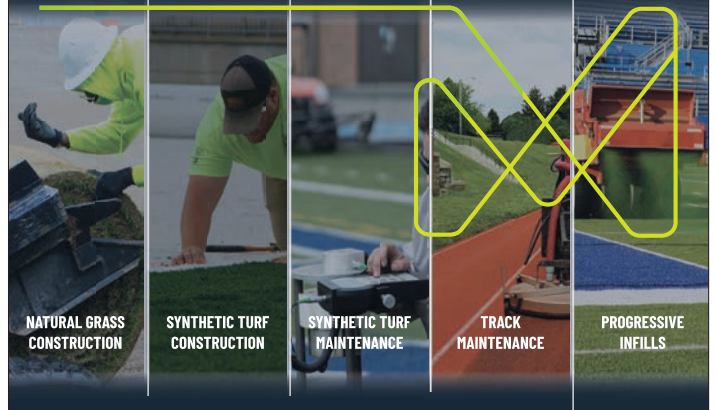
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# Controlling Crabgrass in Cool Season Turfgrass

David Gardner, Dept. of Horticulture and Crop Science, The Ohio State University

Crabgrass can be a serious challenge for the turf manager. Though some products have come to market that have made our jobs easier, you still must pay attention to recommendations for proper timing and use to have the best chance of success.

## **If turfgrass density is good but there has been a history of crabgrass**

If your turfgrass stand is adequate and you do not plan to overseed this spring then a good plan is to apply a preemergence herbicide containing pendimethalin, prodiamine or dithiopyr (Table 1). Timing is important. To optimize control of crabgrass, pendimethalin and prodiamine should be applied around April 15 in the Midwest, or when the shrub Forsythia is in bloom. Dithiopyr when sprayed has some post activity so long as the crabgrass is no more than 1-2 leaf so it can be applied in early May. The advantage of applying later is that it increases the chance that you won't have late season weed breakthrough.

On the other hand, if you are also trying to control knotweed preemergence, then remember that knotweed germinates very early and so a preemergence herbicide would need to go out sometime in Mid-March and you may need some postemergence control for late germinating weeds. Bensulide is also labelled for preemergence control of crabgrass but tends to be used more on golf course putting greens. Oxadiazon, which became a restricted use pesticide in 2022, is registered but tends to be used more for control of goosegrass.

## **If turfgrass is thin and going to require some overseeding this spring**

Most of the herbicides labelled for turf use should not be used during seeding or overseeding. This is because the postemergence broadleaf herbicides may injure seedlings until they are mature enough to have been mowed 3 times and the preemergence herbicides may prevent germination for up to 16 weeks after application. On areas that you plan to seed or overseed the recommendation is to use mesotrione for weed control. To maximize your chance of success with springtime seeding you should apply the seed, then make an application of mesotrione according to label directions, then apply a mulch and begin irrigation. I get the question a lot about the bleaching that you may see on the germinating turf seedlings. The turfgrass will germinate through the herbicide and they may be bleached but will green up and grow out of the herbicidal effect. Most of the weeds that germinate will also be bleached but they will not grow out of the effect and are then controlled.

Timing of this seeding operation can have a large impact on success. Even with mesotrione, turfgrass can sometimes have difficulty competing with germinating annual weeds. This will not work for everyone, but if your schedule allows for it and if you have irrigation then your chances of getting good weed free establishment increase significantly if you wait to seed until after June 1.

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Of course, you must be able to irrigate many times per day if attempting to establish in the summer months. But the weed competition is far lower compared to when seeding is done in early spring.

Mesotrione is an interesting herbicide. It has both pre- and post-emergence activity. However, in mature turf we tend to recommend it only for postemergence control. The reason for this is that in our testing we found that when applied to mature turf we did not get the same level of preemergence weed control that we see when we apply mesotrione to bare soil. Other herbicides, such as ethofumesate, have been found to degrade much more rapidly in turfgrass compared to when applied to bare soil and so the thinking is that mesotrione perhaps behaves similarly.

Around the time that Tenacity was introduced in 2004 we also tested mesotrione combined with prodiamine for preemergence weed control. This combination improved both efficacy and duration of control. However, the difference was not consistent nor large enough to justify the increased cost compared to prodiamine alone. Thus, unless used on bare soil at establishment, we tend to use mesotrione postemergence to control crabgrass.

### Postemergence Crabgrass Control During Summer

Crabgrass can be controlled postemergence with fenoxaprop, quinclorac, mesotrione or topramezone (Table 2). When to apply the herbicide for optimal postemergence control is complicated and somewhat dependent on product used. For example, fenoxaprop tends to be very effective on leaf stage crabgrass but its control of tillering crabgrass is variable. I have seen applications of fenoxaprop to 5-tiller crabgrass that were very effective and others where it barely injured the crabgrass. The conventional wisdom is that fenoxaprop is most effective on leaf-stage or early tillering crabgrass. Quinclorac is effective on leaf stage crabgrass and late stage (>5 tiller) crabgrass but can be frustratingly inconsistent when crabgrass is between 2 and 5 tillers. Topramezone is the most recent grassy herbicide to be marketed for use in cool season turfgrass. It seems the most flexible when it comes to the stage of crabgrass at application. Our research has found that a mix of ½ label rate of either mesotrione or topramezone combined with ½ label rate of quinclorac is very effective. That said, and this applies to whichever herbicide you use, if you make a postemergence application before crabgrass seed has stopped germinating (typically late June or early July), in most cases you will get a few weeks of suppression followed by a new population of crabgrass from seed. For this reason, lasting control of crabgrass tends to occur with applications made after July 1.

**Table 1. Preemergence herbicides for crabgrass control in cool season turfgrass**

WSSA/HRAC (former HRAC) codes and mode of action	Chemical Class	Common Name	Example Trade Name
0(Z) Unknown	Phosphorodithioate	Bensulide	Betasan, Bensusmec, Lescosan
3(K1) Mitosis inhibitors	Dinitroaniline, Dinitroaniline, Dinitroaniline, Pyridine	Benefin, Pendimethalin, Prodi-amine, Dithiopyr	Balan, LESCO Benefin 2.5G, Pendulum, Pre-M, Barricade, Dimension
14(E) Protoporphyrinogen Oxidase (PPO or Protox) inhibitor	Oxadiazole	Oxadiazon	Chipco Ronstar

**Table 2. Postemergence herbicides for crabgrass control in cool season turfgrass**

WSSA/HRAC (former HRAC) codes and mode of action	Chemical Class	Common Name	Example Trade Name
1(A) Acetyl CoA Carboxylase (AC-Case) Inhibitors	Aryloxyphenoxy propionate	Fenoxaprop	Acclaim
4(O) Auxin mimics	Quinoline carboxylic acid	Quinclorac	Drive
27(F2) 4-Hydroxyphenylpyruvate Dioxygenase (HPPD) Inhibitors	Benzoylpyrazole, Triketone	Topramazone, Meostrione	Pylex, Tenacity

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# Growth Regulators and the Athletic Turf Industry

David Gardner and Ed Nangle, Dept. of Horticulture and Crop Science,  
The Ohio State University

In the early 1990's, about the time that more than one plant growth regulating (PGR) compound became commercially available in turf, there was an explosion in efforts to evaluate these compounds for possible uses, particularly in the golf industry. In the context of managing sports fields a change in approach to include plant growth regulators is a more recent development. Previously there was a focus on recovery and the production of just green growth, so that the game is played on grass and not on bare soil. Given that mind set, while the idea of using a PGR on a golf course seemed good, the idea of using a plant growth regulator on a sports field seemed a bit counter-intuitive. It would be sort of like putting a governor on your engine before entering your car in a race. Currently, many high end athletic field managers are incorporating growth regulators into their field management programs, some with very good results. And, the interest in using growth regulators for sports turf continues to be on the rise. Thus the focus of this article is on the various plant growth regulators, what we know about their benefits and side effects, how they are being used, and what we don't yet know about them.

## Growth Regulators used in Turfgrass

Simply put, a plant growth regulator is a chemical substance that is designed to alter either the growth rate or growth habit of a plant. There are several available. A simple way to classify them is based on how they work. Some are called Type 1 regulators and some are called Type 2 regulators. But, a more recent classification system

places them in 5 classes (Classes A-E). This article will refer to them using both systems.

The Type 1 growth regulators (also called Class C: Mitotic inhibitors) are older materials that act to limit plant growth by inhibiting cell division (fewer cells = smaller plant). Amidochlor (Limit), Mefluidide (Embark) and maleic hydrazide are in this class. These are good compounds for inhibiting seed head formation. However, the phytotoxicity, which is primarily in the form of yellowing, can be an issue. Because of this, they are often used in lower maintenance situations, such as roadsides. A use of mefluidide in sports turf was to extend the life of lines painted on an athletic field. It can be mixed with the paint per label directions and the resulting growth reduction causes a delay in time before the painted leaves are removed by mowing. Embark has been withdrawn from the market however due to regulation changes and the other two products are used in limited fashion across all facets of the turfgrass industry.

The Type 2 regulators act to inhibit the synthesis of gibberellin (GA). Gibberellins are plant hormones that cause cells to elongate. Thus a Type 2 regulator does not inhibit cell division but acts to limit growth by preventing the cells from growing as large as they otherwise might (smaller cells = smaller plant). There are several Type 2 regulators on the market.

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These include flurprimidol and paclobutrazol (also called Class B: Early GA synthesis blockers) and trinexapac-ethyl and prohexadione calcium (also called a Class A: Late GA synthesis blockers). These products do not suppress seed head development but do suppress vertical growth for longer periods of time compared to Type 1 products. These regulators do not tend to suppress lateral growth (tillers, rhizomes and other all-important structures for sports fields) as much as do Type 1 regulators. There are also some combination products available. Legacy, for example, is a combination of trinexapac-ethyl and flurprimidol. There is some sentiment also indicating that indeed some products may aid with lateral spread thus enhancing divot recovery time.

The most recent plant growth regulator to be registered for use in turfgrass is prohexadione calcium, marketed as Anuew. It is also considered a Class A or Type 2 PGR but has a novel mode of action compared to the other growth regulators. Among its potential advantages is that treated grass does not display a “rebound effect” when the grass comes out of regulation. Because it is new, we do not yet know much about the effects, good or bad, that use of this compound on an athletic field might have.

Hormone or hormone producing growth regulators (Class E: ethylene production enhancement PGRs) include the compound ethephon, which upon uptake by the plant produces ethylene. Ethylene is a naturally occurring hormone in the plant that functions to, among other things, synergistically with auxin. Auxin is yet another hormone that influences plant growth. In this way ethephon reduces the growth of the plant. Because of this, ethephon is also classified as a Type 2 growth regulator. Ethephon was introduced to the turf market in the mid 1990’s. It is frequently used in conjunction with trinexapac-ethyl and research work in athletic turf is limited. Other hormones that have been experimented with in turfgrass include gibberellic acid, which can improve color retention, or a combination of IBA (an auxin) and gibberellic acid. This combination can improve root growth and color retention. These, however, also have not been used much in athletic turf.

### **What are the Benefits of Using a Growth Regulator on Athletic Turf?**

When the Type 2 growth regulators came on to the market the potential benefits of using them for golf course management were easy to recognize. But, for a very long time it was assumed that they had absolutely no place in athletic turf management. As our understanding of the effects of these compounds on turfgrass improve, some argument can be made for using them on sports fields. Having said this, in some cases we have a good

understanding of the potential benefits. But, there is far less published literature on the management recommendations or effect that growth regulators have on athletic turf compared to golf turf.

The obvious and easy observation to quantify benefit is the reduction in top growth, or clipping yield by as much as 50% for a period of time. Related to this is the benefit of fewer required mowings, reduced mowing time, and reduced wear and tear on equipment. In areas of heavy wear from use and play this might not be a good thing. Thus, has not been recommended on fields that host a lot of sports during the playing season. Many of the Type 2 regulators suppress shoot growth while not significantly impacting root or rhizome/stolon growth. There is some evidence that the use of a Type 2 PGR, particularly during the off-season, might improve turf quality by increasing density and that any increase in root or rhizome growth might improve traffic tolerance. The overwhelming majority of published work on growth regulator use on athletic fields is with trinexapac-ethyl (Primo). Trinexapac-ethyl applied two weeks prior to sod harvest has been shown to increase root tensile strength 8 weeks after the sod was transplanted. However, the results were not consistent. Tiller density and root mass can be increased by 10-15% with May-July applications of trinexapac-ethyl. However, studies to examine the impact that trinexapac-ethyl has on either wear tolerance or lateral growth for turf recovery have been mixed. This probably has a lot to do with timing of application. For heavy traffic sports, better results have been seen if trinexapac-ethyl is used in the off season. Spring and summer applications improve traffic tolerance for fall sports due to the increased root mass and tillering.

Faster establishment when overseeding is also a potential benefit. This is because the energy that would go into leaf production may be redirected into root and/or rhizome production. But studies specifically examining the effect of trinexapac-ethyl on seedling quality and seedling establishment in perennial ryegrass showed no effect. Furthermore, others have reported that using a reduced rate of growth regulator applied more frequently in conjunction with nitrogen can reduce establishment time and provide denser cover. We do know that different species react differently to trinexapac-ethyl and in some cases there are differences in how different cultivars react (particularly those of Kentucky bluegrass).

Growth regulators have also been researched for use as pre-stress conditioners. The idea is that application(s) prior to heavy wear or stress periods may enhance tolerance and/or enhance recovery of the turf after the stress period.

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Trinexapac-ethyl, because of the way that it works, causes 4 weeks of growth suppression followed by 2 weeks of faster growth compared to untreated turf. The reason for this is that trinexapac-ethyl prevents synthesis of active GA, but the intermediate continues to pool in the cell. After the regulator wears off, all of the intermediate converts to active GA, thus causing a flush of growth. If timed correctly (4-6 weeks prior to start of play), the use of this growth regulator can cause the growth of your grass to be “pushed” into the season of play.

Positive results have been seen when using trinexapac-ethyl with winter turf covers. Specifically, it allows the tarp to be pulled off later in the spring without a flush of growth. At OSU, studies showed that an August or September application of trinexapac-ethyl resulted in significantly faster spring green-up without excessive growth and this can be very useful for early spring sports such as soccer, baseball, and lacrosse.

Many studies have been done that show trinexapac-ethyl, after a brief period of yellowing (phytotoxicity after application) can improve the visual quality of turfgrass. Since the cells do not elongate as much there ends up being more chlorophyll per unit area, causing the grass to appear darker green. This can be especially useful for sports such as baseball and soccer. Studies also show that quality can be enhanced on turfgrass that is being managed under artificial shade, as would be found in a stadium. Many of these studies, however, lack the confounding factor of assessing the effect the regulator had on wear tolerance. In addition, research has shown that the benefit of improving shade tolerance can vary by turfgrass species and shade type (Figure 1).

Paclobutrazol (Trimmit) is labelled for use in sports fields. However, the label cautions not to use the product on athletic fields under heavy traffic where maximum growth potential of turf is desired. Stressed Kentucky bluegrass is particularly sensitive to paclobutrazol. This regulator and flurprimidol (Cutless) are labelled for the suppression of annual bluegrass by weakening it thus making it less competitive with the other grasses. These PGRs are typically used on golf courses as part of a program to reduce annual bluegrass. Since annual bluegrass is a big problem on athletic fields this seems like a potential use. However, trinexapac-ethyl does not appear to affect *Poa annua* populations and the growth regulators that do (mefluidide, flurprimidol and paclobutrazol) do not produce the same desirable effects on the athletic turf that trinexapac-ethyl does. Also, on golf courses, these PGRs change the competition dynamics so that creeping bentgrass (which spreads by stolons) becomes

more competitive with annual bluegrass. They do not necessarily make the grasses we use as athletic turf in northern parts of the country more competitive against annual bluegrass. Perhaps the best strategy if choosing to try these PGRs is to be aware of how much *Poa* you have so that you can quantify the effect (good or bad) and use these PGR's during the off-season in conjunction with a ryegrass overseeding program.

### Is a Growth Regulator Right for Your Field?

Some work has been done to examine how to use growth regulators on athletic fields. But we do not yet have consistent or reliable management recommendations for every sport/grass/management level combination (Figure 2). When deciding if the use of a growth regulator may be appropriate for your fields and management situation, you should proceed with caution. First and foremost is to read and understand the label. Some growth regulators have specific turf species for which they are registered and species for which negative results have been observed are left off the label. Some of the products can be used on shorter height of cut turfgrass, while others cannot. Certain growth regulators are labelled for use as a part of a seeding or overseeding program. There are differences among the products in the lag time prior to regulation of the grass, the duration of regulation, and after effects. In addition, certain products can cause yellowing of certain turf species.

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**Figure 1.** Growth regulators affect different species of grass in unique ways, particularly when the grass is already under stress. Some work has suggested that growth regulators can enhance tolerance of grass growing under artificial shade, but proceed with caution when first using a growth regulator if your turf is under shade or any other stress.



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For all of the work that has been done with growth regulators in turfgrass, we still have many questions about how to use them on athletic fields. For example, are the current label rates and application schedules adequate or would sports field managers be better served by applying more often with lower rates of product? There are questions about appropriate application timing. If you are applying in the fall, should applications cease prior to frost? If a field is regulated at what point prior to the season of play should you stop applications? While 4-6 weeks prior to the season of play is a generic guideline, we don't know the impact of different timings. For that matter, depending on the sport, maybe the PGR can and should be used in season. At Crew Stadium, home of the Columbus Crew MLS team, the field manager has been applying low rates of trinexapac-ethyl every two weeks during the course of the summer time. Some yellowing of the turf occurs, but an application of iron and fertilizer counteracts this effect. And, Crew stadium has arguably one of the best natural grass fields in all of Major League Soccer.

We have also seen undesirable effects when a growth regulator is applied to stressed turf. When in doubt, or if using for the first time, it's always best to test a small area or an area adjacent to the field, or at least leave an untreated area so you can quantify the differences the PGR causes. While some evidence exists that certain growth regulators can increase the stress tolerance of certain turfgrass, they should not be applied to already stressed turfgrass, as would occur in the heat of the summer or if battling a disease or insect infestation. Note that there are differences in application rates for different turf species and sites. Generally speaking, most athletic field managers are using the lower rates and applying more frequently as this provides more consistent regulation over time. You should also pay attention to whether the label recommends irrigation following application (as with Class B regulators that are root absorbed) or to allow the foliage to dry prior to irrigating if the regulator is absorbed through the leaves (Class A regulators such as trinexapac-ethyl). Further to this gain awareness of the growing degree day system which calculates a model based on average daily temperature and can offer guidance on timing applications. This has been used heavily in the golf course industry and will expand in use into the sports turf industry as understanding increases on the timing of applications with research.



**Figure 2.** Research at Ohio State University and others are assessing the effects of growth regulators on the wear tolerance and recuperative potential of athletic turf. We know that there are some positive effects and some negative effects. If using a growth regulator for the first time, experiment with a small area of your field. Photo Credit: Pam Sherratt

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# Welcome New Board Member

Jordan Schmidt



Jordan is a 2014 Graduate of The Ohio State University with a BS in Agriculture – Turfgrass Science. He currently works at Quality Yard and Home Maintenance for the last 5 years as Lawn Care division manager and Sales account manager. Prior to working at Quality, Jordan was Assistant Superintendent at Oakhurst Country Club. In addition, Mr. Schmidt is an ISA Certified Arborist and a OCNT Certified Master Technician.

Originally from Pleasant Hill in Miami County, Ohio, he currently lives in Heath, Ohio with wife Annie and their 2 girls, Grace and Allie. Interesting fact: Prior to attending Ohio State, Jordan taught Middle/High School and coached the basketball team! Welcome to the OTF Board Jordan.

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OTF committed this past year to donating \$125,000 to student scholarships at Ohio State. The University, in turn, pledged to match our donation for a grand total of \$250,000 which will be gifted as turfgrass scholarships on an annual basis for decades to come.

We are planning to make that pledge whole this year and have scholarships available by the Conference & Show this December. This is in addition to the nearly \$4 million OTF has given to support research and scholarships.

To all of our members and partners, a sincere thank you. We simply could not fulfill our mission without your support, attendance, and volunteer efforts. Our history is rich and our impact is plainly evident but, it cannot continue without your support and for that, we are all profoundly grateful. I wish you all the very best in navigating these next few busy months.

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## BWC News from Sedgwick

### Spring Safety

Here we are in 2023 and the first day of spring has come and gone. This is a great time for us all to leave the cold weather behind and look forward to warmer weather. The hazards we face in the winter may be different than the hazards we face in the spring. If your employees are working outside this spring, they should be made aware of those dangers. Below is a list of work your employees may be performing outdoors, the hazards they may face, and tips on staying safe.

#### Outdoor power equipment

1. Be sure to wear gloves, safety goggles/glasses, sturdy shoes, pants, and any other necessary PPE.
2. Follow all the manufacturer's operation and safety guidelines and do not take short cuts. The guidelines are designed for your safety.
3. Perform a maintenance tune up on your equipment such as oil/fuel change, sparkplug, filter, etc.
4. Ensure your blades on equipment are kept sharp as this will make the job easier and lower the chances of getting injured.
5. Remember to protect your hearing. Outdoor power equipment can damage your hearing.

#### Working at heights

1. When using a ladder, inspect it for damage and be sure to use the right ladder for the job.
2. Extension ladders should extend at least 3 feet above the working platform or roof.
3. Always maintain a three-point contact and if you need to carry tools, use a tool belt.
4. Scaffolding must be built per the manufacture's specifications and by a competent person.
5. Use the appropriate fall protection when working at heights.
6. When removing material from the back of a truck, ensure the truck bed is organized to eliminate any trip hazards.

#### Outdoor hazards

1. Reduce the risk of sunburn and skin cancer by wearing long sleeves, a wide-brimmed hat and sunshades. Use sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or higher.
2. Be sure to wear insect repellent to prevent insect bites.
3. When using chemicals, be sure to follow the manufacture's recommendations. Heed all safety warnings!
4. Keep an eye on the thermometer and take precautions if it gets too hot. Don't forget to drink water or hydrating liquids.
5. Learn the warning signs of heat-related illnesses and share them with others. These include symptoms like headache, dizziness, rapid pulse, nausea and confusion.

Working outside as the weather warms up can be beneficial, mentally and physically. The warm sun, cool breeze and new blossoms are just a few benefits. But we must remember there are some hidden hazards. Be sure to take the appropriate precautions, as this will make working outdoors safer and more enjoyable!

For more information, please contact Sedgwick's Andy Sawan at 330.819.4728 or [andrew.sawan@sedgwick.com](mailto:andrew.sawan@sedgwick.com)



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