



CHIPS & PUTTS

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(front row l-r) Paul Brandon, Ron Garrison, Les Lear
(back row l-r) Ed Cimoch, Steve Chirip, T.J. Hart, Jerry Decker, Greg Boring



President's Message.....

Editor's Notes.....

And another year is in the books.....trusting it was a good one for you.

Thanks to all those that provided pictures, articles, feedback, etc for the newsletter. I truly appreciate it.

Thanks to Shaun Barry for all the pictures of our victorious MET Championship Team!!

Have a very Merry Christmas and I'll see you in the New Year!!

Brian Bachman



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CHIPS & PUTTS STAFF**EDITOR**

Brian Bachman, Genesis Turfgrass, Inc.
484-661-6105
bbachman@genesisturfgrassinc.com

Managing Editor

Melinda Wisnosky
570-388-2167
mmel500@aol.com

**PTGA Office**

309 Terrace Avenue
Harding, PA 18643
Phone/Fax: 570-388-2167

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Highlights from the Annual Met Tournament





Pennsylvania Considering "Amusement and Recreation" Sales Tax

By Chase Rogan, Mid-Atlantic Regional GCSAA Rep

Pennsylvania has a budget deficit, and the golf industry could suffer the consequences. The State's General Assembly is considering expanding sales tax to include "amusements and recreational activities." This would include – you guessed it – greens fees. Other businesses subject to the tax include, but are not limited to: amusement parks, bowling alleys, marinas, car trade-ins, personal care services (what!?), RV and camping sites and movie downloads. In most areas of the State, this tax would total six percent, with exceptions of seven percent in Allegheny County and eight percent in Philadelphia.

So, what does this mean? It means higher costs for our customers. Consequently, the Pennsylvania Golf Owners group is drafting a letter to oppose this taxation, and our PGCSA logo will be included on the letter to support this opposition. Our main argument is that the golf industry continues to struggle for participants and their discretionary income. The addition of the sales tax would make golf more expensive to the consumer and that consumer will play less often, if at all. This is something the golf industry in Pennsylvania cannot afford. Additionally, some courses are already subject to a local amusement tax and the inclusion of a state sales tax would be double taxation.



When opposing such issues, it is important for us to share our industry's positive attributes with our state legislators. For example, Pennsylvania's 663 golf courses employ approximately 30,000 individuals. Likewise, the golf industry is responsible for nearly two billion dollars in direct economic impact in Pennsylvania.

While there is not an official date set to vote on this issue, you can take action by calling or emailing your state legislators to voice your opposition. To find out who your representative is, please visit the [state government website](#).

Please explain why we oppose this tax, what impact it could have on our industry, and the positive aspects of our economic impact in Pennsylvania. Furthermore, it is always beneficial to drive your point home by bringing it local – share how many individuals your course employs and other pertinent information that could highlight the impact of this change to that representative's district. As the old saying goes, "all politics are local."



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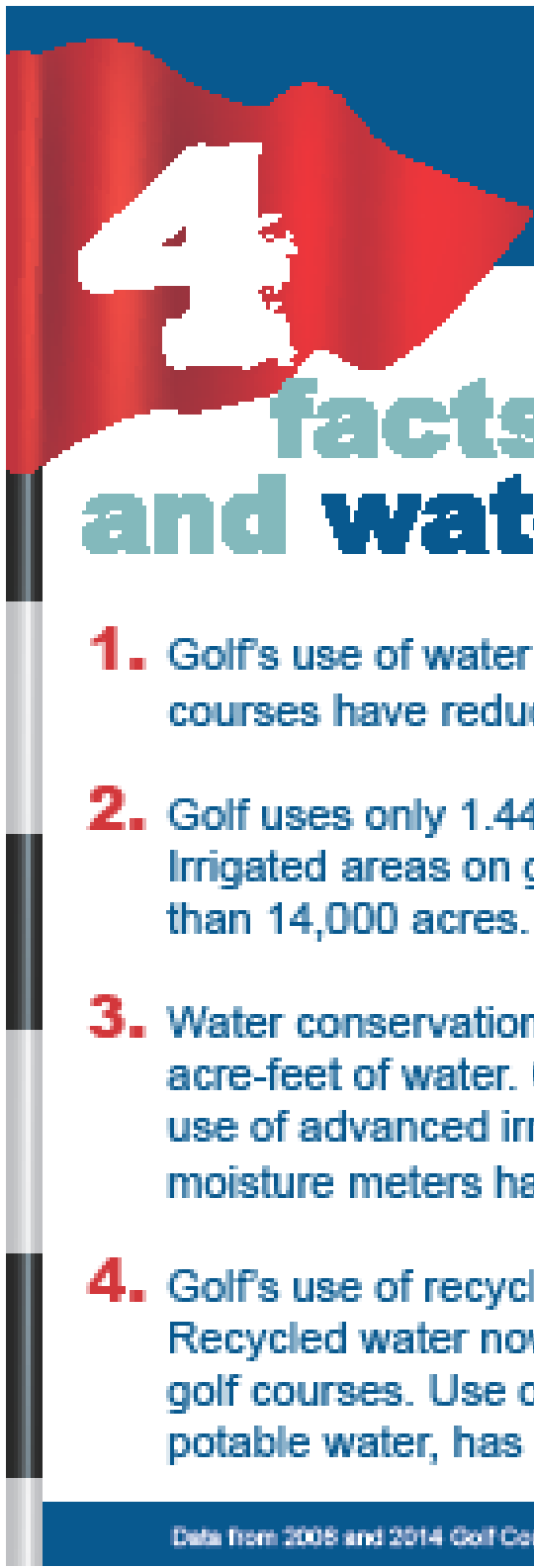
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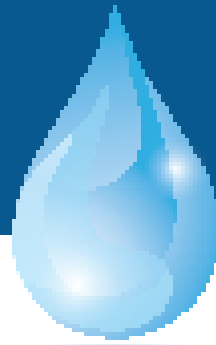
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facts about golf and water in the U.S.

- 1.** Golf's use of water continues to improve. U.S. golf courses have reduced water consumption by 21.8%.
- 2.** Golf uses only 1.44% of all irrigated water in the U.S. Irrigated areas on golf courses have decreased by more than 14,000 acres.
- 3.** Water conservation measures have saved 500,000 acre-feet of water. Conservation practices, turf reduction, use of advanced irrigation systems, and tools such as moisture meters have increased efficiency.
- 4.** Golf's use of recycled water has increased by 32.7%. Recycled water now counts for 25% of all water used on golf courses. Use of all other water sources, including potable water, has decreased.

Data from 2008 and 2014 Golf Course Environmental Profile Water Use & Conservation surveys



The Dose Makes the Poison: Selecting the Right Fungicide Rate is Critical!

By Richard Latin via turfdiseases.org, November 2015



Sola dosis facit venenum—that's the Latin phrase (no pun intended) representing the basic principle of toxicology. It means that a substance will produce a harmful effect on a biological system only if it accumulates above a certain concentration within the biological system. From the turf pathology perspective, the appropriate interpretation is that in order to stop growth of pathogenic fungi, sufficient concentrations of active ingredient must accumulate in fungal cells. So, you need to be accurate with your application rates—even now when you are developing your 2016 program and budget.

Continued on page 7.....



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Turfgrass Services
Equipment Sales



.....Continued from page 6

The dose/effect relationship is complicated. It is usually a non-linear function that shows a steep response as the dose becomes effective, and then a plateau, beyond which the effect is smaller as dosage is increased. In Figure 1, the red line represents the dose/response curve for a hypothetical fungicide against a hypothetical turf pathogen. Excellent efficacy (control) is expected (given reasonable disease pressure conditions) at the label rate of 0.5 fl oz/M (blue dashed line). As the rate is reduced, efficacy suffers. In this example, decreasing the rate to 0.4 fl oz/M reduces efficacy to 80%. Because of the severe slope on the low (left) side of the response curve, applying half the rate (0.25 fl oz) reduces efficacy to about 10%. That's not enough to slow disease progress, even under barely favorable environmental conditions.

From a decision-making perspective, the issue is further confounded by two key factors—

1. Dose/response curves differ for **each fungicide** and **each pathogen**.
2. Most labels specify a **range** of application rates.

Despite your experience, there is always some uncertainty in selecting the best fungicide and application rate, especially under conditions of high disease pressure.

The only decision tool currently available that accounts for fungicide rates is the Turfmetrics Program Builder app (www.turfmetrics.com). It includes a fungicide selection tool with efficacy ratings for the full range of application rates for all fungicides against over 35 diseases, and a reporting feature that allows you to estimate costs as rates change.

Figure 1. The dose/response relationship describes how small changes in application rate can have large effects on disease control. The relationship differs with each fungicide and turf disease!

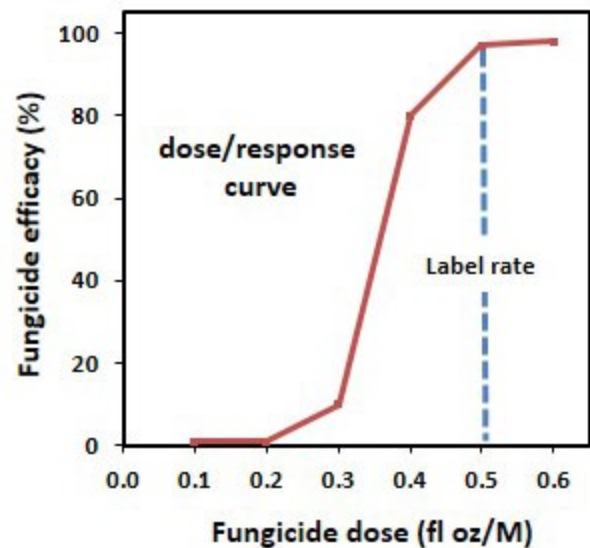


Figure 1. The dose/response relationship describes how small changes in application rate can have large effects on disease control. The relationship differs with each fungicide and turf disease!

About the Author:

Dr. Rick Latin is a professor of plant pathology at Purdue University and has been a member of the faculty since 1981. He earned his MS and Ph.D. degrees in plant pathology at Penn State University. Rick has research, teaching, and extension responsibilities in the area of turfgrass disease management and recently authored the best selling textbook-- *A Practical Guide to Turfgrass Fungicides*. His current research activities focus on turf fungicides and factors that influence their performance.



October Meeting Results Fox Hill Country Club



Superintendents

1st Place
Jason Brown 82

2nd Place
Ryan Fogel 82

3rd Place
Ian Kunesch 82

4th Place
Ron Garrison 83

Affiliates

1st Place
T.J. Hart 80

2nd Place
Steve Chirip 83

3rd Place
Dave Schell 90

4th Place
Les Lear 90

Closest to the Pin #7
Duane Schell 33'9"

Closest to the Pin #11
Murphy 5' 5"

Longest Drive
Zac Breck

Skins
Jerry Decker #9
Jason Brown #14
Les Lear #18



The Pocono Turfgrass Association

Board of Directors



would like to wish all



our Members and their Families

a Very Merry Christmas



and a Happy New Year!



Happy Holidays





Photo of the Month

We all see interesting things every day....wildlife (like bald eagles and bears), strange turf problems (like a lightning strike), an employee who stayed out too late the night before, etc. So if you have a great photo, send it to me (bbachman@genesisturfgrassinc.com) and share it for everyone to enjoy (or laugh at).



Nov/Dec Photo of the Month

A good fit for "what the heck caused this" section of the newsletter.

I'm sure you can all figure out what lead to this damaged area of turf on this tee.

Thanks to Chris Snopkowski for sharing!!

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POCONO ROUNDUP

Condolences



The PTGA sends our deepest condolences to the family of Keith Happ who passed away this year. A true legend in the business, he will be missed.

PTGA SCHEDULE

- Jan 5-6 Eastern PA Turf Conference
- Jan 28 NEPA Turf Conference
Woodlands
- Feb 6-11 GSCAA National



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