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Superintendent: Brian Sturdevant*

#### **-MISSION STATEMENT-**

The Utah GCSA is dedicated to improving the superintendents' position in the golf industry through education, networking, advocacy and to grow the game of golf.

#### **-VISION STATEMENT-**

The Utah GCSA is a community of golf course management professionals and a go-to information source to enhance and grow the profession.



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- ✓ October 13: 2021 GIS registration opens
- ✓ October 20-21: Chapter Delegates Meeting
- ✓ November 12: Virtual Annual Meeting





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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Thank You!

One of the many advantages of having a smaller association is what I refer to as the “small town” feel. You get to know many of the members, some even on a personal level. The connections run deeper in smaller associations. People you meet become your “neighbors.” They look after you, and don’t mind lending a hand in a time of need. It is rare and should be valued in today’s world.

One attribute of a smaller association that I wanted to focus on is the sense of community. Togetherness. This has been on full display this year. Members helping members, as well as members reaching out to their community, doing what they can. I just wanted to take a second to say thank you. Thank you for reaching out and helping your fellow colleagues. Thank you for delivering meals to the homeless. **Thank you for anything and everything you have done this year to ease the burden of another.** Thank you for continuing to support our association! Like all things, this too shall pass, and I am very much looking forward to shaking a few hands and hearing a few stories.

All my best,

Alan Davis

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## CHAPTER EXECUTIVE'S CORNER



Brrr! As I write this, the temps have dropped dramatically since even yesterday. Winds are strong and fall is definitely in the air. This year has been a strange one to say the least but here we are still holding on. Hoping you are all happy, healthy, and safe.

A few items to note:

1

Check your SPAM! Apparently, many of you are not seeing my update and information emails. Make sure you mark anything from the [intermountaingcsa@gmail.com](mailto:intermountaingcsa@gmail.com) email address as "safe".

2

We now have a text notification feature. If you are not receiving notifications and would like to, text UGCSA TO 71441.

3

Be on the lookout as more virtual education sessions will be planned. If you have a topic you would like to see, let us know!

**Stay healthy & safe,**  
**Natalie Barker, Chapter Executive**



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## SEEDHEAD CONTROL RESEARCH RESULTS



**Article by** Adam Van Dyke, M.S., CPAg, the owner and chief scientist of Professional Turfgrass Solutions, LLC in South Jordan, Utah (adam@proturfgrassolutions.com)

### **Timing spring applications of ethephon for annual bluegrass seedhead control.**

New research shows that winter applications of ethephon gives more flexibility for starting spring programs.

### **PREMISE**

If you are a Golf Course Superintendent you have probably managed annual bluegrass (*Poa annua* L.). Chemical management of its seedheads has traditionally focused on spring applications with variable results going back 30 years. For almost a decade, I have studied the effects winter-applied seedhead suppressing plant growth regulators have had on seedhead control in spring. New research was just finished that explored more unknowns, and it was supported, in part, by the Utah Golf Course Superintendents Association.

### **STUDY DETAILS**

This study was conducted in 2019-2020 at Mountain View Golf Course in West Jordan, Utah on a 1970's pushup-style practice green with sand topdressing applied. Turf is a mixture of old creeping bentgrass (likely Penncross or similar) and annual bluegrass estimated to be 30:70. Most of the bluegrass would be characterized as being perennial-types, thus being a moderate, or medium, seedhead producer. This compared to true annual-types that generally produce high amounts of seedheads. Management typical of a putting green is performed, but plant growth regulators are not used at this site.

CONTINUED...



## SEEDHEAD CONTROL RESEARCH RESULTS (CONT'D)

### STUDY DETAILS (CONT'D)

The “check treatment” or treatment all others were compared to, was a typical spring program of ethephon (Proxy, Bayer) mixed with trinexapac-ethyl (Primo Maxx, Syngenta) with two applications. A spring program like this has been the benchmark of University and private research. When to make the first application has been recommended by Michigan State University for over two decades. Their research uses a start date of February 15 to begin accumulating growing degree-days (GDD), or heat units, and uses the base 32°F calculation method. For this research, the first spring application was initiated at 400 growing degree-days (GDD) with the second applied 4-weeks later.

Two factors were tested against the traditional seedhead program: 1) including a winter ethephon application, and 2) initiating the spring program at different GDD timings. The objective was to see if winter applications of ethephon give you more flexibility in spring, lessening the need to be so precise with the first application. The winter applications were made before permanent snow cover on November 23, 2019 and after snow melted on January 23, 2020. All treatments included the spring program described above but were initiated either: 1) early (200 GDD), 2) ideal (400 GDD), 3) late (600 GDD), or 4) very late (800 GDD) in spring using the February 15 biofix date. Refer to Table 1 for calendar dates of these spring GDD treatments. Plots (3-ft by 4-ft) were randomized with four replications. Treatments were applied in water equivalent to 2 gallons per 1000ft<sup>2</sup> (87 GPA) with a CO<sub>2</sub>-pressurized backpack sprayer with air-induction nozzles. Data were subjected to statistics, which I will not bore you with.

All plots were aerified with hollow-tines and holes filled with sand on April 1, 2020. The effect of topdressing sand in the canopy on the foliar contact and uptake efficiency of the treatments that were applied in April (600 and 800 GDD initiation, and 200 and 400 GDD re-application) are not known. Any debris, even beneficial forms like sand, would likely reduce the amount of material contacting the leaves.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



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## SEEDHEAD CONTROL RESEARCH RESULTS (CONT'D)

### STUDY DETAILS (CONT'D)

Although this common cultural practice was not avoided in this experiment, it does highlight an advantage of winter ethephon applications. These applications occur without surface disruption and get ethylene into the plant sooner, which during the cold time of year extends regulation into early spring before cultivation practices usually start. Another tangent thought is that sand topdressing can be an integrated method for managing seedheads. It buries emerging flowers and smooths the playing surface in spring – however, it also delays data collection for the same reason. The first seedheads emerged in the week of April 20, but the sand made it too difficult to make accurate assessments. Ratings were delayed a month until sand worked into the canopy. Seedheads were finally assessed on May 13, 18, 25, 29 and June 10 as a percent of the plot area with emerged seedheads. To simplify the data, a calculation was done (Area Under Seedhead Progress Curve) that summarizes, or averages, the data across all rating dates.

### THE RESULTS

Seedhead cover in untreated turf averaged 40% on May 13 (Table 1) and stayed between 30%-45% into June (data not shown). The spring program treatment reduced seedheads initially on May 13, but overall did not reduce seedheads compared to untreated turf (Table 1). Making a winter application of ethephon ahead of the spring program improved seedhead control. In this experiment, there was no difference between making one or two winter applications. The most interesting result was that initiating spring programs at four different timings based on GDD provided the same level of seedhead control when preceded by a winter ethephon application. This suggests that making winter applications of ethephon allows greater flexibility in spring for timing the first application of your spring program.

CONTINUED...



## SEEDHEAD CONTROL RESEARCH RESULTS (CONT'D)

### THE RESULTS (CONT'D)

This is promising because who does not want a less complicated seedhead process? No need to guess when phenological indicators (ex. Forsythia) are at the right bloom stage. No need to frantically crunch weather data early in the year. No guessing. Successful seedhead control often depends on being very precise with your applications in spring. Generally, the earlier you spray, and more often, the better your results will be. What is earlier than spraying in winter? With the addition of winter applications of ethephon that precision in spring may not be as critical. Although this data is not shown here, phytotoxicity (or turf injury) was not observed with any treatment and all treatments improved turf quality in spring over untreated turf.

**Table 1.** Effect of seedhead program treatments on annual bluegrass seedheads in a mixed bentgrass/bluegrass putting green in Utah, 2019-2020.

Treatment, formulation, and rate/1000ft <sup>2</sup>	Application Code <sup>z</sup>	Seedhead <sup>y</sup> May 13	Seedhead AUSPC <sup>x</sup>
Untreated		40.0 a <sup>w</sup>	401 a
Proxy 2SL 5.0 fl.oz.	A	13.8 bc	164 b
Proxy 2SL 5.0 fl.oz. + Primo Maxx 1ME 0.125 fl.oz.	DF		
Proxy 2SL 5.0 fl.oz.	AB	6.0 c	167 b
Proxy 2SL 5.0 fl.oz. + Primo Maxx 1ME 0.125 fl.oz.	DF		
Proxy 2SL 5.0 fl.oz.	AB	13.8 bc	76 b
Proxy 2SL 5.0 fl.oz. + Primo Maxx 1ME 0.125 fl.oz.	CE		
Proxy 2SL 5.0 fl.oz.	AB	11.0 c	139 b
Proxy 2SL 5.0 fl.oz. + Primo Maxx 1ME 0.125 fl.oz.	EG		
Proxy 2SL 5.0 fl.oz.	AB	11.0 c	132 b
Proxy 2SL 5.0 fl.oz. + Primo Maxx 1ME 0.125 fl.oz.	FH		
Proxy 2SL 5.0 fl.oz. + Primo Maxx 1ME 0.125 fl.oz.	DF	25.0 b	333 a
LSD ( <i>P</i> =0.05)		13.4	150

<sup>z</sup> Code indicates date of treatment: A=23 Nov 19 (pre-snow), B=23 Jan 20 (post-snow), C=12 Mar 20 (200 GDD), D=23 Mar 20 (400 GDD), E=9 Apr 20 (600 GDD and 200 GDD re-app), F=20 Apr 20 (800 GDD and 400 re-app), G=7 May 20 (600 GDD re-app), H=19 May 20 (800 GDD re-app).

<sup>y</sup> Visual estimates of annual bluegrass seedheads, 0-100% of plot.

<sup>x</sup> AUSPC represents Area Under Seedhead Progress Curve; an average of seedhead pressure over time.

<sup>w</sup> Means that share letters are not different significantly (*P*=0.05).

CONTINUED...



## SEEDHEAD CONTROL RESEARCH RESULTS (CONT'D)

### FINAL THOUGHTS

It is important to remember this was one experiment over a single time (one winter) and space (one green). These results may differ depending on several factors. This was an old, perennialized form of annual bluegrass. Surfaces with annual types that produce more seedheads may show differences between the different spring timing treatments – or not. There were differences in New Jersey, at Rutgers University, in collaboration with Dr. Matt Elmore. Although these results are promising, seedhead research needs to continue. Not only to validate these findings, but also to develop new and better ways of managing annual bluegrass. Annual bluegrass will persist long after you call it a career, so while we are still here, I hope to work together on this fascinating phenomenon. Thank you.

Adam Van Dyke, M.S., CPAg  
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### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you Charles L. Calder for hosting this research and providing the technical assistance necessary to make it a success. It could not have happened without your willingness and efforts.





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## OPEN AND HONEST COMMUNICATION ARTICLE

**Article by** Paul Stokes, Superintendent at Logan Golf & Country Club in Logan, UT

To start, I work at Logan Country Club, a private 18-hole facility in Logan, UT. Over the last seven years, we have been involved with several major projects involving municipalities to canal companies. In 2013, we had a project that was taking an open canal and putting it into a 66-inch reinforced concrete pipe. In 2016, the city needed to upgrade a culinary water line that runs through #14 on the golf course, and in 2018, Logan City was trying to finish a trail system that runs throughout Logan and the last chunk of that trail needed to run adjacent to the golf course. Each of these projects have had a significant impact on the golf course from closures to rerouting cart traffic. **In this article I wanted to talk about the importance of open and honest communication with projects that will have such a big impact on a golf course.** All the parties involved in a project of this size have different items that are negotiable nonnegotiable. It's important to make sure everyone involved understands the needs of the other. I think that everyone involved in a project like this can eventually come to a compromise to make the outcome a positive one. In our world today there are so many different forums to communicate with, sometimes things can get misinterpreted and misunderstood.

Of the three projects I mentioned, I want to talk about the incredible success of the new culinary water line installation. This project was a huge success with only minor details to iron out along the way. I believe that the main reason for the project being so successful was communication right from the very first meeting when Logan City approached the country club. It is natural for any golf course superintendent to not want their golf course ripped up unless it's some sort of upgrade for the golf course itself. This project had nothing to do with making improvements to the golf course. However, knowing, in this case the city already had a pipe running through the course, I believe it was in the best interest of Logan Country Club to be a cooperating partner. The parties that were involved were Logan Country Club, Logan City Public Works Department, Whittaker Construction Company, Americom Technology, and Precision Landworks LLC.

CONTINUED...



## OPEN AND HONEST COMMUNICATION ARTICLE (CONT'D)

The dialogue for this project started in the fall of 2016. A senior engineer from Logan City contacted me to discuss the culinary water line running through the golf course that was in serious need of an upgrade. The city's main culinary water supply tanks are situated adjacent to two of our golf holes, so there are endless utilities that run right through the golf course. One of our older members always likes to joke with me by saying, "it's a good thing the golf course is here so the city can tear it up anytime they want in order to do all the work they need to do." Of course, it's a little tongue and cheek, but with the number of utilities that run under the golf course, **I understand that upgrades and projects like this are going to be necessary.** Knowing this is going to be required at times, it does no good to be the grumpy superintendent. As superintendents we should understand the need for upgrades for all the things we deal with on a day to day basis. At the time, the culinary water line running through the golf course was an 8-inch pipe that had run its life expectancy and was too small to handle the growing demand within the community.

After meeting with the city, it was my responsibility to take that information to the club. I felt we needed to formulate a plan to communicate to our membership when and what the impacts were going to be that would start affecting play. Once the members were able to get over the shock of the city wanting to tear up one of their Par 5's we were able to put their minds at ease once we communicated the plan we had put together for them. I met with the General Manager, Head Professional and our Board President many times for about six weeks formulating the items that we would present to the city that highlighted our concerns and needs for the project. **We were very upfront and honest with the city, preparing a document that we would present to them outlining the items that were important to us and our membership.** The deadline for getting the pipe in the ground was important to the club so we agreed with the city on a date of March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. If we had an early spring this would give the golf construction company time to put the golf course back together early in the season.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22





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## OPEN AND HONEST COMMUNICATION ARTICLE (CONT'D)

Once the basic parameters of the project were agreed upon it was time to start figuring out the alignment of the new pipe. So, in the early months of 2017, Logan City presented their initial proposal for the alignment of the pipe. The new pipe was to be approximately 1,700 linear feet and have a section that was to be 18-inch HDPE pipe that would be directional drilled. The rest of pipe to be installed would be 16-inch PVC pipe that would be dug with an excavator due to horrible soil conditions.

The work was needing to be started in the fall of 2017. As it turned out the starting date was the easiest negotiated topic in the whole process. With the timeline set in place well in advance of actual work taking place, we could communicate with our members that this project needed to take place, and in late October 2017 it would start. We were potentially looking at only missing 3-6 weeks of the fall season and then on the other side, in Spring of 2018 we would be at the mercy of the weather to get the golf course back together in time for the season to start. We ended up needing to close three golf holes to keep golfers safe and for workers to access the project area.

**This is where the most critical communication really started taking place.** They initially wanted to take the new pipe and run it right next to the existing one. This option presented challenges for us as it would have taken out most of the fairway on #14 and they would be digging adjacent to a canal that has a mature tree line. The risk of losing those mature trees was too high, so we requested another alignment proposal. The city went back to the drawing board and finally on the sixth different alignment proposal we were all on the same page and it was a win-win for both parties. The city got to put in a pipe that had minimal twists and turns and fittings, therefore making the project move quicker and was much more budget friendly. From the club's perspective, we saved a 400-yard-long mature tree line and the alignment only affected about half of the fairway, the rest was in an area that is not really in play.

CONTINUED...



## OPEN AND HONEST COMMUNICATION ARTICLE (CONT'D)

Once the alignment was done the city put the project out to bid. During that process I took the known information and started looking for companies that could put the golf course back together. We had quite a bit of work to do before the pipe installation could begin. We wanted all the irrigation pipe and wiring isolated outside the construction easement for convenience when it would be time to put it back together.

Logan City ended up awarding the contract to Whitaker Construction Company out of Brigham City, UT. Fortunately, I had worked with them on a couple other projects here at the golf course, so I was comfortable and familiar with the quality of work they do. It didn't hurt either that the owner of the construction company is a member at our club, so he personally had a vested interest in the success of the project. The country club ended up choosing Precision Landworks, LLC for all the work relating to putting the golf course back together. They started in October of 2017, removing and isolating the part of the irrigation system that would be affected within the 50-foot construction easement. That work started before Whitaker Construction did anything with regards to laying the new pipe. We had now hit that stage of essential daily communication with two different companies to get the project going.

**Working with a seasoned golf course construction project manager was a breeze, he understood how all golf course irrigation works and I could just turn them loose to do their thing.** In the early stages of the pipe installation I spent more time communicating with the project manager from Whitaker Construction. Whitaker wanted to start the project with the directional drilling portion of the project, so they hired Americom Technology to do the drilling. There was plenty of logistics to be understood from how everyone was going to access the golf course within the 50-foot construction easement to where the directional drill was going to daylight.



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## OPEN AND HONEST COMMUNICATION ARTICLE (CONT'D)

Fortunately, we had an access directly from Logan City's tank farm right into the 50-foot construction easement. So, we ended up having no issues outside the agreed upon construction easement. Americom proceeded to do the directional drill and that all went well, and it was now time to start digging for the rest of the project which was the 16-inch PVC pipe. This all started the last two weeks of October 2017. **Once the project really got rolling, we were holding weekly construction meetings which was fantastic to keep lines of communication open and the project moving according to schedule.** As the construction progressed, we lucked out having a winter that was conducive to doing this type of project and they were able to finish laying the pipe by the March 1st, 2018 deadline, which Whitaker accomplished with no problems.



In early March 2018, the snow started to melt, and the ground dried out just enough for Precision Landworks, LLC to return to the country club and start putting the golf course back together. Now that the culinary water line was in the ground, I was able to communicate solely with the project manager from Precision Landworks to make sure we were moving as efficiently as possible to get the golf course back in shape.

CONTINUED...



## OPEN AND HONEST COMMUNICATION ARTICLE (CONT'D)



They were able to get all the irrigation lines back in the ground, wiring completed, and sprinkler heads set in place in just a couple weeks and then it was a waiting game on when sod would be available to cut and install. Finally, the day arrived, and we were able to install sod on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Once the sod installation was complete the countdown began to get the area ready for play. Once again, communicating and now educating our members was critical. **We had to help them understand that just because there was now green grass didn't mean it was ready for play.** We let them know that we would do everything we could to get it ready as quickly as possible.



Once we were able to start mowing, we took a more aggressive approach to get that sod from two inches to a half an inch, we finally made it and we opened the area by the end of May and everyone was happy.

**In conclusion, this project was a huge success because of the honest and open communication from day one.** There were never any disagreements that weren't settled in a professional manner. There was no going behind the back of any of the parties involved. I think that we as golf course superintendents can make our lives and jobs easier if we just take the time to communicate with those that we interact with daily at work and at home.





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The advertisement for Highland Golf Carts &amp; Utility Vehicles features a central white box with a blue border. At the top of the box are the logos for GEM, Yamaha, and Polaris. Below the logos is a collage of four photos showing various golf carts and utility vehicles. The text "Highland Golf" is written in a large, bold, blue font, followed by "Carts &amp; Utility Vehicles" in a smaller, bold, blue font. Below this is the phone number "801-322-GOLF" in a large, bold, blue font. At the bottom of the box, it says "Sales and Rentals, Parts and Service, New and Used Available" in a small, black font, followed by "Our Salt Lake City location has moved to:" in a small, black font, then "1379 W. 3500 S. 84119" in a small, black font, and finally "www.highlandgolf.net" in a small, blue font. The background of the advertisement is a collage of images of golf carts and utility vehicles, with a stylized mountain range at the bottom.





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