



Getting Ready for Seedhead Control with Proxy

By: Dr. Frank Wong, Bayer Green Solutions Specialist

It's not too soon to think about things to improve in 2014. Annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*) seedhead production is one of those annoying things that many turf managers will be facing as we come out of winter and transition into spring. Proxy® (ethephon) is a Bayer Solution for reducing the impact of seedhead production. Correct timing of Proxy is critical for successful seedhead control. Recent research suggests that added early Proxy applications add extra control. To get added plant health effects, combining Proxy with Chipco® Signature™ can help jumpstart spring turf quality.

Getting Down to the Business of Seedheads

Although it's often managed as a perennial plant, deep down - annual bluegrass is (by nature) an annual plant that wants to seed in the spring (as the name implies...). Copious seed production by annual bluegrass contributes to its success as an invasive weed, and the white seedheads are often considered 'unsightly' in managed turf. When annual bluegrass is present on putting greens, seedhead production is blamed for poor playing conditions, bumpiness and poor ball tracking during play. Another consideration for those managing annual bluegrass is that the energy that it expends in making seeds can deplete carbohydrate reserves. This weakens the plants making them more susceptible to stress diseases such as anthracnose.

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Upcoming Events:

- **May 1, 2014**
Fore Lakes Golf Course
Spring Event sponsored by RMT
- **May 5, 2014**
Golf Day Proclamation
Utah State Capitol
- **July 8, 2014**
Wasatch Mtn. State Park
Chapter Championship
sponsored by Green Source, L.L.C.
- **August/September**
TBD
- **October**
Annual Education
Conference & Trade Show

Utah Golf Day Proclamation

The Golf Alliance of Utah (GAU) is proud to announce that on May 5, 2014, Governor Herbert will announce May as golf month in the State of Utah. The GAU will invite key lawmakers from our state, counties and cities to attend this event which is being held at in the Gold Room at the State Capitol Building. We need your help—**If you know of any government official that you feel needs to be invited to this event, please forward their name and contact info to the IGCSA.** The purpose of this event is to present the Economic and Environmental Impact Report that the GAU commissioned and show the large benefit golf has on our state. The Report shows that golf in Utah is over an 800 million a year industry. Please send us any names of mayors, council members or any other lawmaker to the IGCSA as soon as possible.



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The advertisement features a central grid of logos for various equipment brands. At the top center is the **RMT** logo. Below it, a grey banner reads **CALL TODAY**. The grid of logos includes:

- Top Row:** AerWay, HONDA Power Equipment, ECHO, DewEze, ECHO, Xmark, FOLEY UNITED.
- Second Row:** BEAR CAT, BLIZZARD, INDECO, KAWASAKI, RYAN, SDI, SHINDAIWA, LELY, MQ MULTIGUP, SNOW BLOW, STANDARD GOLF, VIKING.
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Below the logo grid is a photograph of three maintenance vehicles (two riding mowers and one larger machine) working on a golf course green. At the bottom of the photo are logos for NEW HOLLAND, EZGO, and JACOBSEN.

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GCM's 2014 Most Valuable Technician Award nomination form



Does your turf equipment technician deserve a day in the sun, a tip-of-the-cap for all the hard work and the vital behind-the-scenes role they play in the success of your golf facility? If so, then nominate them for GCM's Most Valuable Technician (MVT) awards program, presented in partnership with Foley United.

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If you have an article or story you'd like included in the next Green's Examiner edition, send it to intermountaingcsa@gmail.com. We're always looking for material!

Spring Event

Now that the weather has warmed up, come on out to Fore Lakes Golf Course to golf and learn with your fellow members. We will start the day off with a quick 18. Education will follow with various identification labs set up throughout the course. The labs will consist of:

1. Grass Identification—Dr. Paul Johnson
2. Insect Identification—Dr. Ricardo Ramirez
3. Soil Identification—Dr. Grant Cardon
4. Weed Identification—Dr. Ralph Whitesides

When: May 1, 2014

Where: Fore Lakes Golf Course
1285 West 4700 South
Taylorsville, UT 84123

Time: 9:00 a.m.— 4:00 p.m.

Registration begins at 8:15 a.m.

**REGISTRATION
DEADLINE:**

April 25th

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For more information, please visit igcsa.org or contact the IGCSA office.

Chapter Executive's Corner

By: Natalie Barker, IGCSA Chapter Executive

- **IGCSA & GCSAA Scholarships:**

Children and grandchildren of GCSAA members who are graduating seniors or attending college can apply for the GCSAA Legacy Awards (**deadline April 15**). All applications for these awards must be submitted using the new online application process. For questions, please contact Mischia Wright, associate director, development, at 800-472-7878, ext. 4445.

Current IGCSA members or the child or spouse of a current member attending a post secondary or trade school can apply for the IGCSA Educational Scholarship (**deadline May 15**). All applications must be submitted to the IGCSA office. For questions, please contact Natalie Barker at (801) 282-5274.

- **Job Postings:**

Keep checking back to the website for new job postings! New jobs are being added all the time. If your course has a job opening, send us the info and I'll put it on the website.



- **Website Login:**

If you are having trouble logging into the igcsa.org website, please email or call me. Your user ID is your membership number and your password was originally set up with your last name (all lower case).

- **2014 Membership**

Thanks to those that have already sent in their 2014 membership applications. Cards are being printed and will be sent out shortly! If you haven't renewed, your membership expired on March 31st. Forms can be found on the IGCSA website.

- We are looking for additional hole sponsors for our Spring Event. Contact the IGCSA office if you would like to sponsor.

As always, call or email if you have any questions! Thanks for your continued support!

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Insights From the Wagon

By: John Hansgen, Vice President IGCSA

Greetings Colleagues,

I know how much you all have been waiting to hear from me but none of you were half as happy as TA when I sent him the final draft. Sorry TA not quite as good at juggling responsibilities as you. Oh yeah that's right your just a pretty face, Natalie takes care of the real work. Maybe you should let Natalie handle the pretty face part and you get down to business. All kidding aside, TA does an awesome job of running this organization and I hope to be able to do half as well as he's done. Lifetime presidential board service could be thrown on the ballot, if you are at all interested in continuing your outstanding leadership put that on the agenda for the next committee meeting. "TA for President 2015" has a nice ring. Thanks to Riverside Country Club and Superintendent Ryan Standifird for hosting our Winter Education Event. Although some feel out of place, it's nice for us from the municipal sector to go country clubbing.

We had a great turnout for the Winter Education Conference at Riverside Country Club. Thanks to all who presented and attended. Utah State University presented opportunities for those of you interested in pursuing a degree or continuing your education. Many different options exist with their distance learning and off campus classes, and we have many members who have taken advantage of the educational opportunities offered by this outstanding institution. A shout out to Paul Johnson and Adam Van Dyke for their willingness to share the wealth of knowledge and experience they bring to the table.

GCSAA recently started The First Green Program and we are excited to introduce kids to the science of golf course maintenance. The First Green Program is a great opportunity to reach out to our communities and exemplify our commitment to environmental stewardship as well as introducing our profession to those unfamiliar with the game of golf. Through this program participants gain a greater understanding of the complexities of modern day golf course management. Thank you to GCSAA for sharing their insight on running a successful First Green of Utah Program. For those interested in organizing a First Green field trip contact the IGCSA Board of Directors.

We were pleased to hear from one of our own, David Willis, as he presented work admittedly prepared by his two right hand men, plagiarism anyone? David presented results from fertilizer field trials conducted at Glenwild Golf Club. David I think I am going to have to see to believe, are you guys open yet? Do you guys have a pool.... pond? Anything would be nice. I guess having Mr. Willis present is the way to drive attendance as we had a capacity crowd. If that's what it takes to get you Park City boys out we'll pencil David in as education for the remainder of our association events!

David Phipps as always helped make our winter meeting a success. It's nice to have a direct conduit to the GCSAA. We appreciated the support we receive from him as well as the resources he and GCSAA provide to us as members. Mr. Phipps is the GCSAA Northwest field staff representative, and has your answer for all things environmental. He's the Dhali Llama of Golf Course Maintenance, not quite as long as the Llama, though he is a better tipper.

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Insights From the Wagon

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Last but not least, we were pleased to hear from Pat Finlen, General Manager for the Olympic Club. Don't ask him why the hell us hacks don't play for free at the Country Club, must be a sore spot with him. Nate Lundberg thanks for helping me pull both feet out of my mouth. One thing I am good at is looking stupid and I never tire of it. I was pleased to hear we are in awesome company as brothels, casinos, and golf courses were included as groups denied disaster relief funding when hurricanes and tornados come to town. One of Wasatch Back's finest pointed that out during Finlen's presentation. Those Red Ledges boys sure are sharp!

I hope in my limited recollection of events as they transpired that I didn't leave anything out. Thanks again to the presenters but most of all thanks to the members that attended. I love the opportunity to reminisce with one of my favorite groups ever, the IGCSA. I hope you value the interaction as much as I do. I recently had the opportunity to travel south with a few of you boys and share some of the memories I have of my career in the golf business. Man, were there some willing listeners! Jason Lundberg as always best dressed of the association, how do you afford those Italian Dancing Shoes on an assistant superintendent budget? Also, I think Dave Carruth might like me, even if he heard some of those stories. Don't worry Nate, Randy, and Paul. I won't mention that Randy Price and three other old men whooped us.

On a serious note, I do cherish the opportunity to serve on the Board and value the relationships I've made through this association. I gain a better knowledge of how to do my job and live my life each time we gather as a group. Board service has afforded me the opportunity to cultivate relationships and broaden my abilities. It has been one of the most selfish things I've done. I get so much out of being able to interact with those of you who are as committed as I am to making our association such a success. Please continue to attend and participate. Become motivated to serve. I loved seeing such a great turnout at the winter meeting. Let's make it a conscious effort to attend whenever possible, not just when David Willis is presenting. Remember, we are only as good as the participation of our membership. I look forward to seeing you at future events. Mr. Willis, be ready to present if attendance begins to fall. Gunga-lagunga. Cannonball coming.

John Hansgen

Getting Ready for Seedhead Control with Proxy

(continued from cover)

Let's Geek-Out with Ethephon: How Proxy Works

Ethephon, the active ingredient in Proxy, is a growth regulator that when absorbed by the plant is converted to ethylene, a naturally occurring plant hormone. Ethylene is involved in functions such as leaf abscission, flowering initiating and fruit ripening. For plant functions, the rate and balance between the various plant hormones (ethylene, cytokinins, auxins, etc.) triggers physiological responses. In a nutshell, ethephon applications basically throw ethylene levels in annual bluegrass 'outta whack' in order to inhibit seedhead production.

Since ethephon inhibits seedhead production, Proxy must be applied prior to the completion of the process. This is why Proxy is recommended to be applied at the 'boot' stage of annual bluegrass, e.g. it must be applied before seedheads emerge from the plant and before the plant starts focusing on seedhead development and maturation. Once seedheads have emerged, Proxy cannot effectively reverse the process.

Spring Proxy applications work best when applied at 5 fl. oz. per 1,000 sq. ft. with 0.125 to 0.25 fl. oz. of Primo® MAXX®, Syngenta's popular plant growth regulator that inhibits gibberellic acid production. The combination provides the best overall seedhead suppression and turf quality when applied to actively growing plants.

Doing the Da' Boot: Proper Timing of Proxy Applications

As mentioned above, early applications to seedheads that are being produced by the plant are essential, e.g. during or prior to the boot stage. Physically looking for the boot stage in plants is possible but you'll need a macroscope or magnifying glass to get a good look. That's painful, and impractical in most cases.

Other ways to estimate the boot stage of annual bluegrass is to look for seedheads being expressed early in south facing slopes and higher cut turf, or to use Forsythia in full bloom as an indicator plant.

Growing degree day (GDD) models offer a weather based way to time Proxy + Primo applications. In the mid-Atlantic, 50 degree growing days using a base 50 Fahrenheit model (50 GDD B₅₀) seems to be the best using March 1 as a start date. The 1st Proxy + Primo should be applied at this time and followed by another Proxy + Primo two to four weeks later for best effect. Work done at Michigan State University shows a base 32 Fahrenheit model may be better in cooler climates, with a target of 200-500 degree growing days beginning in February. There is a bunch of ways to calculate GDDs, but the folks at The Weather Channel have a nice GDD calculator at <http://www.weather.com/outdoors/agriculture/growing-degree-days/11968> that's easy to use. Models have not been tested or developed for the Intermountain West, but Adam Van Dyke of Professional Turfgrass Solutions in Utah has started work in this area.

Proxy + Primo applications may cause some discoloration or bronzing of turf when applied in the spring to actively growing turf. In most cases the discoloration is temporary and the turf should recover quickly. Turf that is stressed or damaged due to poor growing conditions is likely to show the most negative effect.

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We are putting out the official call for nominations for next year's Board of Directors. If you would like to run or nominate someone you think would do a great job, send us the name. We will be filling the following positions—President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer and two or three board members. "Only members of the Association actively employed as Golf Course Superintendents or Assistant Superintendents shall be eligible for election as Board of Directors. Three quarters must be members of GCSAA. Associates, affiliates, or other commercial liaisons may be appointed to the Board of Directors but may not hold any office in the Association and may not vote on matters involving the operation of the Chapter." (Article VII, Section 2). Officers must also be a class A or SM member of the GCSAA.

The time requirement is very minimal, however we are looking for members who are dedicated to improving our chapter. The board meets on an as needed basis in a central location. We've come a long way and need your help to keep our chapter successful!

Voting for these positions will take place at the Annual Education Conference & Trade Show in October.

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GCM's 2014 Most Valuable Technician Award nomination form

(continued from page 5)

Nominations are now being accepted for this program, designed to honor the best and brightest golf course equipment technicians in the industry, the men and women who play such a key role in keeping the tools of golf course maintenance up and running.

The nominations will be narrowed to a field of three finalists by a team of industry judges. *GCM* readers will then be able to review the resumes and qualifications of the finalists and vote online for their favorite. The winner of the MVT contest will then be announced in the July issue of the magazine.

To nominate your turf technician, submit your nomination on the GCSAA website by **April 18**.

Be sure to check back with GCSAA in May to vote for the finalists!



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Getting Ready for Seedhead Control with Proxy

Go Early: New Thoughts on Fall and Winter Applications of Proxy

GDD models and other predictive tools aren't perfect, and often Proxy + Primo programs give variable levels of seedhead suppression year to year. Investigations by Dr. Shawn Askew at Virginia Tech suggest that early applications of Proxy about a month ahead of the 'normal' applications have an added effect and help give more consistent annual bluegrass seedhead control. Another bonus is the reduction of any discoloration or stress from Proxy + Primo applications in the spring.

For these early applications, Proxy should be applied 5 fl. oz. without Primo. Currently, Dr. Askew and Mr. Van Dyke are working together to look at changing the timings of applications to include a 'pre-snow' and a 'post-snow' application of Proxy. More concrete BMPs will come out of this research when it's complete, but an added late-winter/early-spring application of Proxy makes good sense as added protection against seedheads.

Using Chipco® Signature™ with Seedhead Suppression Programs

Seedhead suppression applications with Proxy + Primo can sometimes stress turf; after all you're suppressing the seedheads by throwing the plant out of whack physiologically. One potential solution for increasing turf quality during spring seedhead suppression programs would be to incorporate Chipco Signature as a pre-treatment to boost plant health and also as a cool season Pythium root rot preventive application. Apply Chipco Signature at 4 oz. per 1,000 sq. ft. 5-7 days before the first Proxy + Primo application and again in between the next Proxy + Primo application as a way to pre-treat annual bluegrass for stress and diseases.

Spring Can't Come Soon Enough, But I'll Pass on the Seedheads

Proxy is a valuable Bayer Solution for controlling annual bluegrass seedheads, and these tips can help in maximizing its use:

- Seedhead control must be done early with a preventive program.

- Go about a month early with a pre-treatment of Proxy at 5 fl. oz. per 1,000 sq. ft. for added control.

- Make the first Proxy + Primo app at either 50 GDD B₅₀ or 250 GDD B₃₂ (depending on your geographic region) and repeat 2-4 weeks later.

- Use Chipco Signature to reduce plant stress to minimize the negative impact of any seedhead control program.



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