



# WISCONSIN TURFGRASS NEWS

VOL. XIII, NO. 4

WINTER 1995

## Happy Holidays and A Happy New EXPO

*by Tom Schwab*

Please be our guest at the 1996 Wisconsin Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO. Come to learn new ideas, see new products, or just relax and meet with friends and colleagues. The EXPO planning committee is always striving to make this educational event ever better. The main changes you'll notice this year is it's bigger and longer.

EXPO will expand to be a three day event this year. The trade show will be one-third again as big as last year. The number of vendors is expected to increase. Lastly, there are more educational sessions, including the all new Technical Educational Session.

The list of speakers include professors from the universities of Iowa, Ohio State, Kentucky, Maine, Rutgers, Wisconsin, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Other speakers represent industry, media, extension, and government. Some of these speakers are your peers. The subject matter is extensive and current. You will not want to miss it.

January 9, 10, and 11 are the dates. The site is the Holiday Inn West in Madison. The site met with great approval the last two years and the dates have been pushed back to hopefully accommodate more of you.

You should have already received your program and regis-



The Holiday Inn West provides an excellent site for EXPO.




Education abounds during the three day conference.

tration materials. If you did not receive the packet please call Audra or Tom at the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility. The telephone number is



The trade show hours have been expanded for 1996.

608-845-6536, or fax number 608-845-8162.

We hope to see you at EXPO. But first have a wonderful holiday season. 



# Licensing and Certification Requirements for Commercial Pesticide Applicators In Wisconsin

by Brian Swingle

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Many people confuse commercial pesticide applicator *certification* and individual commercial applicator *licensing*. They are not the same thing. Here's how they differ:

## CERTIFICATION

Commercial certification can be compared to a driver's license. The certification written exam tests an applicator's knowledge of the safe and effective use of pesticides in specific pesticide use categories, in the same way a driver's exam tests your knowledge for your driver's license. When you pass the pesticide certification exam you are issued a unique certification number, and a black, plastic certification card that states the categories in which you are certified and your expiration date.

Certification is valid for a five-year period and may be amended during this time with additional certification categories; however, all certifications expire concurrently with the initial certification expiration. Certification can be renewed for an additional five years by reexamination in each category.

## LICENSING

If we compare certification to a driver's license, then an *Individual Commercial Applicator License* can be compared to a vehicle's registration; you must renew it annually. The license fee is \$60 for individual commercial applicators, and extends from January 1st to December 31st of each license year. Licenses generate fees for the administration and enforcement of department programs.

**Do I or my employees need to be certified or licensed?**

There are two types of commercial applicators; for hire and not-for-hire. License and certification requirements differ between the two types.

Commercial Applicators for Hire are employees of commercial firms who apply any pesticide for a customer, who in turn is charged for the service or application. Examples: employees of lawn and landscape care firms, interior plantscape firms, and insect extermination firms. Commercial applicators for hire must be certified and licensed as Individual Commercial Applicators. In addition to the person actually making the application, any persons involved in mixing and/or loading the pesticide for the applicator must also be licensed and certified.

Persons who supervise, instruct or control (without necessarily being physically present) the application, mixing or loading of pesticides by commercial applicators for hire must also be licensed and certified.

Commercial applicators not-for-hire include commercial applicators who make pesticide applications to property that they or their employer controls, and they receive no compensation for the application other than their normal wages. Examples include: an employee of a golf course who only makes pesticide applications to turf or ornamentals located on the course, or a building and grounds maintenance employee who applies a weed control on company property. Almost all employees of governmental or educational institutions are categorized as not-for-hire.

A commercial applicator not-for-hire must be certified and licensed to use restricted-use pes-

ticides. How will you know if the product is a "restricted-use" pesticide? The words "RESTRICTED-USE" will be stated clearly on the pesticide label. This means the pesticide is restricted by law for use only by certified applicators.

Although commercial applicators not-for-hire who only use general-use pesticides are not required by law to be certified or licensed, many employers recommend or require that employees become certified as part of their training. The department and Extension strongly encourage certification for anyone who uses pesticides in the course of their work. In this case, the applicator would not need to be licensed, or pay the \$60 annual license fee.

In summary:

- 1.) Commercial applicators for hire must be certified and licensed to apply any pesticide; either restricted-use or general-use.
- 2.) Commercial applicators, for hire and not-for-hire, who purchase, mix, load, apply, dispose or direct the use of any restricted-use pesticide must be certified and licensed.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call the WDATCP Certification and Licensing Office at (608) 224-4548.

### *The Wisconsin Turfgrass News*

is the official publication of the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association  
edited by Monroe S. Miller  
and Tom Schwab



# NFL EXPERIENCE

by Rich Riggs

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

UW-Stevens Point joined the "Cheese League" the summer of 1995. The newest member of the NFL The Jacksonville Jaguars had their training camp at our campus. They stayed in two dorms on campus, used our locker rooms and used four of our athletic fields.

The entire organization, under the strong leadership of Head Coach Tom Coughlin, is a class act. Every person we dealt with was fair, honest and very appreciative of the effort we at the UW-Stevens Point put out to make their camp the success that it was.

Coach made it clear from the beginning that the fields and their condition were most critical. We passed with flying colors, but not without a great deal of work. We began working on the fields in the fall of 1994.

The field was tilled and soil was added. We needed to add 800 yards of soil to raise the crown to 12". The field was then graded and rolled to check for an even grade. We then lightly tilled the field one final time. It was then seeded with 400 pounds of Scotts Bluegrass 100, and 200 pounds of Scotts Ryegrass 100.

A starter fertilizer was applied at 40.0 pounds/11,000 square feet. The field was then covered with clean straw mulch. The weather cooperated with us throughout the fall. Irrigation was used to ensure the soil did not dry out. The work was completed on September 19, 1994. By September 26, 1994, we could see a nice catch of grass.

On October 24, 1994, we cut the field for the first time. It was cut at 2.75 inches and will remain there until next summer at which time we will begin to lower the height to 1.5 inches. On October 31, 1994, 3 pounds/1000 square feet of Scott's Sports Turf was slit seeded into the field. In mid -

November one pound of N/1000 square feet as Milorganite was applied and the field was done for the winter.

Work began on the field again in May. It was core aerified and more seed was added using 300 pounds of rye and 200 pounds of bluegrass seed. They were broadcast into the open holes. The field was then dragged and top-dressed using an 80/20 topdressing mix.

Work began on a second field at this time. The second field was again tilled and soil added. After grading and light tilling, the field was sodded using 3/4" sod. A starter fertilizer was added before and after the sod was laid. The sodding was completed on May

7. The irrigation was again adjusted to meet the needs of the grass. We needed the roots to grow deep and fast.

While we were doing this to fields 1 and 2, fields 3 and 4 had an underground irrigation system installed. A Toro system (using 2001 heads) was a great addition to the fields. Before the system we had to manually water the fields using pipe or a big gun. Neither system was acceptable or efficient for maintaining high quality turf.

All fields were then put on a high maintenance program. They were fertilized every three weeks for a total of 6.5 pounds of N/1000 square feet and 7.5 pounds of

*(Continued on page 4)*

## President's Message

by Wayne Horman, WTA President

The start of a new year is always refreshing. It provides most of us with the opportunity to make some sort of new year's resolution. Of course, for some of us, this is usually associated with a new diet or a new exercise program.

Gaining some knowledge and better solutions to the turfgrass problems we experienced in 1995 would be a good resolution. Like most resolutions, it takes a commitment to fulfill them. This is where the WTA and the University of Wisconsin-Madison can help!

In the past, the WTA has helped support turfgrass research at the University. When a location was needed to do more extensive turfgrass research, the WTA helped build the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research Facility. When dollars were needed to fund various

turfgrass research projects at the Noer Facility, the WTA chipped in.

We will hit a huge crossroad in 1996. The opportunity is here to move the Turf Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (TDDL) to the Noer Facility. In 1995 TDDL was housed on the UW campus. WTA believes locating TDDL at the Noer Facility would serve the industry better and be more convenient for you to access. TDDL will provide better and quicker solutions on disease problems. After this past season, better and quicker solutions can make the difference between success and failure. A correct diagnosis may help your budget also.

In the next few weeks, you will be hearing more about what you can do to help make this resolution a reality. See you at the EXPO.



(Continued from page 3)

K/1000 square feet for the season. Seed was broadcast after aerification three times before the Jaguars arrived. The fields were cut daily with a reel gang mower at two inches until 2 weeks before the team came. We then lowered the cut to 1 1/2". The fields were sprayed twice with fungicides as preventative measures.

The weather then began to fight. We had our hottest summer in over 100 years. The rain was also unpredictable. We went weeks with no rain and then it would rain 2" or 3" at a time. This was a most interesting combination. The watering was done on an as "needed basis" to assure the Jaguars of a firm playing surface.

We had several visits from David Mellor of the Brewers, and Mark Clay and his assistant from the Jaguars. They helped to make sure we had a safe and playable surface for the team. The fields were in great shape when the team arrived. The grass was cut at 1 1/2" every day.

We painted the fields as needed, usually every 5th or 6th day. We used Pioneer Brite-Stripe paint mixed at a 2:1 ratio. Two person teams painted the straight lines and one 3 person team painted the numbers and hash marks. We would paint two complete fields in 75 minutes. Twenty gallons of paint or 40 gallons of paint/water mix was used for the two fields. The next day we would paint the other two fields along with any special lines the coaches wanted. This would allow enough time for the field to dry before the afternoon practice. Following the afternoon practice, we would again fill any divots and do some topdressing, if needed, and also our watering was done at this time.

When camp began, we worked closely with the team to meet their needs. I would meet every morning at 6:15 am with Coach Coughlin to discuss the fields. He wanted to know how wet they were, if there were any soft spots, and the forecast. We would also

discuss how the fields were holding up, and how he would move his drills around. Before morning practice we would mow all the fields and check for any divot repairs. Between practices we walked the fields filling in any divots and making any repairs necessary to insure a safe and playable surface.

During all practice time we did have people available on an on-call basis. Every 2nd or 3rd day we would roll the center of the fields as well as hand spread extra seed and fertilizer in between the numbers on all fields. We filled the divots with a pre-germinated seed mix. The perennial rye seed was soaked in water for 72 hours. We then removed the seed and mixed it with Milorganite until it was damp. We then stored this in 30 gallon barrels and would hand seed all fields. We would go through about 25 pounds of seed per practice.

The fields held up well. The first two weeks were the most intense with two practices a day, six days a week. Once the team began to play games, a couple of days were available to recover and they did just that. The coach was very impressed with the amount of recovery in just one weekend.

This was the most intense work on our fields that our crews have ever seen at UW-Stevens Point. When it was over I could not have been happier with the results. Our days started early, 5:00 am, and ended late, 8:00 - 9:00 pm. We had a crew of five full time employees and ten students available to work on the fields. The start times were staggered so one rarely had to be there the entire time. On Sundays, the Jaguars day off, we would work the fields from 7:00 am until noon. This schedule was followed all during camp. Before camp began, we would work seven days a week, but the start and stop times were much more reasonable.

The camp was a huge success; however, it does not happen by chance. We had a great deal of support from Assistant Chancellor Greg Diemer, Physical Plant Director Larry Beck and Camp Director and Athletic Director Frank O'Brien. Everyone worked for a common goal and it happened! I look forward to next year's camp and also following the progress of the Jaguars. Even though we did not have the Bermuda grass Coach was looking for, he was very happy and pleased with the field condition.

## Wisconsin Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO 1996

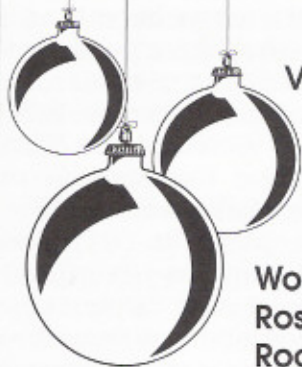
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Mr. Tom Schwab  
The Wisconsin Turfgrass News  
3101 Highway M  
Verona, WI 53593

Dear Mr. Schwab:

I obtained a copy of your article entitled "MOCAP Registration Ends" by Dr. Chuck Koval from your last issue of The Wisconsin Turfgrass News. Unfortunately, the information in the article is not exactly true and we foresee a problem as a result.

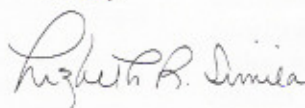
Rhône-Poulenc Ag Company voluntarily canceled the MOCAP® 5%G Nematicide-Insecticide (EPA Reg. No. 264-471) and the MOCAP® 10%G Nematicide-Insecticide (Restricted Use Product) (EPA Reg. No. 264-497) on December 16, 1994 as a result of the cost of reregistration for these products. These two products have neither been produced or sold for many years. However, there still may be product out in the channels of trade and still usable. As a result of our voluntary cancellation of these products, the Agency is allowing Rhône-Poulenc, distributors and dealers to sell the product until December 16, 1995. Product left in the channels of trade after December 16, 1995 should be disposed of as hazardous waste material. The end user can use the product until the product is gone. Because of the requirements under the Worker Protection Standard, this product will have to be sold or relabeled by October 23, 1995. Since the Agency has not provided industry guidance on how to relabel product yet, if there is product in the channels of trade (which does not include the end-user), they should contact Liz Simila/Rhône-Poulenc Registration Manager at 919/549-2787.

Please be aware and it is very important that your clientele know, that there are still two MOCAP® registrations which contain the turfgrass uses, one of which is marketed specifically for the golf course turfgrass market. (Use on domestic lawns was restricted many years ago and should not be used on domestic lawns or by homeowner on domestic lawns.)

As a result of this misunderstanding by Dr. Koval, Rhône-Poulenc anticipates many phone calls from distributors, dealers and users. It would be very much appreciated if this kind of information could be passed by Rhône-Poulenc prior to publishing it. As The Wisconsin Turfgrass News is a good and reputable newspaper, it would eliminate the need for corrections in subsequent issues as well as eliminate the alarm and time it causes our (yours and ours) customers.

It would also be appreciated if you would publish a correction regarding this matter in your December issue. Please feel free to contact me at 919/549-2787 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Lizbeth R. Simila  
Registration Manager

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## MOCAP Not Gone Yet!!

by Dr. Chuck Koval, Department of Entomology

In the last issue, I indicated that the EPA announced the voluntary cancellation of two MOCAP product registrations by Rhone-Poulenc Ag Company. The products were 5% and 10% formulations. Unfortunately, the EPA announcement did not indicate that Rhone-Poulenc had other MOCAP products, also formulated in 5% and 10% formulations and specifically labeled for the golf course turfgrass market.

I'm sorry for the oversight on my part. However, dealers with MOCAP product on hand with EPA Reg. Nos. 264-471 and 264-497 can no longer sell these materials as of December 16, 1995. Golf courses with these products on hand can use the material until all product is utilized.

Remember, MOCAP with the golf course only label remains legal to be sold and used. Should you have any MOCAP product on hand or have concerns about the products, please call the Registration Manager for Rhone-Poulenc, Liz Simila at 919-549-2787.



# 1995 Fertilizer Demonstration Trials

by Dr. Wayne R. Kussow, Department of Soil Science

Two turf fertilizer demonstration trials were once again conducted at the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility. One involved fertilizers sold to homeowners by chain stores and lawn and garden centers. The second trial included fertilizers generally available only to professional turf managers.

Because demonstration trials do not involve replication of the treatments, statistical tests cannot be applied to determine the chances that the same turfgrass color responses would be observed at other locations. Results from replicated trials suggest that in non-replicated demonstrations, color ratings for two different treatments should not be considered different unless they differ by at least 0.4 units.

The homeowner fertilizer trial served to test the rule-of-thumb that if grass clippings are mulched rather than removed, enough nitrogen is recycled to permit reduction of the annual fertilizer nitrogen rate by 1/3 without adversely affecting turfgrass color. The averages of 21 color ratings taken during the season support this rule-of-thumb (Table 1). While color ratings for each fertilizer treatment were generally lower when the grass was mulch mowed and 2 lb N/1000 ft<sup>2</sup> applied rather than when clippings were removed and the N rate increased to 3 lb/1000 ft<sup>2</sup>, the differences cannot be viewed as being significant.

Days to greenup, average and maximum color ratings, and color on October 8 (Table 1) serve to disclose some of the distinguishing characteristics of the homeowner fertilizers. The time required after the first fertilizer application of the season to increase turfgrass color ratings to 7.0 ranged from 3 to 30 days. The chain store fertilizers, represented

**Table 1.** Kentucky bluegrass color response to fertilizers purchased by homeowners.

Fertilizer	Clipping management	lb N/1000 ft <sup>2</sup>	Days to greenup ♦	Color rating		October 8 color †
				Avg.	Maximum	
Lawn	Removed	3	30	7.3	8.5	7.4
Restore 9-4-4	Mulched	2	30	7.1	7.8	7.4
Shur-Green 27-3-3	Removed	3	5	8.0	8.9	7.5
	Mulched	2	7	7.8	8.0	7.6
Milorganite 6-2-0	Removed	3	32	7.0	8.0	7.4
	Mulched	2	30	7.1	8.0	7.6
Creekwood 4-5-3	Removed	3	30	7.2	8.4	7.5
	Mulched	2	23	7.2	7.8	7.6
Scotts 29-3-4	Removed	3	25	7.4	8.5	7.4
	Mulched	2	18	7.2	7.8	7.5
Scotts 14-3-6	Removed	3	30	7.1	7.8	7.2
	Mulched	2	22	7.2	8.0	7.3
Natures Best 10-1-4	Removed	3	30	7.0	8.2	7.3
	Mulched	2	30	7.1	8.4	7.5
Tru-Green 24-4-8	Removed	3	4	7.8	8.8	7.4
	Mulched	2	3	7.7	8.6	7.6
Naturall 8-1-3	Removed	3	27	7.1	7.8	7.4
	Mulched	2	25	7.0	7.6	7.5

♦ Days required after first application of the season to attain a satisfactory color rating of 7.0

† Ten weeks after the last of three 1.0 lb N (clippings removed) or 0.67 lb N/1000 ft<sup>2</sup> (mulched) fertilizer applications.

in the trial by Shur-Green 27-3-3 and Tru-Green 24-4-3, provided the shortest greenup times. This is to be expected because these low-cost fertilizers contain essentially only urea as their nitrogen source. Urea, being 100% water soluble, evokes quick turfgrass color response. But, as shown in Table 1, these fertilizers also tend to result in excessive color development and, by inference, surges in clipping production and possible long-term reductions in turf quality.

The natural organic fertilizers had greenup times ranging from

22 to 32 days (Table 1), while the greenup time for Scotts 29-3-4 (Turf Builder) averaged 21 days. Mulch mowing often reduced the time to greenup, but varied among the fertilizers.

The fertilizers with the lowest maximum color ratings (Table 1) are those that produced the most consistent color throughout the season. Since consistent color generally translates into uniform turfgrass growth rates, this is deemed to be a desirable fertilizer property, providing the fertilizer also consistently provides color ratings of 7.0 or more.



Milorganite 6-2-0 and Naturall 8-1-3 provided consistent color, but had several color ratings <7.0. Fertilizers providing relatively consistent color ratings and none below 7.0 once greenup occurred were Ringers Lawn Restore 9-4-4, Creekwood 4-5-3 (composted poultry manure), and Scotts 14-3-6.

Color ratings made on October 8, which was 10 weeks after the last of the three fertilizer applications, provide some notion of the relative longevities of color response provided by the various fertilizers. None of the fertilizers appeared to be exceptional in this characteristic. There was a tendency for the October 8 color ratings to be slightly higher for the mulch mowed than the clippings removed plots.

This year the professional fertilizers tested were selected to represent a wide array of nitrogen carriers and combinations of carriers. The carriers represented were activated sewage sludge, urea, sulfur-coated urea (SCU), polymer-coated urea and potassium nitrate, polymer+sulfur-coated urea, and three methylene ureas (MU) (Table 2).

Greenup times varied from 7 to 30 days (Table 2). The greater the amount of N present as urea, the shorter the greenup time. Among the coated-urea products, Scotts Poly-S had shortest greenup time. The SCU and MU products and polymer-coated potassium nitrate had intermediate greenup times in the range of 19 to 23 days. The polymer-coated urea and Nutralene required slightly more time. Milorganite required the most time (30 days) to produce a satisfactory color rating.

I believe that a general use of turf fertilizer should provide an

average color rating of around 7.5, not produce color surges that result in ratings above 8.5, and maintain good late-season color. Several of the fertilizers met these criteria. They were: Andersons 25-4-13

with Nutralene; Sta-Green 18-3-17 with Polyon; Scotts 32-3-10 with methylene urea; Tyler 18-8-18 with SCU; K-Power 18-3-15 with polymer-coated potassium nitrate; and Country Club 18-5-9 with MU.

**Table 2.** Kentucky bluegrass color response to professional turfgrass fertilizers.

Fertilizer	Principal N carrier	Days to greenup <sup>♦</sup>	Color rating		October 8 color <sup>†</sup>
			Avg.	Maximum	
Anderson 25-4-13	Nutralene	24	7.4	8.4	7.9
Milorganite 6-2-0	Activated sludge	30	7.2	8.5	7.8
Sta-Green 18-3-17	Polyon	26	7.5	8.6	7.6
Scotts 32-3-10	MU	20	7.6	8.5	7.4
Tyler 24-4-12	SCU	23	7.7	8.8	7.8
Spring Valley 22-1-3	Urea + Milorganite	9	7.5	8.9	7.4
ParEx 24-4-12	IBDU + SCU + urea	7	7.9	8.8	7.2
Scotts 40-0-0	Poly-S	11	8.0	8.8	7.6
Tyler 18-8-18	SCU	20	7.5	8.0	7.4
K-Power 18-3-15	Polymer-coated KNO <sub>3</sub>	19	7.6	8.3	7.5
Spring Valley 34-2-6	Urea + SCU	9	7.9	8.6	7.8
Country Club 18-5-9	MU + urea	11	7.7	8.5	7.5

<sup>♦</sup> Days required after first application of the season to attain a satisfactory color rating of 7.0

<sup>†</sup> Ten weeks after the last of three 1.0 lb N (clippings removed) or 0.67 lb N/1000 ft<sup>2</sup> fertilizer applications.

*The Annual Membership Meeting of the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association will be held on Wednesday during EXPO. The meeting will include a treasurer's report, discussion of current and future business and the election of board members. Nominated to the board are Dan Barrett from Trout Lake Golf Course, Jeff Bottensek from Stevens Point Country Club, and Wayne Horman from the Scotts Company. We hope you can attend.*



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan 9-11	WI Turfgrass and Greenscape Expo	Holiday Inn/Madison
Jan 18-20	Mid-Am	Chicago, IL
Jan 22	WGCSA/GCSAA Technical Seminar	Fond du Lac
Jan 24,25	Garden Center Symposium	Waukesha
Jan 30,31	WNA Winter Workshop	Oshkosh
Jan 31	PLCAA Winter Workshops	Madison
Feb 7-11	GCSAA Golf Course Conference & Show	Orlando, FL
Feb 25-27	WLF Winter Convention	Kohler
Feb 25-Mar 1	School of Turfgrass Management	UW Madison
Feb 25-27	WLF Winter Convention	Kohler
March 4	WGCSA Spring Business/Education Meeting	Fond du Lac
March 5	Spring Valley Turf Fair	Pewaukee
March 11-15	UWEX Regional Turf Conferences	Stevens Pt, Eau Claire & Green Bay
August 20	WTA Summer Field Day	Noer Facility - Madison

*WTA Members – If you have an important date you'd like to share with other members call 608-845-6536 or Fax 608-845-8162 and let us include it in the next calendar.*

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