

# The Idaho Golf Course Superintendents Association

# Grass Clippings

April 2023

## 27th Super/Pro Golf Challenge



The Super/Pro Golf Challenge is one tool available to help strengthen the relationships among a facility's key employees — which benefits the facility operations as a whole. The event is also an opportunity to learn about your peers' successes and challenges of the season. It is proven over and over that informative conversations always take place when you gather!

Register now to enjoy beautiful views of the Snake River on Wednesday, May 31, while you golf River's Edge Golf Club at Burley in Burley, Idaho. 10:00 a.m. shotgun. Our hosts are Brent Winn, golf course superintendent, and Scott Draper, head PGA professional.

Everyone is welcome to play and we offer two flights to accommodate all teams. Hole sponsors are greatly appreciated.

To register, please visit the calendar event of our website, [idahogcsa.org](http://idahogcsa.org). Please register by May 23 for play and to sponsor a hole; please commit by May 17 to ensure signage.



[idahogcsa.org](http://idahogcsa.org)

## New High Hit at Silent Auction for Rounds

We enjoy incredible support from the courses in our region when it comes to donating to our silent auction for rounds at the Boise Golf Show each year. While our booth popularity among the show attendees has grown each year, in 2023 there was a noticeable difference. The often low-ball Friday night bids were replaced with competitive bids that held, or simply pushed the bidding even higher over the weekend!

Our committee chair, Travis Rose, reported that if initial bids held we would have exceeded \$15,500 this year! Unfortunately initial bids do not always

hold. But, we still came in with an incredible final total of \$15,020 in successful collections! Huge thanks to our auction committee



chair, Travis Rose, Simplot Turf & Horticulture, who worked hard to connect with our superintendents and gather rounds, set up and worked the booth with Charisse Rose (left) and Jason Aanestad, Pacific Golf & Turf (above with Travis Rose).

Distributing the rounds with handwritten notes were Jason Sigmund and Ken Thornock, The Valley Club. That is a huge job, and we thank you.

**Why are these funds so important?** They help keep our user fees lower — for all, and help supplement our programs. For example, the Spring Meeting and Trade Show in the past helped to support our overall budget during the year. But the income has not stayed ahead of rising expenses. And, coupled with the much needed new location for the event, our 2023 event came in at a loss. Again, we are thankful for the successful auction!



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FEB  
23

**Idaho GCSA Spring Meeting & Trade Show**  
- Feb 23 & 24, 2023

WOW! We are talking a new location and a new  
date! See you at the Spring Meeting & Trade Show -  
February 23 & 24, 2023. The board meeting will  
[...]

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**Info about Idaho GCSA website!**

- \* Do you have an address change? Changing the information on Your Profile in the Member's Area will automatically update the association's database! Use of proper capitalization and spelling is appreciated.
- \* Do you have any classified items? Please be sure to complete the classified section in the Member's Area.
- \* Your username is always your email address. To set your password click on forgot password and follow the prompts.

*"The Idaho Golf Course Superintendents Association is  
dedicated to helping its members provide the best playing  
conditions in an environmentally friendly manner."*



# President's Message

## Always Learning

Jason Sigmund, President  
The Valley Club, Hailey, Idaho

With what seems to be the winter that never wants to end, there was no better time to have our annual spring meeting in Boise. With a new location and excitement, seeing old friends and meeting new ones was great. Our speakers once again came

through and delivered some great info. Roch Gaussoin explained the pros and cons of solid tining vs. pulling a core while diving into the best approach for sampling organic matter. Mike Richardson went deep into wetting agents and was able to clarify some of the questions I had. Gary Grigg gave a very informative talk on his history in the turf industry, which gave everyone a good understanding of how far the turf industry has come over the years. Cory Phillips, the equipment manager at Atlanta Country Club, closed out the speakers. He discussed troubleshooting for equipment and helped me understand some of the day-to-day problems that equipment managers may encounter.

With a long winter like we're having, it's good to take some time and recharge the batteries. Whether this is spending time with family, going on a vacation, or staying home and having some good TV time. Every year the third week of January, I make the four-hour drive to Park City, Utah, for the Sundance Film Festival. Not only is this an excellent trip to relax and recharge, but a good week to spend time with my little brother, who happens to be in the film industry, which has its advantages regarding the festival. Many of the films that premiere go on to receive critical acclaim and success on the big screen. Plus, seeing these films before they hit the mainstream theater is always excellent.

Being one of the biggest festivals in the world, this attracts some of the biggest stars. It's common to run into famous people at the 7-Eleven, or a local breakfast establishment, not to mention some of the premier parties. Even though this is a time to relax

and enjoy some great films, there is always time to learn. The topic always arises when standing in line with other attendees on how well the festival operates. The festival is a complete takeover of Park City, but not once in the ten years I've been going has anything run late, been canceled, or moved. With over 1,600 volunteers, snowstorms, 100,000 people from all over the world, and 100-plus films, occasionally, events would start late, but I've still yet to experience it.

No matter where you're at or what your industry, you can always note how different operations function and apply these learnings to your own. It may be the film industry, but seeing how Sundance treats the volunteers, stays on schedule, and runs daily screenings is always impressive. However, like everyone, they do have their weaknesses. Tagging along with my brother also allows me to chat with people in the industry and it's interesting to see how film companies operate, their problems, and what solutions they come up with. Usually, it's a different way of thinking more liberal, and it seems they all struggle when it comes to managing the budget. At the end of the day, though, they have the same problem finding good people to work with, from top to bottom.

The moral of the story is even when you're on vacation or at an event, take note of how your surroundings are being cared for and operated. You never know when you might pick something up to improve your operation.



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# Our Solution to Communicating with Members

Nate Cahill, The River Club, Boise, Idaho



What do I write? How do I convey my thoughts onto this screen/ paper? Those are just a couple of the questions that plague me when trying to commu-

nicate in type — to no one's fault but my own. It has always been a struggle for me to convey myself in type. Since being at The River Club, I have tried to do short reports about the course from time to time. The general manager and I talked about this needing to be more of a focal point this year. I still struggled.

Being in a management role in my career for over 22 years, I needed to be better at communicating with the membership. I ask myself, "How do I go about that?" As I mentioned to you, I struggle to convey my thoughts through text. So, I brought the idea of creating a YouTube channel to the general manager. He and I both thought that would be a good way for me to interact more with the membership. With our eye on the future reconstruction project of the course, it would also be a way to keep the membership informed throughout that process.

My goal is to post short videos of what we, as maintenance staff, do on the golf course. The first video was a simple how-to on fixing ball marks. This came about from input from members.

It may have 150 views, but the response from the members that did view it was great. That was a good way to begin. I wasn't trying to be a viral sensation.

Then came the crew's response of making a video, which I did not see coming. I did most of the first video on my own and without most of them knowing about my plans. This was an exercise for my own growth. Once I told them we were on YouTube, the excitement level grew. The ideas they were coming up with were amazing. They even were critiquing each other more on the jobs they were doing. The cameras and phones were out all the time taking video. I had to put a damper on it and bring it under control. We were a month out from aerifying greens at the time. I told them they could help with the video I wanted to make explaining the processes we use for aerifying greens. They showed up the first morning of aerification with two or three GoPro cameras and selfie sticks. They got more than enough footage and angles for a video. That could have been the most smiles on faces I had ever seen over the two- and half-day process.

Finally, this fall we finished the voice-over and editing, and posted the video. The lesson I learned is next time I will post the informative video and allow the crew to post their version, too.

I can't wait for next season to make some more videos. Something that was a challenge to start has now grown a little bit. Something I thought I would be fully responsible for now has evolved a little bit. I may not let the reigns lose completely, but I will let the lead out a little longer.



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# Finding a Passion

## Sean Coffey, Assistant Superintendent Osprey Meadows at Tamarack, Donnelly, Idaho

I'm sure you have heard the saying, "Choose a job you love, and you'll never have to work a day in your life." Yet, in most

cases it's easier said than done. Finding something that you are passionate about and getting paid to do it can be an exhausting effort for anyone in today's workforce. A lot of people feel they have a job in which they are being paid for something they are proficient in, but do they truly love what they do? This is something that I heavily considered when I graduated college and entered the professional world.

Growing up, I never gave much thought to my career because I was always busy playing football, baseball, basketball — really any sport that was in season. I was certain that I would be the next MLB superstar. It wasn't until college that I realized that I needed to move on from my childhood dream and begin searching for my future career. Naturally, I turned to the thing I love the most, sports. I thought maybe there was a position off the field that could satisfy my competitive drive while providing me with a happy, supportive career. After a summer of coaching high school baseball, I realized it was not going to be the career path for me. I knew I wasn't going to be a coach after about a week into the season, but I learned about another career path that intrigued me — the job of an athletic director. I had the

opportunity to shadow the AD at Hawaii Pacific University and enjoyed many aspects that the position entailed. However, I soon realized the majority of their role was administrative work and within the athletic department.

Back to square one for me. At this point in my journey, I was tempted to find security in the field of finance. Although I was never passionate about finance, I felt it could be an interesting field to work in and one that could provide financial stability. I looked into an internship at a couple different companies, one being at the First Hawaiian Bank. Still quite unsure of what direction I wanted to go, I ultimately put my focus back on school and my senior season of baseball. Unfortunately, this was around early March 2020 when Covid-19 began to disrupt many aspects of our lives. I was stripped of my senior season of baseball and forced to move back to my childhood home in Boise, Idaho.

After eight long weeks of living at home and having to finish my bachelor's degree online, I was invited to join some friends from high school and go golfing. I hadn't played since I was in high school and I think it's safe to say I caught the golfing bug. I found myself at the range every day for the rest of the season, playing 18 holes whenever I could find the time. I loved the feeling of catching the sweet spot off a long iron or playing late into a summer night until the sprinklers chased us off the course. A few months into my new hobby, I realized why golf is so often

continued page 8

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## Finding a Passion continued from page 6

considered a “privileged sport,” as I was reaching into my savings account just to buy a box of Pro V1’s. Still without a clear idea of what career I wanted to pursue, I decided to apply to a golf course due to my newfound passion for the sport and my interest in nature. I applied for a position on the grounds crew at Spurwing Country Club and fortunately was offered a job under the direction of Jesse Vincent and Ryan Meredith. From this moment on, everything changed for me. I fell in love with the early mornings, pristine conditions, and the need for attention to detail in daily operations. By the end of my first season working at Spurwing, I knew I wanted to become a golf course superintendent. I was promoted to assistant superintendent the following season and became fully immersed in the day-to-day responsibilities of a golf course superintendent. I found excitement in waking up early and purpose in my responsibilities on the course. It felt natural working on a team again comprised of others with similar interests, all working towards a common goal to better each other



*“This is my dog, Ollie. He is partially blind and close to 100% deaf. But he is a very good golf dog and loves to be by my side!”*

and the course. I didn’t feel dread on Monday mornings anymore like many do, because I felt pride and passion in my job and truly enjoyed the work I was doing. I still do to this day.

This past spring I was offered an amazing opportunity for advancement as assistant superintendent at Purple Sage Golf Course in Caldwell, Idaho, under the direction of Ken Wheeler. Since accepting the position, I have continued to learn something new every day and been given the time to dive into the irrigation side of my field. Without people like Jesse Vincent, Ryan Meredith, and Ken Wheeler, I never would have been able to get my foot in the door of this industry. Each one of them took me under their wing and showed me the qualities of a successful golf course superintendent and ultimately helped introduce me to my love for golf.

I have recently relocated to Donnelly, Idaho to help restore one of Idaho’s best golf courses, Osprey Meadows at Tamarack Resort. This unique opportunity will give me the skills and knowledge of doing a complete grow-in of an entire golf course. I have already learned a ton about the process and we are just getting started. I am excited to see where this opportunity takes me and gives me the ability to share my knowledge with others.

*(Left - Coffey and the mechanic at Purple Sage behind the brand-new autonomous mower.)*



## 2023 Spring Meeting! A great two days of valuable conversations!

*More page 12*







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## How is annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*) seedhead suppression affected by three different growing degree-day based spring ethephon programs and one or two winter ethephon applications?

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Author: Adam Van Dyke, M.S., CPAg, Professional Turfgrass Solutions LLC, adam@proturfgrassolutions.com.

### Premise

Ethephon is the only seedhead suppressing plant growth regulator (PGR) currently available for the cool-season golf turf market. This PGR is traditionally applied to annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*) in the spring to suppress seedheads before they emerge. However, variable spring weather can delay or create confusion for when to make the first spring PGR application — and unsatisfactory results can occur if applied too late. Research by the author has shown that including earlier applications of ethephon in winter improves the seedhead suppression of standard spring PGR programs. But the effect that winter ethephon applications may have on how late a spring PGR program can be initiated has not been thoroughly studied. Therefore, the objectives of this research were to:

1. Evaluate the suppression of spring PGR programs initiated at three different timings of 200, 400 or 600 growing degree-days (GDD) when preceded by ethephon in winter.
2. Determine if one or two winter applications of ethephon influences suppression for any spring GDD timing.
3. Evaluate the suppression of winter ethephon applications only that are not followed by a spring PGR program.
4. Assess the turf safety of winter ethephon applications.

### Materials and Methods

This Idaho GCSA-supported research was conducted at Forest Dale Golf Course in Salt Lake City, Utah from December

2021 through May 2022, on a native soil pushup practice putting green that has been modified by regular sand topdressing for over 15 years. Turf was annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*) with small amounts of creeping bentgrass (*Agrostis stolonifera*) estimated to be 90:10. During the growing season, mowing was performed 6-7 times per week at a height of 0.125 inches and irrigation was applied to prevent drought stress. The routine maintenance practices of sand topdressing and cultivation in spring were withheld from the experimental area, as to not interfere with seedhead ratings, and other PGRs were not applied during the study period.

Individual plots were 3 x 4 ft. arranged in a randomized complete block design with four replications. Treatments included a non-treated check (hereafter, untreated) and nine (9) different PGR program treatments that included combinations of one  
continued page 14



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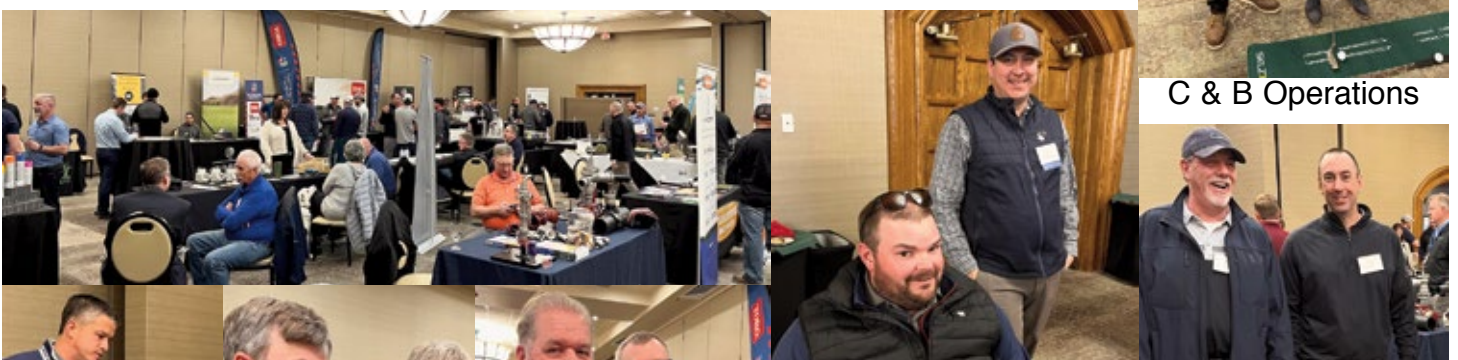
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## Seedhead Suppression continued from page 10

(1) or two (2) winter ethephon applications and three (3) different spring GDD timings. The first winter ethephon application occurred before snow (hereafter, pre-snow) on 1 December 2021 and the second application was after snow melt (hereafter, post-snow) on 28 January 2022. A traditional, two-application spring PGR program consisted of ethephon at 5 fl. oz./1000ft<sup>2</sup> (Proxy®, Bayer) mixed with trinexapac-ethyl at 0.125 fl. oz./1000ft<sup>2</sup> (Primo Maxx®, Syngenta) and initiated at 200, 400 or 600 GDD from 15 February, with one (1) repeat application four weeks later. The GDD range represents three different action thresholds (early, ideal, or late) for getting ahead of developing annual bluegrass seedheads according to the Calhoun (2010) seedhead model. The spring PGR programs were initiated on 18 March (200 GDD), 29 March (400 GDD) and 14 April (600 GDD), respectively, based on GDD calculations with data from a local weather station (Utah Climate Center, Utah State University, Logan, UT). Therefore, the treatment list included: 1) pre-snow + 200 GDD spring program; 2) pre-snow + post-snow + 200 GDD spring program; 3) pre-snow + 400 GDD spring program; 4) post-snow + 400 GDD spring program; 5) pre-snow + post-snow + 400 GDD spring program; 6) pre-snow + 600 GDD spring program; 7) pre-snow + post-snow + 600 GDD spring program, and these were compared to 8) a standard spring program only initiated at 400 GDD (hereafter, 400 GDD spring program), 9) a winter ethephon program only (hereafter, pre-snow + post-snow), and compared to the untreated. The details for each treatment, including products and application dates, are in Table 1.

Treatments were applied in water using a CO<sub>2</sub>-pressurized backpack sprayer at 40 PSI fitted with TeeJet AI11002VS air-induction nozzles calibrated to deliver 2 gal./1000ft<sup>2</sup> (87 GPA) and allowed to dry on the leaves. Fungicides to control snow molds were uniformly applied over the experimental area in fall before the experimental treatments were applied. These materials included propiconazole mixed with CIVITAS Turf Defense at the end of October, followed by Enclave and CIVITAS Turf Defense the third week of November of 2021.

Seedheads were rated weekly for six (6) weeks in 2022 beginning 25 April and ending 31 May as a visual estimation of the plot covered with seedheads (0-100%). Turfgrass quality was also rated on each date, plus on 28 January, 1 and 18 March, and 14 April, on a 1 to 9 scale (6=acceptable, 9=best) based on injury, seedheads, color and uniformity. Seedhead cover on each date was transformed to a percent suppression using Abbott's calculation:

$$(1 - A/B) \times 100$$

where A represents seedhead cover in a treated plot and B represents seedhead cover in the untreated plot. The area under the seedhead progress curve (AUSPC) and turf quality curve (AUTQC) was also calculated from all rating dates, where a lower AUSPC represents reduced seedheads and higher AUTQC represents increased quality over time. Phytotoxicity was also rated following each treatment application on a 0 to 100% injury scale. Data was subjected to analysis of variance (ANOVA) at a 95% confidence interval (P=0.05) with means compared using Fisher's Protected LSD test.



Figure 1. Pre-snow applications of ethephon improved turf quality in late-January when snow melted. Plots receiving ethephon were greener and less desiccated. Photo taken 28 January 2022.

## Results

No turfgrass injury was observed at any time during the experiment (data not presented) indicating the winter ethephon treatments were safe on the annual bluegrass putting green turf. Turf quality was enhanced on 28 January from pre-snow applications (Figure 1) and again on 1 March after post-snow

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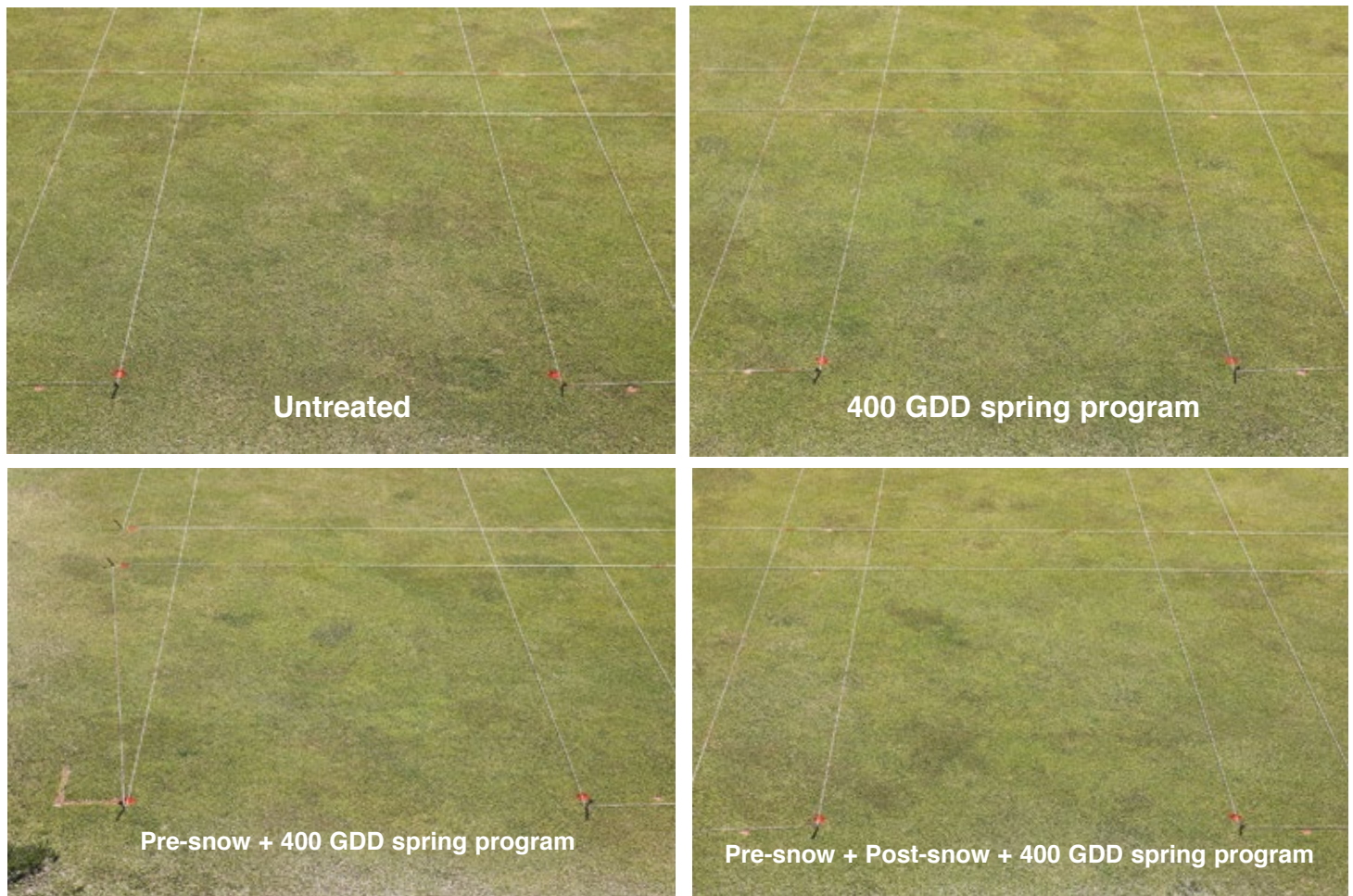


Figure 2. The standard 400 growing degree-day (GDD) spring program suppressed some seedheads but adding both a pre- and post-snow application of ethephon provided greater suppression than the spring program alone.

applications (Table 2). There were no quality differences between treatments from 18 March to 14 April (data not shown) when the spring PGR programs were being applied, although winter ethephon applications provided numerical improvements over untreated turf on some dates.

The onset of seedheads was on 25 April and peak expression between 18 and 25 May, with averages of 53% and 88% seedheads in untreated plots, respectively (data not shown). The 400 GDD spring program significantly reduced AUSPC (Figure 3) and improved turf quality (Table 2) compared to the untreated. Including either a pre-snow and/or a post-snow application of ethephon before the 400 GDD spring program significantly reduced AUSPC and enhanced quality over the 400 GDD spring program alone. Although suppression at seedhead onset was not statistically different for between the addition of either single application or the combination of both, an interesting non-significant trend showed that numerically the post-snow only suppressed more seedheads than the pre-snow only, and the combination pre- and post-snow tended to suppress the most seedheads. A few weeks later, during peak seedhead expression, adding both a pre- and post-snow application suppressed significantly more seedheads than adding a pre-snow or post-snow only to the 400 GDD spring program (Figure 2). Additionally, AUSPC was

significantly lower from the combination pre- and post-snow application compared to the pre-snow only over six weeks (Figure 3).

This was the first experiment to evaluate a winter ethephon program alone that did not receive any spring ethephon applications. The combination pre- and post-snow alone had equal AUSPC to the 400 GDD spring program over six weeks, but also provided significantly greater suppression on early ratings during seedhead onset (Table 3). Turf quality was also improved early from the pre- and post-snow alone, but worse during peak expression compared to the 400 GDD spring program (Table 2). This data suggests that sufficient ethephon is taken up by annual bluegrass during winter with activity persisting into the spring seedhead period. However, the level of plant uptake and ethephon metabolism during winter is still misunderstood, and it is unclear if the winter ethephon applications simply target a different genetic population of annual bluegrass in the sward. These areas should be the focus of future research.

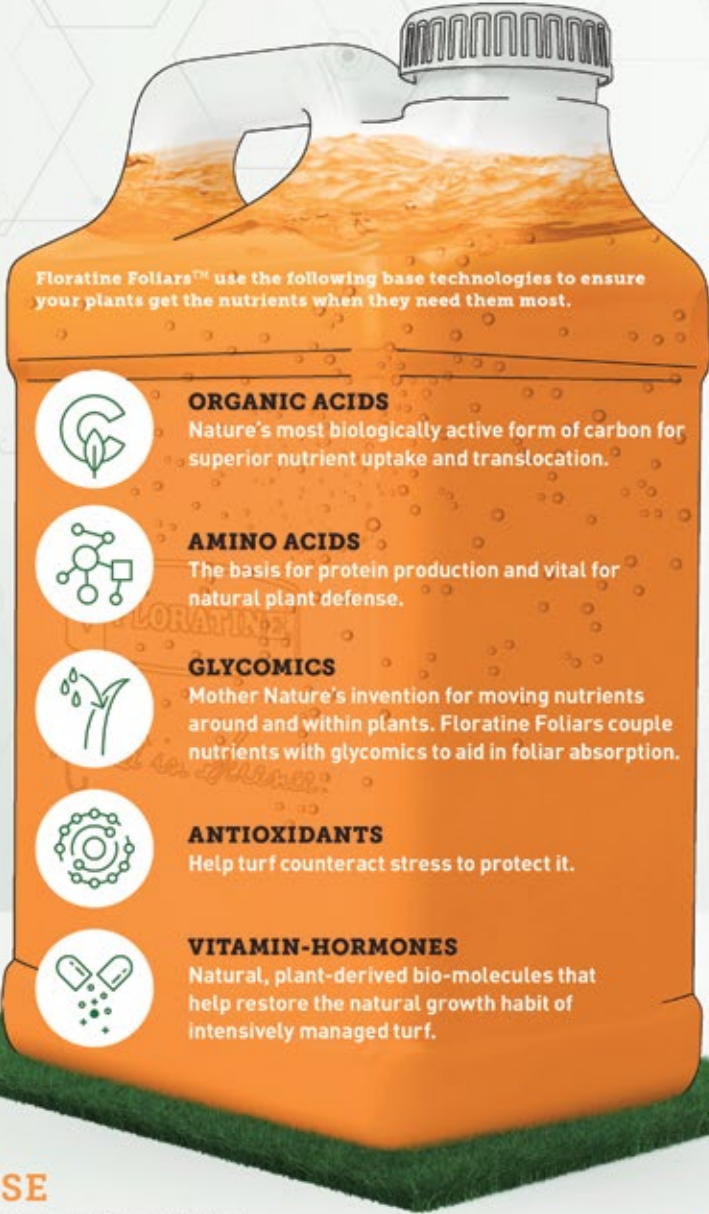
When comparing the different spring GDD timings, seedhead suppression was not different for making the first application at 200, 400 or 600 GDD when preceded by one or two winter ethephon applications. However, including both a pre- and post-

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## Seedhead Suppression continued from page 16

snow application to each spring GDD program reduced AUSPC and provided greater suppression on some dates compared to including a pre-snow only (Figure 3, Table 3). The greatest reduction in AUSPC was from making a pre- and post-snow winter ethephon application followed by the 200 or 400 GDD spring programs. Although not significantly different, seedheads were visible when the 600 GDD spring program was initiated, and these treatments tended to have higher numerical AUSPC under both winter application scenarios.

### Final Thoughts

Using GDD can help time the first spring application, but they can also be confusing to use as it involves certain parameters and calculations in order to get the correct information. Even then, unpredictable weather and/or other unexpected factors may prevent an application from being made on time, and applying ethephon before the boot-stage of annual bluegrass seedhead development is still considered a best practice. This research

shows that applications during winter get ethephon into the plant early and give greater flexibility for making applications in spring. This winter ethephon concept may change traditional spring PGR practices in the future. Superintendents wanting to experience greater seedhead suppression are encouraged to incorporate ethephon during winter into their programs.

### Acknowledgments

This research could not have been done without the efforts of Superintendent, Bill Echternkamp. Thank you, Bill, for providing the site and technical assistance, including adjusting management to make this a success.

### References

Calhoun, R.N. 2010. Growing degree-days as a method to characterize germination, flower pattern, and chemical flower suppression of mature annual bluegrass [*Poa annua* var *reptans* (Hauskins) Timm] fairway in Michigan. PhD Dissertation. Michigan State University.

**Table 1.** Plant growth regulator (PGR) treatment programs evaluated for annual bluegrass seedhead suppression at Forest Dale Golf Course in Salt Lake City, UT, 2021-2022.

Treatment <sup>a</sup>	Description	Product/Rate (fl.oz./1000)	Application Date
Non-treated control	Untreated	None	None
400 GDD spring program (400 GDD <sub>B32F</sub> )	1 <sup>st</sup> spring app +2 <sup>nd</sup> spring app	Proxy/5+Primo/0.125 Proxy/5+Primo/0.125	Mar. 29, 2022 Apr. 25, 2022
Pre-snow +200 GDD spring program	Before snow cover +1 <sup>st</sup> spring app +2 <sup>nd</sup> spring app	Proxy/5 Proxy/5+Primo/0.125 Proxy/5+Primo/0.125	Dec. 1, 2021 Mar. 18, 2022 Apr. 14, 2022
Pre-snow +400 GDD spring program	Before snow cover +1 <sup>st</sup> spring app +2 <sup>nd</sup> spring app	Proxy/5 Proxy/5+Primo/0.125 Proxy/5+Primo/0.125	Dec. 1, 2021 Mar. 29, 2022 Apr. 25, 2022
Pre-snow +600 GDD spring program	Before snow cover +1 <sup>st</sup> spring app +2 <sup>nd</sup> spring app	Proxy/5 Proxy/5+Primo/0.125 Proxy/5+Primo/0.125	Dec. 1, 2021 Apr. 14, 2022 May 12, 2022
Pre-snow +Post-snow +200 GDD spring program	Before snow cover +After snow melt +1 <sup>st</sup> spring app +2 <sup>nd</sup> spring app	Proxy/5 Proxy/5 Proxy/5+Primo/0.125 Proxy/5+Primo/0.125	Dec. 1, 2021 Jan. 28, 2022 Mar. 18, 2022 Apr. 14, 2022
Pre-snow +Post-snow +400 GDD spring program	Before snow cover +After snow melt +1 <sup>st</sup> spring app +2 <sup>nd</sup> spring app	Proxy/5 Proxy/5 Proxy/5+Primo/0.125 Proxy/5+Primo/0.125	Dec. 1, 2021 Jan. 28, 2022 Mar. 29, 2022 Apr. 25, 2022
Pre-snow +Post-snow +600 GDD spring program	Before snow cover +After snow melt +1 <sup>st</sup> spring app +2 <sup>nd</sup> spring app	Proxy/5 Proxy/5 Proxy/5+Primo/0.125 Proxy/5+Primo/0.125	Dec. 1, 2021 Jan. 28, 2022 Apr. 14, 2022 May 12, 2022
Post-snow +400 GDD spring program	After snow melt +1 <sup>st</sup> spring app +2 <sup>nd</sup> spring app	Proxy/5 Proxy/5+Primo/0.125 Proxy/5+Primo/0.125	Jan. 28, 2022 Mar. 29, 2022 Apr. 25, 2022
Pre-snow +Post-snow	Before snow cover +After snow melt	Proxy/5 Proxy/5	Dec. 1, 2021 Jan. 28, 2022

<sup>a</sup>Each spring program included a standard two-application program initiated at 200, 400 or 600 growing degree-days (GDD) from February 15 using a base temperature of 32° F with a reapplication 4-weeks later; Pre-snow is before snow cover; Post-snow is after snow melt; The Pre-snow + Post-snow treatment did not receive PGRs in spring.

**Table 2.** Effect of PGR treatment programs on turfgrass quality, SLC, UT. 2022.

Treatment <sup>a</sup>	Application Code <sup>b</sup>	Quality <sup>c</sup>					
		28 Jan	1 Mar	25 Apr	18 May	25 MAY	AUTQC
		(#)					
Untreated	DG	4.0 c <sup>d</sup>	4.0 b	4.5 b	2.5 d	2.3 e	488.5 e
400 GDD spring program (SP)	DG	4.3 bc	4.0 b	5.0 b	4.3 c	4.3 bc	556.6 d
Pre-snow + 400 GDD SP	ADG	4.8 ab	4.8 a	6.0 a	4.8 abc	4.3 bc	612.0 c
Post-snow + 400 GDD SP	BDG	4.3 bc	5.0 a	6.3 a	5.3 abc	4.5 ab	631.6 abc
Pre-snow + Post-snow + 400 GDD SP	ABDG	5.0 a	4.8 a	6.5 a	5.5 ab	5.0 a	662.5 a
Pre-snow + 200 GDD SP	ACF	4.8 ab	4.8 a	6.3 a	4.8 abc	3.8 cd	623.9 abc
Pre-snow + Post-snow + 200 GDD SP	ABCF	4.8 ab	4.8 a	6.3 a	5.5 ab	4.8 ab	640.6 abc
Pre-snow + 600 GDD SP	AEH	4.8 ab	5.0 a	6.0 a	4.5 bc	3.5 d	620.4 bc
Pre-snow + Post-snow + 600 GDD SP	ABEH	5.0 a	5.0 a	6.3 a	5.8 a	4.5 ab	656.8 ab
Pre-snow + Post-snow	AB	5.0 a	5.0 a	6.5 a	4.5 bc	3.3 d	628.3 abc

<sup>a</sup>GDD – growing degree-days; SP – spring program; pre-snow is before snow cover; post-snow is after snow melt.

<sup>b</sup>Code indicates date of treatment: A=1 Dec. 2021, B=28 Jan., C=18 Mar., D=29 Mar., E & F=14 Apr., G= 25 Apr., and H= 12 May, all in 2022.

<sup>c</sup>Quality rated on a 1-9 scale, where 6=acceptable and 9=best.

AUTQC – Area Under Turf Quality Curve calculated for all rating dates. Higher numbers represent better quality.

<sup>d</sup>Means that share letters in a column are not significantly different according to Fisher’s Protected LSD ( $P=0.05$ ).

**Table 3.** Effect of PGR treatment programs on annual bluegrass seedhead suppression, SLC, UT. 2022.

Treatment <sup>a</sup>	Application Code <sup>b</sup>	Suppression <sup>c</sup>					
		25 Apr	4 May	12 May	18 May	25 May	31 May
		(%)					
400 GDD spring program (SP)	DG	31.7 c <sup>d</sup>	36.2 d	48.9 c	42.7 d	45.5 cd	38.2 bc
Pre-snow + 400 GDD SP	ADG	74.6 b	58.5 c	61.9 bc	59.7 a-d	53.8 bcd	49.7 ab
Post-snow + 400 GDD SP	BDG	90.4 ab	73.0 abc	70.3 ab	66.0 abc	60.1 abc	53.5 ab
Pre-snow + Post-snow + 400 GDD SP	ABDG	88.3 ab	87.3 ab	80.7 a	74.0 a	71.2 a	64.6 a
Pre-snow + 200 GDD SP	ACF	88.8 ab	63.2 c	57.7 bc	54.2 a-d	51.0 bcd	41.0 bc
Pre-snow + Post-snow + 200 GDD SP	ABCF	98.1 a	91.4 a	82.8 a	73.6 a	62.5 ab	58.3 a
Pre-snow + 600 GDD SP	AEH	73.1 b	59.0 c	54.3 bc	48.6 cd	39.9 d	38.2 bc
Pre-snow + Post-snow + 600 GDD SP	ABEH	86.5 ab	74.2 abc	69.4 ab	71.5 ab	62.8 ab	61.8 a
Pre-snow + Post-snow	AB	92.0 ab	69.4 bc	57.8 bc	52.1 bcd	46.2 cd	32.6 c
Untreated	--	0.0 d	0.0 e	0.0 d	0.0 e	0.0 e	0.0 d

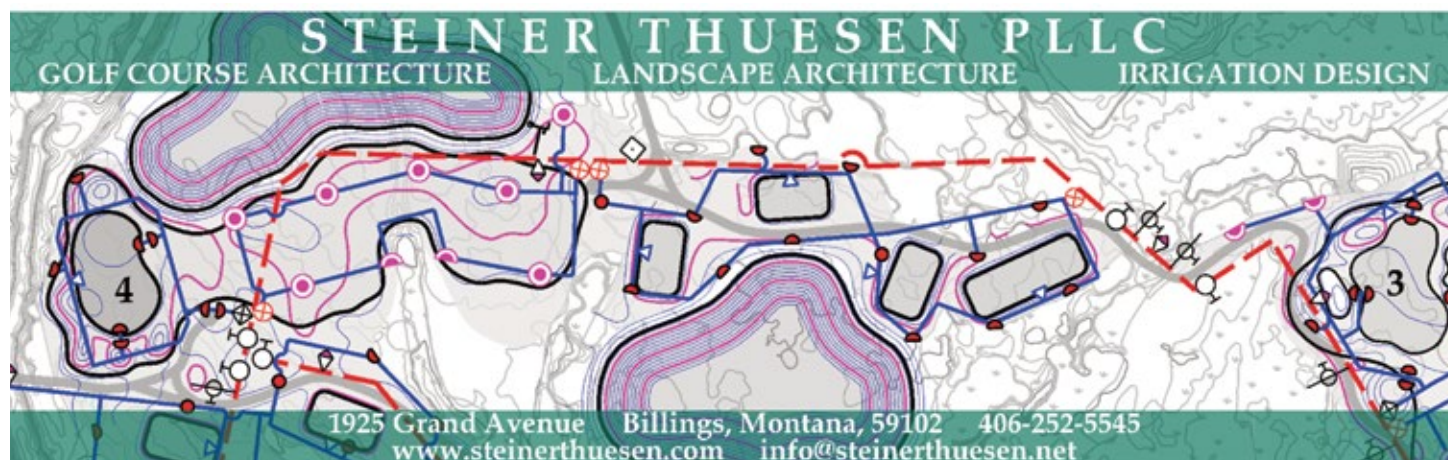
<sup>a</sup>GDD – growing degree-days; SP – spring program; pre-snow is before snow cover; post-snow is after snow melt.

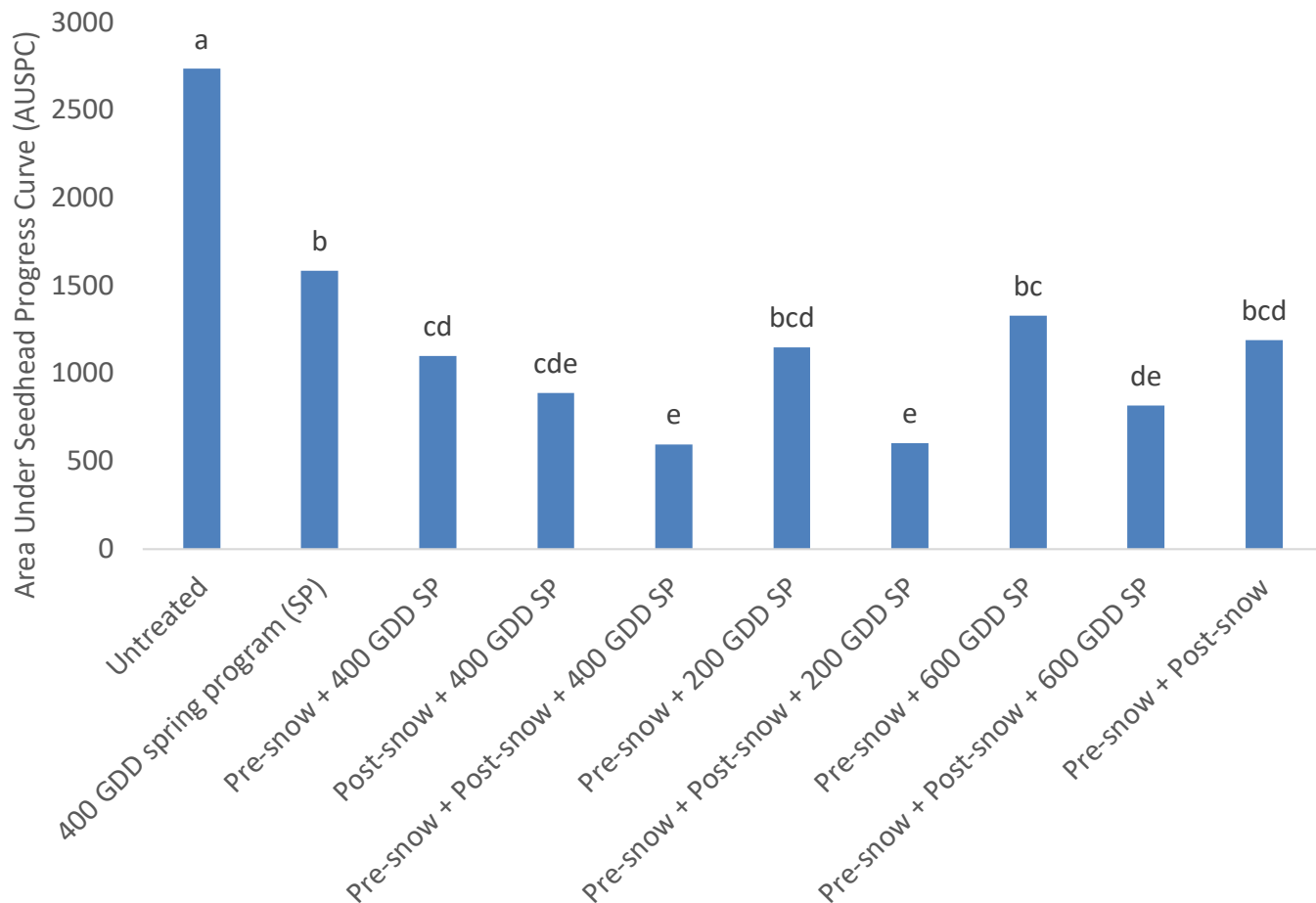
<sup>b</sup>Code indicates date of treatment: A=1 Dec. 2021, B=28 Jan., C=18 Mar., D=29 Mar., E & F=14 Apr., G= 25 Apr., and H= 12 May, all in 2022.

<sup>c</sup>Suppression determined with Abbott calculations of seedhead coverage in each plot.

<sup>d</sup>Means that share letters in a column are not significantly different according to Fisher’s Protected LSD ( $P=0.05$ ).

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**Figure 3.** Area under the seedhead progress curve (AUSPC) as affected by PGR treatment over six weeks. All PGR treatments reduced seedheads compared to untreated turf. The same reduction of seedheads resulted from two applications of ethephon in spring (400 GDD spring program) or two applications of ethephon in winter (pre-snow + post-snow). Fewer seedheads occurred when winter and spring ethephon applications were combined. There was no difference between initiating a spring program at 200, 400 or 600 growing degree-days (GDD) when it was preceded by a winter application, but including both a pre- and post-snow application reduced seedheads for each spring program compared to a pre-snow only. Bars that share letters are not different significantly ( $P=0.05$ ).

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## Chapter Leadership Symposium

Alex Bliss, Sun Valley/Elkhorn GC,  
Secretary/Treasurer, Idaho GCSA

I was fortunate to attend the March 2023 Chapter Leaders/Executives Symposium at the GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, Kan. This was a great event and opportunity to meet with fellow superintendents from across the country to discuss chapter trends and challenges.

One of the two of the biggest takeaways from the meeting was just how much the GCSAA does for all of us in the golf industry; it is more than just a plastic card and monthly magazine. The other was hearing first-hand how important our BMPs are to help with advocacy in both fighting for chemical products that we all use, and most importantly, to aid in the fight for our water rights and use.



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*(Left: Darcy Otto, Lori Russell, Alex Bliss,  
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