

Atlantic Golf Superintendents Association

# TURF

---

## NEWS

---

### THE ROAD TO LEARNING

And what I've learned along the way

### MINIMIZE GOLF COLLAR DECLINE

Preliminary findings & ongoing research

### WELCOME BACK TO HALIFAX!

Atlantic Turfgrass Conference  
and Trade Show

### COPING WITH ANXIETY

Is the topic of anxiety still taboo today?



Atlantic Golf  
Superintendents Association

FEBRUARY 2019  
[www.agsa.ca](http://www.agsa.ca)



# SO MUCH HAS CHANGED **FOR THE BETTER**



**Interface<sup>TM</sup>  
Stressgard<sup>®</sup>**

////// The game of golf has changed since 1979, and Bayer has been there helping Superintendents do their job better and more efficient. From the evolution of Iprodione to Interface Stressgard to the use of Stressgard Formulation Technology. Bayer is always working to make your turf look better... making you look better.

////// Science for a **better life** [www.bayeres.ca](http://www.bayeres.ca) 1-888-283-6847  @BayerGolfCA

ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW LABEL INSTRUCTIONS. Bayer, the Bayer Cross and Interface Stressgard are trademarks of Bayer.

# president's report

Caralynn Cullen  
Truro Golf Club

It's probably fair to say winter came knocking pretty early this year. The Truro Golf Club's last day of play was November 12th, with the next day having a blanket of snow over the entire course? A normal year for us would be having our spray and tarps down by the end of November. This year we pushed snow off the greens a few times hoping for a thaw and happy to say it finally happened the first week in December. Some golf clubs around the Atlantic provinces didn't make out so lucky. Now as I look out across the course on Jan 11th, all I can see is a few inches of ice and thinking maybe it's time to revisit my notes on Winterkill Recovery by Kevin W. Frank... bad times :(

Speaking of education, the Lord Nelson Hotel will host the Atlantic Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show February 19th – 21st. Thank you to the Conference Chair Bradley Allen and his committee for all their hard work and effort toward creating an outstanding education program. Thank you as well to all of our corporate members for your ongoing support of our conference & trade show. It is a great opportunity to further your knowledge and find out what the new and improved products and equipment are in today's industry. This issue of the Turf News is in part to say thank you to those suppliers and to all the hard working individuals that provide us with much needed product and support. Remember, there is more to the conference than just education sessions, it's a great chance to get caught up with your peers and even pick up a few ideas to implement at your own club.

A reminder to all members, the Canadian Golf Course Management Conference will be held in Banff, Alberta at the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel and Conference Centre. It looks like another great show, so for those who are interested in taking part in some education sessions please visit [www.golfsupers.com](http://www.golfsupers.com) for more information.

A three-legged dog walks into the bar, bartender asks "what can I do for you", dog responds "looking for the man who shot my paw."

See everyone in Halifax,

Caralynn



## Atlantic Golf Superintendents Association

### Membership Rates

Class A & B \$165  
Associate \$150  
Corporate \$200  
Industry Affiliate \$150  
Student \$35  
Maintenance \$50  
4+ employees hired  
by a Class A \$150

### Ad & Article Deadlines

February (Supplier) January 1  
May (Spring) April 1  
July (Summer) June 15  
October (Fall) September 15

### Advertising Inquiries

133 Robin Row  
New Glasgow, Nova Scotia  
B2H 5Y6  
1-902-483-5931  
[www.agsa.ca](http://www.agsa.ca)

### Executive Director

Jim Nix  
1967agsa@gmail.com


### Turf News Editor

Callum Haughn

### Contributors

Barry K Stone CGIA, Caralynn Cullen,  
Paul MacCormack, Callum Haughn,  
Bill Kreuser

Visit [rainbird.com/DefendYourTurf](http://rainbird.com/DefendYourTurf) to read the full site report, and see how Desert Mountain is getting more from their irrigation—and their turf.

Follow us @RainBirdGolf 



# Taking your playing conditions to new heights. That's intelligent.



## Rain Bird innovation gives Desert Mountain total control.

With six Jack Nicklaus Signature Courses spread across an 8,000-acre property, Desert Mountain relies on Rain Bird to deliver consistently exceptional playability from course to course. From advanced control features like Flo-Manager® to weather stations that help manage the property's microclimates, they have the power to defend their turf with Rain Bird.



# RAIN BIRD®

# Irrig Plus

Thank you to all of our clients for your support and business during the 2018 season. The weather did not fail to surprise and test us again during the 2018 season right up until year end. Good thing we are all hearty East Coast people who know how to survive in our home region.

Looking forward in 2019 we can expect to see some new software options from Rain Bird and additional options for the IC System. Last year Rain Bird re-introduced the 500 Series sprinkler head and mid- season they introduced a new version with 551 full and part circle models that work the same as the big brother 751. More details will be available at the Atlantic Turf Conference.

Following the Canadian Conference in late March there will be a course offered covering both hardware and software as it relates to golf course irrigation. The location of this class has yet to be determined. Please speak to us at the conference or call our cell numbers for more information.

We are currently updating our options with our Auto-Cad to offer you a more complete service. Over the years as changes are made to your current system they are not always reflected in an updated "As Built". We would like to help with that problem and have invested in a new process for this propose.

Along the same lines we would also like to get a copy of each courses current data base, so we can support you, should there be lost data on your Irrigation Computer. For current GSP courses this option is also available through Rain Bird.

We are making some format changes in how we display our catalogue on our web-site and we look forward to your feed-back over the coming season.

On a personal note congratulations to Marc on his new position and we wish Glenn all the best as he retires at the end of the season. We also wish Charlene all the best as she will have Glenn underfoot a little bit more starting in the fall.

We also would like everyone to keep Nathan's family in their thoughts and prayers as they move forward in 2019, may God's blessing be upon all of them.

We look forward to seeing everyone either in February or at their home course.

Best wishes for a great 2019 season,

Michelle, Barbara, and Barry



The Lakes of Ben Eoin, maintained by AGSA member Matt Blackburn, is one of Cape Breton's finest hidden gems





Let us begin by expressing our gratitude to our customers for their continued support of Halifax Seed during the past season. 2018 was an exciting year for Halifax Seed with many things happening both internally and externally.

The biggest news of the year on the turf side of our business was the addition of Ryan Sherry to the team. Ryan stepped right into his role servicing the professional turf markets in both New Brunswick and Newfoundland and by all accounts did a fantastic job in those regions. Ryan is very excited to begin his second year with the company and we are looking forward to watching him assist superintendents achieve their goals in 2019.

Internally we have made some great changes to help serve our customer base as well as modernize our operation. We welcomed the opening of our new commercial service center during the past year. This office space was renovated and opened at our existing location in Halifax and allows our customers direct access to our professional service team. This enables our customers to skip retail lineups for faster and more efficient service. We also completed our new board room during the fall of 2018. This completely renovated space offers a great meeting room for 12 to 14 people in a quiet and professional setting.

Last year we also kicked off our first Halifax Seed Cup, which was presented in conjunction with Syngenta. We invited 24 superintendents to the beautiful Fox Harb'r Resort in Wallace, NS, where host superintendent Aaron Little had the course in great shape for a day of match play, networking, and most importantly, fun! In the end, Team Callum managed to squeak out the victory over Team Ryan and we are very excited about competing again this summer to see where the trophy ends up. It is currently on display at the office in Halifax where Callum plans on it staying for the foreseeable future.

Halifax Seed was very pleased with the performance of our Turf Fuel line of products during the past year. From their exceptional line of granular fertilizer for all areas on the course, to their foliar fertilizers that have been performing beyond our expectations, Halifax Seed is very happy to be partnered with Turf Fuel to bring these top performing products to the Atlantic region. We are very excited to have Steve Loveday, creator of Turf Fuel, both speaking at the AGSA conference in February as well as joining us in our booth on the tradeshow floor. Be sure to stop by and say hello.

Speaking of the upcoming AGSA conference, we are busy preparing for what is sure to be a great show in Halifax. Along with Steve, we will have Mark Scenna, from Target Specialty and Emma Kitts from Plant Products. We have some great giveaways and all the information that you will need to help put together your programs for the 2019 season, so we hope to see you there!

Last year saw a very different weather pattern for different regions of Atlantic Canada. Some areas experienced extreme drought, while others were inundated with rainfall, making course conditions very soft and increasing damage caused by clientele. Once again our industry leading supplier of wetting agents, Aquatrols, was there to help superintendents combat either situation. The long-time industry standard Primer helps to maximize water storage in the root zone, while the newly added Sixteen90 does a fantastic job of helping move water down into the soil. As always, Revolution was there to provide consistent firm and fast surfaces while also adding all the benefits that ideal soil moisture can create. Be sure to check in with Walter Dea at the Aquatrols booth at the AGSA conference to see how Aquatrols can help you to achieve your goals this season!

To wrap this up, we sincerely hope that winter is good to the industry, both on the turf as well as on those of you that deserve some downtime to recharge before another season. The team at Halifax Seed is always here to help with our over 40 years of in-the-field experience and our hands on, relationship focused approach. All the best during 2019, we look forward to growing together.



## TORO OUTCROSS 9060

The four-wheel drive Toro Outcross 9060 is the first machine of its kind to be exclusively built for management of fine turf. Its balanced design, and four-wheel steer make it gentle on turf with no need for front counterweights. Intuitive driving controls like one-action controls, cruise control, and shuttle shifting make the Outcross 9060 easy-to-use regardless of experience level.



# Veseys EQUIPMENT

Golf, Turf, Lawn & Garden

1-866-455-8873

[www.veseysequipment.com](http://www.veseysequipment.com)



# We've Got You Covered.



## Solutions for Every Need and Budget

Aquatrols has been the world leader in soil surfactant technology for more than 60 years. Our soil surfactants optimize soil moisture and improve irrigation efficiency, resulting in significant water and energy savings.

With a full line of soil surfactant products backed up by sound science and independent research, we offer solutions for every need and budget. Contact your local Aquatrols distributor today or visit [www.aquatrols.com](http://www.aquatrols.com) for more information.



For more information, contact:

**Walter Dea**  
Territory Manager  
[wdea@aquatrols.com](mailto:wdea@aquatrols.com)  
514-602-8410

# Vesey's EQUIPMENT

*Golf, Turf, Lawn & Garden*

Here's hoping everyone had a great Christmas holiday, and wishing a happy and prosperous 2019 to all!

With cooler winter temperatures upon us here in Atlantic Canada, I am sure we are all looking forward to an early Spring and healthy turf.

After a slow start to last Spring and our fair share of wet weather in Atlantic Canada, I think that most would agree that golf weather in 2018 was very good for the most part, and a duplicate in 2019 would be welcomed.

The Vesey's Equipment Team would like to sincerely thank all of our customers for your continued support in 2018, and we look forward to continuing our partnership with both, old and new customers in 2019!

Management at Vesey's Equipment is always committed to continued growth within our business to help support the Golf & Grounds industry.

With that being said, we would like to introduce Dave Praught as our new Parts Manager. Dave has been with Vesey's for several years now and he brings with him many years of parts & warranty experience. I know that Dave is looking forward to this new challenge and he will do a great job.

On that note, we would like to wish our long time Parts Manager Glen Metcalfe, a happy and safe retirement. Glen worked with Vesey's for more than 35 years and his experience, work ethic, and sense of humor will be missed by all.

We are also pleased to announce that a familiar face will be rejoining the Vesey's Equipment Team.

Blayne MacDonald will be joining Vesey's in mid-February, and I am sure many of you will be as pleased as us to welcome him back. Blayne brings with him many years in the golf and grounds service industry and his extensive knowledge will a huge asset to our team!



Vesey's are also pleased to announce that we will once again be hosting our ever-popular Club Car Service School in April. This school will be a 3-day event, which will cover both gas and electric models.

Daniel Harris, Head Trainer with Club Car will be the school trainer for this event.

We also look forward to seeing all of you at the upcoming Conferences in Halifax, San Diego and Banff Springs this year.

As always, we will have plenty of equipment at our booth in Halifax. We will have some new and exciting products to talk about, so please stop by, visit our booths and have a chat.

Once again, the Vesey's Team would sincerely like to thank you all for your continued support over the past many years, and we look forward to assisting you with your turf equipment requirements in the future.

Sincerely,

Vesey's Equipment Team



[www.maritimegreen.org](http://www.maritimegreen.org)

Happy New Year! As we welcome a new year, we want to thank you for the opportunity to serve you in 2018! This year was very busy at Maritime Green, as we introduced CTI Tines, Standard Golf, and Tarp Devil to our product line. We are also NOW exclusive dealers of Bannerman Equipment in Atlantic Canada.

Given that it is our top priority to provide leading products and service with on-time delivery, we moved warehouse locations to On Target Transportation open 24/7 located in Moncton at 385 Frenette Avenue.

On another note, last fall we hosted our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Seminar at Crandall University. Speakers from Growth Products, Calcium Products, and the Toronto BMO Sports field attended the seminar. In addition, a demonstration on various Bannerman Equipment was conducted. This seminar was a highlight for us in 2018, as many of you attended, and the feedback was awesome. Thank you!

As we look forward to another year with great anticipation, we want to thank you for the support and wish you a great season ahead! Hope to see you all in Halifax at the AGSA Conference February 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Amanda Gillies**  
506.878.7931

[amandakillies@outlook.com](mailto:amandakillies@outlook.com)

**Stuart Gillies**  
506.872.4004

[stuartgillies@outlook.com](mailto:stuartgillies@outlook.com)

**Kevin Falls**  
226.821.4421

[turfcan@gmail.com](mailto:turfcan@gmail.com)





## Coping With Anxiety

Article originally printed with permission to reprint from **Golf Course Industry magazine.**

*Moe Robinson is superintendent at Summerlea Golf Club in Port Perry, Ontario, and consulting superintendent at Western Trent Golf Club in Bolsover, Ontario.*

I have been racking my brain trying to decide how to tackle the topic of anxiety through the written word. In person, I could talk for hours, even days about it. So why is putting pen to paper such a daunting task? Maybe it's because the topic of anxiety in today's culture is still so taboo? Most people who suffer hold it in because they cannot articulate their feelings and they are convinced they are alone. Personally, I like to tell my story in hopes that it might help others to learn from it.

My journey with anxiety began roughly 13 years ago. I have come a long way from my first panic attack and for those who have never experienced the physical symptoms, consider your selves blessed. First, there's sweating and a racing heart, then it adds in shortness of breath with a tight chest, a tingling sensation in your hands and feet, and the grand finale of dizziness and feeling like you are about to pass out.

The only thing that comes to mind when experiencing an acute panic episode is that you're having a heart attack. You truly feel as though death is a real possibility. During my initial attack, I rushed to the hospital to be seen by a doctor. I was moderately relieved when I learned that I had suffered a panic attack. Little did I know how long the healing process would be and how the intense fear of those symptoms returning would linger.

Panic attacks are on the extreme end of the spectrum for most people who experience anxiety. Most are fortunate enough never to experience them directly, but still end up living with a more generalized anxiety

disorder. This type of anxiety may be less acute than the panic episodes, but it can still take over your life.

Simple tasks such as going to the grocery store become more difficult than climbing a mountain. You have to get yourself psyched up for something as trivial as standing in line. Some days even getting out of bed can seem impossible. Your life changes to the point that you have to relearn simple, everyday tasks, all the while dealing with the new co-pilot of anxiety.

Everyone who lives with or has had an intimate relationship with anxiety usually asks themselves the same question, "How do I make it go away?" I wish there was a simple answer to that question, but unfortunately that isn't the case. The path of healing and learning to live with the reality of anxiety is a lifelong journey. It starts with recognizing and accepting the existence of what you are feeling. Denying or burying them only serves to strengthen them. Then, with the help of professionals, you can begin to learn how to train your mind and develop.

Each individual has different triggers. Becoming aware of your default storylines and habits is an important step in understanding your new feelings. There are many things that can serve to fuel anxious thoughts, and by learning to identify them we can gain some measure of control over how we relate to them. Basic self-care is critical and I have found that adequate sleep and a regular diet help tremendously in reducing my anxiety. Taking care of oneself is vital, but we also need to practice relating to the world around us in a whole new way.

As turf managers, it can appear that we have a long list of stressors that rest squarely on our shoulders. Member expectation, staff issues, board meetings, weather patterns, disease and pest pressures are among the daily issues we deal with. If we let them, the rigors of the job can easily translate into a sense of being overwhelmed. If one or all of these situations causes you anxiety, then it can be helpful to step back and become curious about how you are relating to it.

For example, do you sense stress when a staff member is not performing to the same standard you might hold yourself to? Is it realistic to expect that everyone should work with as much precision and passion as yourself? Each person has their own skill set and set of beliefs and should be treated as individuals. When I finally learned this lesson, it completely changed my leadership style. I now have an unobstructed view of each person's idiosyncratic ways and work to utilize those qualities to develop a more harmonious work environment. This slight shift in perception went a long way in reducing my anxiety and created a better workplace for my employees.

By learning to deal effectively with anxiety, we are creating a new relationship with our thoughts, emotions and tendencies. Some of the more effective coping skills that you can focus on include mindfulness meditation practice, playing sports and exercising, reading, listening to music, or even just a quiet walk in the woods.

Personally, I have adopted concentrated breathing strategies into my life. When I feel an anxiety flare coming on, I pause and focus on my breathing. Taking long deep inhaleds through my nose, exhaling slowly through my mouth and taking care to make the in-and-out breaths an equal length. Slowing your breath and concentrating on it is proven to help slow your heart rate and relax you. But how do you deal with the other sensations? I like to focus on art or baking when I feel the need to distract myself. Using your favorite hobbies can be a very effective way to calm you down and bring you back to the present moment.

It is my sincere hope that this article is only the beginning of a discussion that more people will participate in. The more we talk about mental illness in an open way, the more we reduce the stigma and its power to control our lives. We need to let people know that it's okay to feel anxious and it is perfectly normal to become overwhelmed. As a society, we need to recognize that people are imperfectly great and to understand that this ride of life is full of highs and lows. By learning to navigate these waves with compassion and vulnerability, we can begin to truly change our relationship with anxiety.

### Positive Coping Suggestions and Resources

- Mindfulness, Yoga, Music, Art, Exercise, Sports, Podcasts, Concentrated Breathing, Vocalizing, Meditation, Reading
- Jon Kabat-Zinn, professor emeritus of medicine, mindfulness teacher, author of "Wherever You Go, There You Are: Mindfulness Meditation in Everyday Life"
- Susan David, PH.D, psychologist, podcaster, author of "Emotional Agility"
- Dr. Wayne W. Dyer, philosopher, motivational speaker and self-help author of "Your Erroneous Zones"
- Gretchen Rubin, blogger, speaker, author of "The Four Tendencies"
- Jack Kornfield, Buddhist practitioner, mindfulness teacher, and author of "Meditation for Beginners"

*As we move through this winter season, we at Nova Turf would like to say THANK YOU for your business in 2018. It is our hope that you are taking time to refresh, reconnect and relax after one of the hottest, most humid summers on record followed with a mind boggling wet fall to test the mettle of you and your peers.*



In 2018, we continued our effort to deliver superior education to Superintendents in Atlantic Canada. In July we partnered with Syngenta to have a great walkabout with Dr. John Kaminski (Penn State) at Brightwood Golf Course.

We followed this up with a fall symposium that hosted Dr. Eric Miltner from KOCH, Greg Bennett from Precision Laboratories and Dr. Ben McGraw (Penn State). The day was capped off with a fabulous evening at The Alexander Keith's Beer Institute and a tour of the historic Keith's Brewery.

As we are all in the planning stages, our 2019 lineup will be coming soon and hopefully your schedule will allow you to attend.

To see what is new and get up to date information on proven technologies and superintendent tools from our industry leading suppliers, please stop by (booths 3, 8 and 9) at the 2019 AGSA Conference.

From all of us at Nova Turf, we look forward to seeing you in Halifax and continuing to grow our relationships in 2019!



Serving the  
**COMMERCIAL  
TURF INDUSTRY**  
est. 1994

## Atlantic Canada's Trusted Turf Care Supplier

WE WISH YOU THE BEST FOR THE UPCOMING  
SEASON AND LOOK FORWARD TO SUPPORTING  
YOUR NEEDS IN 2019!



For information on our products contact:  
Matt Giles 902.478.3843  
Scott Shanks 902.799.1793

NOVA TURF  
2 Bluewater Rd  
Bedford NS

www.NOVATURF.ca  
902.434.9977  
info@novaturf.ca



# Out With the Old and in With the New.



**Upgrade your current control system to NEW technology in one day!**

**Contact Turf Care to find out how:**

Jeremy Phillips, Sales & Service Representative | p: 416-347-4601 or 1-800-561-8873 | e: [jeremyp@turfcare.ca](mailto:jeremyp@turfcare.ca)

The Easy Choice  
**WHEN POWER, PERFORMANCE,  
VERSATILITY AND COMFORT MATTER.**



the All New  
**UMAX**

**Contact your local Turf Care representative to find out more about purchase and lease opportunities:**

Nova Scotia & Newfoundland - Rafuse Golf Cars: 902-825-6582 | Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick & PEI - Turf Care Products Canada: 1-800-561-8873



**TURF CARE**  
Products Canada Limited

**Helping your business GROW.**

Join the conversation: [@TurfCareProdCA](https://twitter.com/TurfCareProdCA)

Visit: [turfcare.ca](http://turfcare.ca)

# IRRIGATION CORNER

*Barry K Stone CGIA*

It appears that Mother Nature is truly being changed with the various effects on our climate. Last year at this time we were discussing the intense storm falling Christmas. This year the discussions centered on the very early start to winter with the lack of covers on the greens and in some cases preventable spray applications that didn't get applied.

There were also courses that had to wait for milder weather and a snow melt before they could start and or complete their winter blowout. To use an old quote "times they are a changing" in the golf irrigation world and not just with the weather.

Because technology is advancing faster each year, software related to irrigation operation is changing much faster than it did 10 years ago. Last year in this same article I mentioned how operating with a 5 year old computer could pose compatibility issues and serious consideration should be given to replacing the computer. Some irrigation suppliers are now recommending replacing the computer every 3 years.

Another problem that comes with technology is all the "smart but lazy folks" who wish to make money by infecting your computer, or holding it for ransom, or using your computer as their base point of operation while infecting your good friend's computers with problems.

On this front most irrigation computers are used strictly for just that propose.....operating the irrigation system. However sometimes we need to have our irrigation supplier work on our computer online, or we need to go online to download the latest software or an upgrade. We also may be receiving attachments at the same time. Which brings up another new problem our "smart but lazy folks" just got both smarter and lazier. They are now using computers to do their work for them and here is how it works. They send you an e-mail with an attachment, however it will show up as if it was sent from your best buddy the super just up the road or irrigation supplier etc. It will even reference a subject that you both just discussed via e-mail. But you are a tech savvy computer person and think I am going to check this out and e-mail your buddy or supplier back just to be safe. Here is where the "smart but lazy folks" get you, there will be a positive answer to your question that has been computer answered, but you don't know this.....so you see the positive answer and open the attachment and BAM they got you. There sits your irrigation computer crashed and useless in the short term.

Regardless of where you receive an e-mail from, if it contains an attachment verify by another means besides e-mail that it is legit. These types of attachments will not always be picked up with your virus scans.

I wanted to bring this up as irrigation computers are often the one used to receive an attachment which might contain an upgrade and in a moment of the busy season you could get caught.

May everyone have safe travels as they globe trot to the various spring shows, and Mother Nature be as kind as possible.

January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Dear AGSA members,**

We are proud to officially introduce:  
"Maritime Seed & Fertilizer LTD"



Maritime Seed & Fertilizer will represent our growing fertilizer and seed business in our golf, landscape and wholesale/retail market. BoydCo is pleased to have been serving the golf industry for the last 30 years and we will continue to grow our business with quality, innovative products.

See you all for the AGSA Conference in Halifax this February!

**BOYDCO GOLF & TURF LTD**



NICK BOYD  
[NICK@BOYDCOTURF.COM](mailto:NICK@BOYDCOTURF.COM)  
(506)988-0267

STEVEN BOYD  
[STEVEN@BOYDCOTURF.COM](mailto:STEVEN@BOYDCOTURF.COM)  
(506)962-8873

500 Assumption BLVD, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada  
[www.boydcoturf.com](http://www.boydcoturf.com)  
Twitter: @TurfBoydCo

# The Road to Learning

*By Callum Haughn, Halifax Seed*

2018 was quite a year in Atlantic Canada, and as a sales consultant that gets to travel around the region, the amount of learning along the way is endless. With the New Year upon us comes the opportunity to reflect on the year that was and digest that information to make it useful going forward. The following are some of the things I learned along the way.

1. **Anthracnose:** What a terrible disease, and unfortunately it became one of the most talked about I experienced during the year. Diagnosis can be difficult without the right tools and trying to combat the disease curatively can be costly. If you encountered Anthracnose during the past season, gearing your disease management program towards Anthracnose prevention can save you a lot of headaches. Some things to think about including in your 2019 program include phosphite, ensuring adequate amounts of nitrogen, avoiding practices that can harm the leaf tissue, and a solid preventative chemical schedule.



2. **Preventative vs. Curative:** "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." I must say when I was on the growing side, I was sure that this was a catch phrase to get us to apply more products. Now that I have been able to see a broader range of disease problems and everything that goes along with them, I am a firm believer in this statement. Knocking back pathogen populations in a regimented program on a site with a history of disease development does, in most cases, lead to spraying less product as opposed to more. Also, not having to deal with the recovery and negative golfer feedback of a disease outbreak adds even more value to the preventative program.
3. **Travelling in Atlantic Canada:** When I first started travelling around the region, my colleagues informed me that in general they always stay at the same hotel time and time again. Being the adventurous soul that I am this concept seemed boring to me. I started rolling the dice, using hotel sites on the internet, waiting till the day of to book a room, find a good deal at what looked to be suitable accommodations, and just roll with it. You'd think being almost 40 I'd have figured out that gambling doesn't always work out, but I've always been one to learn my lessons the hard way. You really can't believe everything you see on the internet.
4. **Wetting Agents:** We have products that move water, products that hold water, and products that do both. We can also mix products to produce the results that we are after. With wetting agents every situation is a little bit different and what works great at one course can respond differently at another. There are different environments,

grass types, soil types, soil depths, and they are all irrigated and maintained in a different fashion. Finding the perfect wetting agent for your situation can be difficult, but the difference that a properly functioning wetting agent program can produce is significant. (See "Test Plots" below.)

- 5. Choose Public Washrooms Wisely:** Have you ever pulled into a truck stop off a major Atlantic Canadian highway at 7:45 in the morning? Just don't.
- 6. Golf Course Mechanics:** I should take this opportunity to discuss golf course mechanics. In general, mechanics are assumed to be a grumpy lot that should be avoided. After getting to know most of them in some capacity or another, I can truthfully say that this is false. Most of the mechanics I have met are some of the nicest guys out there. Now, some of them can definitely have grumpy days (topdressing ones in particular), but as a group they are top notch.
- 7. Soil Tests Are a Great Tool:** If you don't set a goal, how do you know when you have achieved one? This past season we did dozens of soil tests for customers across Atlantic Canada. Each soil test is unique and presents different challenges for each course. Soil tests are a quick and easy way to ensure your programs are focused on providing exactly what your turf needs to help you produce the best results for your clientele. Sometimes the test results can really surprise you!



---

*Changing jobs to a slightly different career path also gives you a lot of time to think about the things you would have done differently during your time on the course. Here are a few I wish I would have implemented more often.*

---

- 1. Check Plots:** Check plots are easily one of the greatest learning tools we have and with minimal set up (piece of plywood), the return on investment is huge. Not only does it give you information and peace of mind, it allows your clientele to see exactly how your inputs are affecting the golf course.
- 2. Reach Out:** We are blessed to have a group of individuals who, even though they technically compete with one and other for business, at the same time will lend a helping hand in a moment's notice. If you are reading this, chances are you belong to the AGSA. You belong to a network of professionals who have spent many years honing their craft just like you and are a deep well of information. I can't count the amount of times superintendents have said to me "Tell them I can lend them this" or "If there is ever anything I can do please let them know I'm willing to help". The support is endless; you just need to reach for it.
- 3. Test Plots:** This is a little more time consuming, but is also something that we are in a unique position to utilize. Most all products are good under the right circumstances, but finding which products or combination of products are the right fit for your property can be difficult. Taking an area of the golf course that is not a main playing surface and setting up some test plots is a great way of seeing what will work best for you and can give you the confidence to know that the clubs resources are getting the best return on investment.

***Hope you enjoyed my lessons learned from 2018. I look forward to seeing you out in the field.***

# Minimize Golf Collar Decline

*Bill Kreuser, Assistant Professor and Turfgrass Extension Specialist, [wkreuser2@unl.edu](mailto:wkreuser2@unl.edu)*

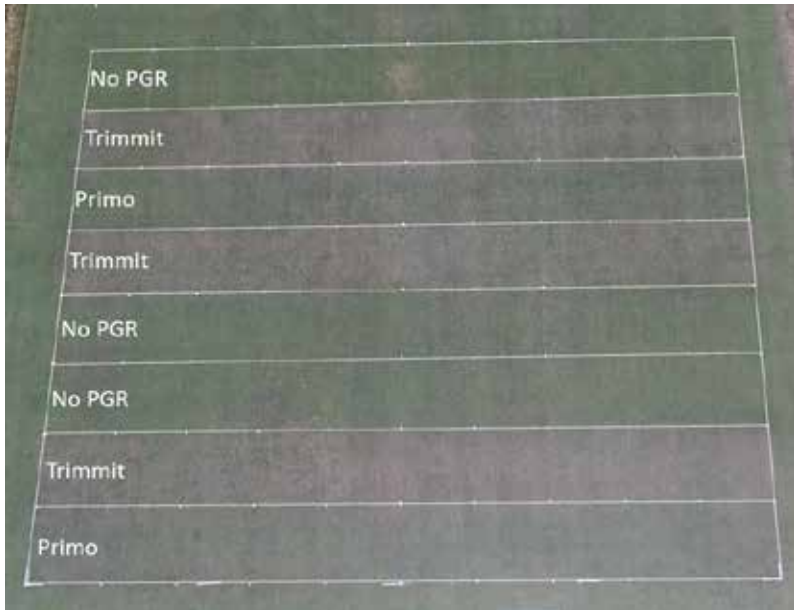


*Originally published as a Turf Info article from the University of Nebraska*

Last year we showed plant growth regulator (PGR) applications to collars height turf on putting green intervals can lead to turf decline. This occurred because the PGRs last longer on collars than greens. We think this happens because collars have a slower growth rate and more intense yield suppression which means slower removal during mowing, cooler canopy temperature to slow degradation, or more PGR absorption. Unfortunately, golf course superintendents apply PGRs for putting greens and not collars. As a result, collars are treated too frequently and the growth suppression intensifies. This reduces traffic tolerance, recovery from disease, and leads to discoloration (Fig. 1).

We are actively investigating ways to prevent and recover from PGR over-regulation on cool-season collars. Here are some of our early observations. Please keep in mind these are preliminary data. We are continuing this research at the East Campus Turf Plots and Jim Ager Golf Course this summer.

- Spray collars every other PGR application. This can work out well, because PGRs typically need to be re-applied every 7-10 days on greens (depending on temperature and active ingredient) while the pest control products and collar PGRs might need to be applied 14-21 days. So only treat the green (turning off the booms in the clean-up pass) with PGR as a stand-alone application. A GPS sprayer with individual nozzle control can help.
- Wash off the collar when using class A PGRs (trinexapac-ethyl or prohexadione-Ca). They are foliar absorbed products but they are quickly absorbed. This approach won't work with Class B PGRs (flurprimidol and paclobutrazol) because are root absorbed products.
- We think there is some promise in lowering mowing height and applying extra nitrogen fertilizer to the collar. This helps stimulate extra growth and removed more PGR in the clippings. These practices are preventative and need to be started before decline is visible.
- Use a colorant to mask the phytotoxicity. We had great success limiting the discoloration with Bayer's Stressgard in past years. This won't help, however, if the turf is thinning from too much traffic and not enough recuperative growth.
- Application of very low rates of gibberellin (GA) did help but caused real problems if the rate was too high, if a follow-up application was made a few weeks later, or if turf that wasn't over-regulated by the PGR (Fig. 2). In those cases, this plant hormone will cause an explosion of growth and lead to yellow/etiolated leaves. Until we more do research, this should be considered a last resort before the collar is re-sodded.
- The last option is just don't apply PGRs to green-collar complexes. These products can do a lot of good (increase density, color, reduce nutrient requirements, improve stress tolerance), although they do little for green speed on cool-season green. But those benefits are quickly overshadowed if the collars are on the edge of death. If this approach is used, you'll need to likely increase nitrogen fertilization 50 to 100% to maintain quality.



**Figure 1.** The development of collar decline from PGR applications at putting green intervals. Trimmit was applied every 260 GDD (base 0°C) at 8 fl oz/acre and Primo Maxx at 5.5 fl oz/acre every 200 GDD. After four applications spanning seven weeks, the clipping suppression was 95% and 80% of the non-treated control, respectively. On a green these rates and intervals would suppress clipping yield by 35% and 20%, respectively.



**Figure 2.** The plot in the top right corner was never treated with a PGR and the bottom right plot was treated with Trimmit 2SC as described above. The collar decline was very pronounced and would have likely been worse if the plot had received traffic. Application of very low rates of gibberellin – the hormone blocked by Primo Maxx and Trimmit – did rescue the over-regulation (bottom left), but too high of a rate, repeat applications, or application to turf that doesn't have PGR over-regulation (top left) caused rapid growth/etiolation and eventual scapling/decline. GA was applied as RyzUp at 0.3 weight oz/acre. This approach should be considered a curative last resort until more research is available.

# Welcome back to Halifax!

***The Atlantic Golf Superintendents Association is gearing up to return to The Lord Nelson Hotel from February 19th to the 21st for the annual AGSA Conference and Trade Show.***

This year's event is chalked full of great speakers and learning opportunities with all the social and networking activities sprinkled in to get your year started right. Some of the highlights of this year's lineup include:

## ***Keith Cutten – Cutten Golf Inc.***

“Cutten Golf Inc. was established in 2010 with the intent to provide our clientele with a breadth of tailorable skills and services. Our goal is to create fun, exciting and strategic golf layouts, where the distinctive nature of our built forms work symbiotically to enhance what nature and history have already provided”.

Keith's passion for the development of the next generation of golf courses is based around the three pillars of his company: Plan, Design & Shape. All three of these factors come into play when he takes on a project. His attention to detail and working with the land that exists, is a trait that has helped him in the new construction of golf courses and renovations. He has recently released a new book called “The Evolution of Golf Course Design”. The book has been very well received by the entire golf industry. The book shows his respect for not just course design but also for all the historical factors that play apart in these golf courses having a history and a purpose.

## ***Chris Tritabaugh – Hazeltine National Golf Club***

The AGSA is pleased to have Chris Tritabaugh return to our conference. Since Chris's last visit his stature in the profession has done nothing but increase. His ascension from his first head superintendent job at Northlands Country Club to his present position at Hazeltine National has been noteworthy. From his beginnings Chris has always kept an open mind to what it is we need to have a great golf course and what it takes from your employees to get that great golf course. His crowning achievement (other than having a great wife and two kids) was the recent hosting of the 2016 Ryder Cup. From a turf management perspective, all the necessary components were set in place by Chris, and his team, to produce one of the most memorable events in recent years. He is sure to bring with him a wealth of knowledge as it pertains to grass and people.



### ***Jim Abraham- Climatic Services***

If there is one thing that Maritimers are not scared of talking about it is the weather. We are very pleased to have Jim Abraham from Climaction Services speak at our event. Jim has become one of the foremost and respected weather meteorologists in our region. The Climaction Services group is comprised of former Environment Canada employees with a passion for the environment and weather. Jim serves as the president of Climaction Services and can be found on Twitter @YHZweatherguy. He has many a follower in our maritime region and more will sure to follow after he enlightens us with some more maritime weather knowledge.

### ***Bill Kreuser- University of Nebraska***

The AGSA is pleased to welcome another great turf mind from the academic field at the 2019 Conference. Dr. Bill Kreuser from the University of Nebraska will be offering a half day seminar on “Driving Your Growth Rate”. Dr. Kreuser will be sure to have some up to date info and study information to back what has become one of the most talked about subjects in recent years, greens nutrition. How much N does the turf really need, what does your clipping rate tell you, what are some of the healthiest practices for your greens. After Dr. Kreusers’ session, some of this will surely become clearer.

### ***Art of Application – Ryan Beauchamp***

We are very pleased to have Ryan Beauchamp from Syngenta Canada presenting The Art of Application program at the 2019 conference. The focus of this program is to educate and assist superintendents in extracting the most value from your products and treatments. Ryan will take the afternoon and lead participants through a session of information regarding application and procedures to allow the superintendent to more successfully and better utilize the products available to us.

### ***Reception & Presidents Banquet***

The AGSA will be hosting our very popular Reception and Presidents Banquet. We will once again take the opportunity to recognize many in our industry. We will also be taking the opportunity to present our Superintendent of The Year award along with our Alvin Rowledge Bursary award winner. Be sure to get your tickets for this event as part of your conference registration. This is a great evening that is full of food and fun.

Be sure to book your room and conference package to take advantage of the best rates prior to the event. Your AGSA board is excited to see you all in Halifax, and with any luck we can continue to enhance our association and to make this year’s conference our best yet!



**REGISTRATION**  
**ATLANTIC TURFGRASS CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW**  
February 19 - 21, 2019 in Halifax, NS

Visit [www.agsa.ca](http://www.agsa.ca) for registration forms

or contact Jim Nix, AGSA Executive Director if you have any questions  
1967agsa@gmail.com • 902-483-5931

# Atlantic Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show

Halifax, NS  
The Lord Nelson Hotel & Suites  
February 19 – 21, 2019

## Tuesday, February 19, 8:00 – 12:00pm

### *Driving Your Growth Rate (Admiral Room)*

Dr. Bill Kreuser, University of Nebraska

## Tuesday, February 19, 1:00 – 5:00pm

### *Bentgrass Management. What I Thought I Knew Then and What I Know Now (Admiral Room)*

Chris Tritabaugh, Hazeltine National Golf Club

## Tuesday, February 19, 1:00 – 4:00pm

### *The Art of Application – Beyond the Basics (Britannia Room)*

Ryan Beauchamp & Scott White, Syngenta

**TRADE SHOW OPENING**  
**Imperial & Regency Ballrooms**  
**6:00 – 9:00**

## Wednesday, February 20

7:45 – 8:00 *Opening Remarks*, Scott White, Syngenta

8:00 – 9:00 *Products to Improve Plant Health*, Dr. Bill Kreuser, University of Nebraska

9:00 – 10:00 *Climate Change & Extreme Weather, The New Norm?* Jim Abraham, Climatic Services

### **10:00 – 10:10 Refreshment Break**

10:10 – 11:00 *Tips for Optimizing Turf Performance with Nutrition, Biostimulants, and Plant Defense Activators*, Steve Loveday, Turf Fuel

### **11:00 – 2:00 Trade Show (Lunch at Noon)**

2:00 – 2:30 *Dealing with Dollar Spot and Microdochium Patch with New Technologies*, Syngenta

2:30 – 3:00 *Soil Water Management*, Aquatrols

3:00 – 3:30 *Alternative Solutions to Your Old Problems*, Engage Agro

3:30 – 4:00 *Developing Products and Technologies to Address Today's Problems*, Turf Fuel

4:00 – 4:30 *Life After Iprodione*, Bayer

### **4:30 – 5:00 AGSA/ATRF Annual General Meetings**

6:00 **Reception & President's Banquet**

## Thursday, February 21

8:00 – 9:00 *Understanding Spray Deposition Characteristics*, Dr. Jesse Benelli, Bayer

9:00 – 9:45 *The Day That Changed My Outlook on Life*, Aaron Little, Fox Harb'r Resort

### **9:45 – 10:00 Refreshment Break**

10:00 – 10:30 *Dealing With Water Withdrawal Regulations in Atlantic Canada*, Barry Stone, Irri Plus

10:30 – 11:00 *Minimalistic Design for Today's Golf Courses*, Keith Cutten, Cutten Golf Inc.

11:00 – 12:00 *AGSA Round Table – Erik MacPherson, Kris Currie, Pascal Richard*



# HALIFAX SEED

Turf Landscape Golf

*Get Ready for 2019!*



Bayer

Aquatrols®

syngenta



PLANTPRODUCTS

STANDARD  
GOLF COMPANY



Turf Fuel™  
Premium Plant Nutrition

BASF  
The Chemical Company

Spectrum®  
Technologies, Inc.

CTI

BAYCO  
INC

JACKLIN  
SEED  
by Simplot

LebanonTurf

Callum Haughn  
Nova Scotia / Prince Edward Island  
callum@halifaxseed.ca  
902-222-9335

Ryan Sherry  
New Brunswick / Newfoundland  
ryan.sherry@halifaxseed.ca  
902-223-2858

#HSturf