

Tee to Green

April
2008

Understanding Product Labels

By Travis Klosterboer

It happens all the time. Someone buys a new herbicide, fungicide or insecticide, skims through the product label and files it away until it's time to use the product. When that time comes, he or she flips to the portion of the label that contains the recommended application rates. No big deal, right?

Beyond the date of purchase, most people don't spend a lot of time reading product labels. Familiarizing yourself with a label when you buy the product is a good idea, but so is re-reading the label before putting the product to use. Doing so can save a lot of time, money and hassle.

Most people using fungicides, herbicides and insecticides only ask themselves, "What product do I need to control the weed, insect or disease that's causing me a problem and what rate do I need to use?" Rate information is essential, but product labels provide a lot of other important information. Here are five key things to look for on product labels:

Tank Mixing

Using several products in one application is a common practice in our industry. Most labels have a tank mixing section, which includes what you can and cannot tank mix with a particular product. It's vital that you read the tank mixing section because some

products shouldn't be used together. Ignoring tank-mixing guidelines can cause problems such as clogged application equipment and reduced efficacy.

Perhaps just as important is mixing order, which is also detailed on product labels. The basic rule of thumb is that dry materials need to be mixed first, followed by liquids. However, rather than assuming this is always the case, it's recommended that users follow the label closely when mixing products.

Special Statements

Product labels often include special statements to help users utilize the product correctly. For instance, many product labels include statements about what the outside temperature should be when a product is used. If a label says you should not apply the product when it's warmer than 85 degrees outside, and you do so, you could cause damage to the plants you're trying to protect.

Other common special statements refer to drying time. Applying a product immediately prior to a rainfall when the product label states that six hours of drying time is necessary is a pretty expensive mistake.

Group Numbers

The front page of many product labels includes a group number, which helps users avoid resistance issues with fungicides, her-

continued on page 4

Out of Bounds: Easy to grow butterfly plants

By Dr. Anthony Camerino

The addition of wildlife promoting plants to an existing landscape can make a big difference in the of butterfly population on your golf course. Small changes can make a big difference!

Plants that provide nectar for butterflies not only attract these "flying-flowers," but also attract hummingbirds and other wildlife. It is easy to attract butterflies to your golf course. You do not need to establish a designated butterfly garden. You can be successful just by working with color areas already around your course.

The easiest way to incorporate nectar plants into your landscap-

ing is to simply select them when choosing colorful plants for your landscape.

Another option is to plant nectar plants in large containers and place those containers in sunny areas. Grouping the same nectar plants in mass whenever possible will also assist in attracting butterflies.

Nectar plants that attract butterflies are available for full sun or light shade areas.

Full sun nectar plants include: Coral Plant (*Russelia equisetiformis*); Firebush (*Hamelia patens*); Golden Dewdrop (*Duranta*

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, everyone! Our first meeting of 2008 is behind us, and it sure was good to see everyone at River Ridge last month. We had a good turnout despite the windy cool day (thanks a bunch, Mom Nature), and I want to thank Bret Barclay for the extra hospitality by the fireplace after the golf. I know everyone really enjoyed the day just as much as I did.

We are off to a good start for the year and I look forward to the Scholarship Tournament and Live Auction event planned on Tax Day 2008 (April 15, just in case you've forgotten) at Memorial Park.

Please plan to attend and participate . . . we were able to provide 18 students with \$19,000 in Legacy Scholarships last year. Those are record figures.

We were able to do that, in large part, because of the past success of our Scholarship Tournament (and your support), and we need to keep building our funds to provide more students with more help down the road. There will be plenty to entertain you at this year's gathering, so come and enjoy. It's a good time and a great cause.

Our 2nd annual STGCSA Live Auction should be fun and interesting, too, with Bill Freeman serving as the auctioneer. There will be some good deals to be had, I am sure, but just in case, I am challenging all our superintendents to come up with rounds of golf for the auction this year, and I'm issuing a similar challenge to all our members to donate something that will help us make the Auction another record-breaker.

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the STGCSA's existence. We have set aggressive goals in keeping with the significance of the anniversary, so let's all participate for the sake of the future our children.

I am sure that you have heard about Lone Star GCSA's Texas Cup tournament at Briggs Ranch on May 13, but I want to extend a personal invitation to all who have not yet entered.

It's an outstanding event at a terrific facility, and it's another good chance to network with other Chapters. It also benefits the Lone Star GCSA, so let's support our state association with pride.

I want to thank everyone who filled out our survey at River Ridge. It is those people who help make and keep our organization strong and prosperous. Those of us who serve as officers and Board members are eager to give everyone our best to keep the STGCSA growing and evolving toward the goal of being the best

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17th Annual STGCSA Scholarship, Research & Development Tournament

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Memorial Park Golf Course

Host Superintendent — Jason Harsh

Registration:

10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m

Live Auction: 11 a.m. - Noon

Shotgun Start: 1:00 p.m. —

Four-Person Scramble

Dinner and Awards

presentation following play

Directions: From I-10, go south on Loop 610 Exit Loop 610 at Memorial. Go east, toward downtown, on Memorial. Turn left on Memorial Loop Drive and go approximately 1.5 miles to the clubhouse (on the right).

Membership Moves

Thomas Wisdom is now the owner of Simple Solutions and *Gary Rogers* is now the golf course superintendent at Wedgewood Golf Club.

Refugio Martinez is a new technician at The Woodlands Country Club's Palmer Course. *Jeff Daley* is now a Luber Brothers, Inc., sales representative.

Wayne Stanton and *Terrence Kerrick* have taken on technician and field technician roles, respectively, at Elkins Lake Country Club and Brookside Equipment Sales.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Chapter we can make it . . . we need to know what you think to make that happen.

As I write this column, the Shell Houston Open is just a few days away. My schedule has been pretty wild and will be for another week, but I hope I see you at the tournament, and, in particular, on the practice range. To those who will be volunteering as STGCSA marshals during the tournament, I hope you'll accept an early thanks for your time and effort . . . you truly do make a difference.

— Roger Goetsch, CGCS



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UNDERSTANDING PRODUCT LABELS

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bicides and insecticides. Products are grouped based on how they work (mode of action) and users are encouraged to vary group numbers of products in an effort to better manage resistance.

For example, if, after using a fungicide in Group 1, you have concerns about resistance, use a product from a different group number for your next application.

Agricultural use requirements

The agricultural and non-agricultural use requirements on product labels are important for users and vary depending on product use. A greenhouse or nursery employee, for instance, may use the same product as a golf course superintendent or lawn care employee, but has to abide by a completely different set of rules with regard to protective equipment and re-entry interval.

General restrictions and limitations

An often-overlooked element of product labels is the “general restrictions and limitations” section, which is also known as “do not” statements. A “do not” statement is a strong declaration that needs to be followed. For example, a product might indicate, “Do not apply in greenhouses,” on the label because the product is volatile and could move through the air to plants than those you are targeting and cause foliar damage.

Read the “do not” statements carefully and be sure you brush up on them if it’s been a while since you last used a product.

General suggestions

Though it’s unnecessary to continually read and re-read the label for a product that you use several times a year, it’s a good idea to take some time now and again to re-familiarize yourself with product labels.

Labels change periodically, so it makes sense to review commonly used product labels about once a year. The best place to obtain current labels is www.cdms.net.

The 10-15 minute investment required to read a label can save you a lot of time and hassle compared to the fallout of misusing a product. It’s a proactive step you can take to make sure you get the most from your efforts.

*Travis Klosterboer is a
BASF Turf & Ornamental Sales Specialist.*

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BUTTERFLY PLANTS

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erecta); Lantana (*Lantana camara*); Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*); Pentas (*Pentas lanceolata* (non-dwarf cultivars are best)); Porterweed (*Stachytarpheta urticifolia*); and Salvia (*Salvia* spp. (the 'Indigo Spires' and 'Mystic Spires' are especially effective)).

Light shade or afternoon shade nectar plants include: Agastache (*Agastache* x 'Blue Fortune'); Cats Whiskers (*Orthosiphon stamineus*); Firebush (*Hamelia patens*); Firespike (*Odontonema cuspidata*); Impatiens (*Impatiens wallerana*); and Pentas (*Pentas lanceolata* (non-dwarf cultivars are best)).

The golfers on your course will appreciate the enhanced aesthetics from both the flowers and the butterflies.

For more information on plants that attract butterflies, visit the Texas AgriLife Extension - Harris County Website at:

<http://harris-tx.tamu.edu/hort/pubs/wildlife.htm>.

Click on the link, "Guide to Butterfly Gardening in Harris County," for a more comprehensive list of caterpillar host plants and nectar plants for attracting butterflies in the Houston area.

Dr. Anthony Camerino
is a *Commercial Horticulture Agent*
with the

Harris County Office of Texas AgriLife Extension.

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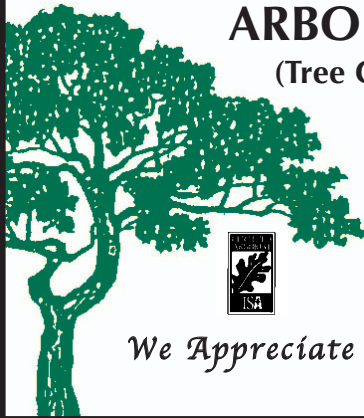
*Steve Hunter before the 10th of each month to include
your job listings, etc., in the following two issues of*

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to include your job posting on the STGCSA web site.

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River Ridge Golf Club

Golf Results

| | |
|--|-----|
| Carl Tolbert, Wade Warmes, Glen Noska, Rick Tygret | 153 |
| Travis Klosterober, Kent Knowles, Alan Lee, Brian Woodlard | 153 |
| Doug Browne, Jeff Daley, Jason Harsh, Ray McFarland | 155 |
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| Brian Buckner, Lee Gravett, Cody Marchand, Tom Lytle | 159 |
| Sean Wilson, Pat Neuendorff, Chris Teafatiller, Kevn Lyles | 161 |
| Bret Barclay, Mike James, John Maloney, Roy Chesson | 161 |

SPECIAL CONTESTS

| Hole | Contest | Winner |
|----------|----------------|----------------|
| River #1 | Long Drive | Russell Tippie |
| Ridge #9 | Long Drive | Willy Plowman |
| River #4 | Closest-to-Pin | Jeff Daley |
| River #6 | Closest-to-Pin | Brian Woolard |
| Ridge #2 | Closest-to-Pin | John Maloney |
| Ridge #8 | Closest-to-Pin | Paul Tessman |

2008

Points Lists

(Top 10s (plus tie) through River Ridge)

| Superintendents | | Affiliates | |
|-----------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| Glen Noska | 145 | Carl Tolbert | 145 |
| Wade Warmes | 145 | Rick Tygret | 145 |
| Brian Woolard | 144 | Travis Klosterboer | 144 |
| Jason Harsh | 143 | Ketn Knowles | 144 |
| Ray McFarland | 143 | Alan Lee | 144 |
| Richard Kane | 142 | Jeff Daley | 143 |
| Willy Plowman | 142 | Ken Stevenson | 142 |
| Chris Webster | 142 | Pat Johnston | 141 |
| Mark Haven | 141 | Glenn Seay | 140 |
| Mike Rhoden | 141 | Tom Lytle | 139 |
| Tom Werner | 141 | | |



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UPCOMING STGCSA EVENTS

April 15 (Tuesday)

Memorial Park GC
Scholarship Tournament
Host Superintendent
Jason Harsh

May 13

Lone Star Texas Cup
Briggs Ranch GC • San Antonio

May 20 (Tuesday)

The Woodlands CC
Gary Player Course
Host Superintendent
Jason McConnell

June 10 (Tuesday)

Wildcat GC
(Highlands Course)
Host Superintendent
Don Hoos

July 14 (Monday)

Champions GC
Host Superintendent
Charles Joachim

July 20-22

TTA Summer Conference
Galveston

August 11 (Monday)

Superintendent/Pro
Member/Member
Tournament
Braeburn CC
Host Superintendent
Terry Gill

September 21-23

Lone Star Texas Trophy
Victoria CC • Victoria

September (TBA)

Astros Game Family Night

October 13-19

Administaff
Small Business Classic
Augusta Pines Golf Club

October 20 (Monday)

Golfcrest CC
Host Superintendent
Lee Gravett

November 11 (Tuesday)

Annual Meeting
The Houstonian CC
Host Superintendent
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