

Tee to Green

May
2008

Out of Bounds: Words you should know

By Dr. Anthony Camerino

CAUTION, WARNING, DANGER!!

Do I have your attention yet? The words, "Caution," "Warning," and "Danger," may seem to have similar meanings when used in common conversation, but when placed on a pesticide label these words have significantly different meanings.

The "signal words" found on a pesticide label are a direct indication of a pesticide's acute toxicity. Acute toxicity refers to a chemical's ability to cause damage in a short period of time after a single pesticide exposure.

All pesticides that are classified as toxicity category I, II, or III must be labeled with one of these signal words (a signal word is not required for category IV).

Without getting into too much detail, pesticides are examined to determine their acute toxicity through a variety of studies. These studies include acute oral

toxicity, acute dermal toxicity, acute inhalation toxicity, eye irritation, and skin irritation.

A pesticide's acute toxicity is examined in each of these study areas and then assigned a category ranking for each of the five study areas. A toxicity category I rating is the most toxic while a category IV rating is the least toxic. The study area that has the most toxic rating (i.e., the lowest number) determines a pesticide's

signal word, as described below.

What is the practical use of this information? The signal word is a direct reflection of a pesticide's toxicity and could be used to help select the least acutely toxic pesticide of the choices available.

When comparing pesticides and deciding which to purchase, all other factors being equal, deciding to purchase and use the pesticide with a "caution" signal word is likely a safer

choice for your staff because the material is not as acutely toxic as a product that carries the "warning" or "danger" signal word.

Signal Word	Relative Toxicity	Toxicity Category
DANGER (plus skull & crossbones symbol)	Most Toxic	Category I
WARNING		Category II
CAUTION		Category III
None Required	Least Toxic	Category IV

To read more about this subject please visit this website:
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/P1137>.

Texas Cup set for Briggs Ranch

If you're looking for a diversion from your regular workaday routine, consider this . . . the Lone Star Golf Course Superintendents Association will be holding its 3rd Annual Texas Cup tournament at San Antonio's Briggs Ranch on Tuesday, May 13.

The entry fee for the two-person select drive tournament is \$150 per team if both golfers are LSGCSA members and \$200 for teams that consist of one member and one non-member.

Festivities will kick off with the opening of registration at 11 a.m. on May 13. Lunch will be served at 11:45 and play will begin with a 1 p.m. shotgun start. Players will gather following play for scoring and awards presentations at approximately 5:15 p.m.

The entry deadline is May 7. For more details, including a printable entry form, at www.lsgcsa.org, or by calling Karen White at 972-307-8162.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to one and all! While 2008 is now well underway, April marked the beginning of the "real" new year for me. The spring went by with lightning speed in my neck of the woods, and now that we've successfully hosted another Shell Houston Open at Redstone Golf Club, I want to pass along thanks to a number of people.

First off, I want to thank our Tournament Course golf course superintendent, Randy Samoff, for yet another excellent job of preparing the course for the big boys. And I want to thank the collective "Team" of Redstone, the Houston Golf Association, and all the volunteers who donate their time and effort toward helping the tournament operate in a smooth, effective manner.

There's a special place in my heart, of course, for the members of the STGCSA who contributed to the tournament and our association by working as marshals at our practice areas during the tournament. The effort marks our best opportunity to put our best foot forward in front of a large segment of the area's golfers, and thanks to the work of many, we fulfill the challenge very nicely.

I also wish to thank Tom Werner, CGCS, Colt Phillips, Johnny Walker, Jeff Brocato, John Freeman and Dan Wegand for helping out and taking so much of their time to be a part of this year's successful event. I would also like to take extra time to thank the sponsors—Estes Chemical, Syngenta, Professional Turf Products, Rinehart Sand, Brandt/Parkway Chemical, BWI, Innovative Turf Supply, Grigg Bros, BASF, Bonus Crop Fertilizer, Brookside Equipment, Bayer Products, and Precise Control—that donated so

much great food back to our crews during the event. They all went above and beyond again this year.

Now for our 2008 Scholarship Tournament at Memorial Park—the weather was, thankfully, perfect, the food was great, and the golf course in great shape. Thanks go out to Jason Harsh, our host for this year's event. Jason went the extra mile to help us get the event running smoothly and without delay, and we're very grateful for his participation.

We conducted a very successful live auction in conjunction with the tournament, and added over \$15,000 to our Legacy Scholarship fund. That is a spectacular result and I can't thank those who participated enough!

Even so, I'll try. Thanks go out to auctioneer Bill Freeman for making the auction fun and exciting, and to all our members and



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Doug Browne, Roger Goettsch, CGCS, George Manuel

May Meeting

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

The Woodlands Country Club

Gary Player Course

Host Superintendent — Jason McConnell

Please RSVP by May 16 by calling

Marian Takushi at 281-494-0094

or by e-mail at stgcsa@windstream.net.

Speaker: Glenn Forgan, Wild Birds, Unlimited
"Wild Birds of Houston"

Registration: 9 a.m. **Lunch:** 11:30-12:30

Golf: After Lunch **Cost:** \$55

Reminder:

You must arrive by 10:15 to play golf.

Directions:

From I-45 North, take The Woodlands Parkway exit and go west. Remain on The Woodlands Parkway until you turn right at Branch Crossing Drive. Turn left at Sterling Ridge Drive to the club.

A day of grinding

Members of the STGCSA Technicians Association gathered together at The Club at Carlton Woods (Fazio Course) on Mar. 11 for a day of reel and bed knife grinding maintenance discussions.

The group's first meeting of 2008 proved to be a great day, full of lots of new technical information and recommendations about getting the most from the equipment we use.

Many thanks are due Foley United for hosting an excellent reel and bed knife-grinding seminar—it was very enlightening for all those in attendance.

A special thanks goes out to Professional Turf Products, Brookside Equipment Sales, Inc., Luber Brothers, Inc., the folks at Carlton Woods (Fazio Course) and Thomas Wisdom for their participation and continued support of our association.

The group's next meeting is scheduled for July 29 and will cover shop efficiency. More details will be available in the coming months and will be included in an upcoming issue of Tee to Green and will be posted on www.stgcsa.com. Don't miss out on a great chance to meet other technicians in the field and learn valuable information to help you improve your skills and techniques.

A membership in the STGCSA Technicians Association costs \$60 dollars and the cost of attending the meetings is \$40 dollars (each). Come join us. You'll find it well worth the investment.

— Lynn Lovett
President, STGCSA Technicians Association



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Lakeside to host Environmental Field Day

The Texas AgriLife Extension Service, in partnership with Audubon International, Lakeside Country Club, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association, will conduct an Environmental Golf Course Management Field Day exercise in Houston this fall.

The gathering will be held at Lakeside on Oct. 27 and will feature a number of distinguished speakers, including Dr. Anthony Camerino of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service Harris County Office, Jim Sluiter of Audubon International, Keith Crenshaw of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and Dr. David Chalmers, a turfgrass specialist with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

The topics covered will focus on how you can maximize the value of your golf course as an environmentally-friendly green space. Attendees will learn how their facilities can:

- provide habitat for wildlife;
- provide an area for rainwater infiltration and storm water storage;
- create a buffer between environmentally sensitive areas and urban development;
- decrease air pollution and produce oxygen;
- mitigate heat islands created by urban development;
- reduce noise pollution.

Those in attendance will also learn how to join the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses—the day's closing event will be a panel discussion hosted by a number of certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary golf course superintendents (Terry Hutcherson, CGCS; Kevin Lyles; Harvey Rose, CGCS; and Steve Vaughn), plus horticulturalists Deanna Berry of Kingwood Country Club and Dee Dee Hutcherson of Lakeside, and Jim Sluiter.

The cost of attending the meeting is \$75 and is payable through the STGCSA offices—a brochure about the meeting (including a registration form) can be found on the STGCSA's web site (www.stgcsa.org). You may also obtain a copy by calling Marian Takushi at 281-494-0094.

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America continuing education credit will be available to participants.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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vendors who played in the tournament, donated to the auction or bid on the items available (there were a lot of great deals to be had this year). I am so very proud of our Chapter for putting out such a great effort for such an outstanding cause and producing such wonderful results.

On another subject, our Board of Directors met last month to discuss all the topics mentioned in the survey we've conducted this year.

We will continue to openly discuss the pertinent feedback during our coming board meetings and have already made some improvements as a result of the survey.

As I have stated before, it is your voice that helps us grow as a Chapter. Without your feedback, be it positive or negative, we surely will not be able to focus our efforts towards a common goal.

Lastly (for this month), I wish to point out the upcoming Lone Star Chapter Texas Cup Tournament, to be held May 13 at Briggs Ranch in San Antonio. A "Vendor Day" will accompany the tournament, so those attending will have the chance to pick up something new.

In any case, the tournament provides a great chance for a fun day trip and another chance to network with our other Chapters around the state. Let's bring home some trophies, guys.

— Roger Goetsch, CGCS



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Assistant Superintendent and Equipment Technician Positions Available

Wedgewood Golf Club
Please send resume to: Gary Rodgers, CGCS
5454 Highway 105 West, Conroe, Texas 77304
Telephone: 936-444-6497
E-mail: frangvr@suddenlink.com

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Chris Smith, Golf Course Superintendent
1501 Bay Area Blvd., League City, TX 77573
FAX: 281-557-3365
E-mail: csmith@magnoliacreekgolf.com

The STGCSA Bulletin Board is available for use by all STGCSA members. Call (281-395-4927) or FAX (281-395-9547) Steve Hunter before the 10th of each month to include your job listings, etc., in the following two issues of Tee to Green. You may also contact Marian Takushi (stgcsa@windstream.net or 281-494-0094) to include your job posting on the STGCSA web site.

Think About It

"There is no individual who has bigger impact on any U.S. Open than the golf course superintendent."

— Mike Davis,
USGA director of rules and competitions

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2008 STGCSA Scholarship Tournament

Memorial Park Golf Course

Final Results (Gross)

Russell Tippie, Jeff Strong, Liz Strong, Jacob Heck	57
Doug Browne, Bobby Browne, Steve Smith, Matt Schroeder	58
Sean Wilson, David Pocknall, Josh Stanka, Steve Brechler	59
Mark Baughman, Glenn Childers, Jason Harsh, Kevin Borowski	62

Final Results (Net)

Mark Haven, Don Lewis, Drew McMillen, Jerry Huntsman	54.8
Jerry Takushi, Richard Kane, Morris Johnson, Jr. Schuette	55.2
Blake Kercheval, Aaron Czajka, Staci Czajka, Rusty Denner	55.4
Ken Stevenson, Justin Lonon, Andy Gillen, Bill Taylor	56.1

SPECIAL CONTESTS

Hole	Contest	Winner
#1	Long Drive	Chris Lacher
#2	Closest-to-Pin	Jason Harsh
#3	Closest-to-Pin (2nd)	Pinky Hartline
#4	Closest-to-Pin (2nd)	Stan Ludwick
#5	Closest-to-Pin (2nd)	Eric Glover
#6	Closest-to-Pin (2nd)	Kynn Knight
#7	Closest-to-Pin	Jeff Ruskowski
#8	Long Drive	Eric Glover
#9	Closest-to-Pin (2nd)	Aaron Czajka
#10	Closest-to-Pin (2nd)	Justin Shulse
#11	Closest-to-Pin	Patrick Shroder
#12	Closest-to-Pin (2nd)	Mark Haven
#13	Long Drive	Richard Bearden
#14	Closest-to-Pin (2nd)	Pinky Hartline
#15	Closest-to-Pin	Mike Rhoden
#16	Long Drive	Ken Fathergill
#17	Closest-to-Pin (2nd)	Scott Anderson
#18	Closest-to-Pin (2nd)	Mitch Elliot

2008 STGCSA "LONG DRIVE" CONTEST

Standings through April

Name	Points	Average Yards	Fairways Hit
Blayne Sparks	6	307.00	50%
Justin Lonon	9	303.00	50%
Brian Buckner	11	289.50	100%
Russell Tippie	12	300.00	50%
Justin Shulse	15	290.00	50%

For complete standings in the 2008 STGCSA "Long Drive" contest, please visit the Bulletin Board on www.stgcsa.org.

Correction ...

Blayne Sparks is incorrectly identified as an assistant superintendent at The Wilderness Golf Club in the recently printed 2008 STGCSA Membership Directory. Sparks is, in fact, the golf course superintendent at The Wilderness. Our apologies for the error.



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2008 STGCSA EVENTS

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, CGCS

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
Host Superintendent:
Alan Hess, CGCS

October 20 (Monday)

Golfcrest CC
Host Superintendent:
Lee Gravett

November 11 (Tuesday)

Annual Meeting
The Houstonian CC
Host Superintendent:
James Edgemon

December 4 (Tuesday)

Annual Awards Banquet
and Ceremony
River Oaks CC
Host Superintendent:
Morris Johnson

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