

TEE TO GREEN



The Official Publication of the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association



High Meadow Ranch GC-April 18, 2016

Spring Has Sprung but then came the Floods!

A recent deluge has left many golf courses in southeast Texas damaged. Some areas near Houston have reported 12+ inches of rainfall in a matter of hours. Flooded bunkers, uprooted trees and numerous debris are common sights. The decision to cancel the Annual Scholarship Tournament and live auction was decided early and was a smart move on President Cody Spivey's part. As you can see in the photo above, High Meadow was hit hard.

As crews begin the painstaking process of repairing the damage, golf superintendents around the Houston area have their hands full trying to clean up and get back on schedule. Don't be afraid to reach out or call a fellow member if you need help or support.

The scholarship tournament will now be held at High Meadow Ranch Golf Club on May 3rd. We hope this doesn't affect the high registration of almost 150 players! This could be one of the most well attended fundraisers in the history of South Texas GCSA! However, if you can't attend on the new date, we understand. Just email the office and we will refund or credit your account on any prepaid entries. If you did not register for the April date and want to register for the May 3rd date, go to the website and fill out the entry form. Hope to see you there!

Meeting Schedule

May 3, 2016 Scholarship Tournament Rain Date at High Meadow Ranch GC
May 23, 2016 Sterling Country Club at Houston National Educational Speaker: BASF
June 7, 2016 Ultra Dwarf Summit Willow Fork Country Club
June 20, 2016 Chapter Championship at The Club At Falcon Point
July 19, 2016 Member/Guest/Guest/Guest Battleground
September 12, 2016 Supt/Pro Tour- nament Willow Fork Country Club
September 25, 26, 27, 2016 Texas Trophy Amarillo Country Club and Ross Rogers Golf Complex
October 17, 2016 Annual Meeting: Cypress Lakes GC
November 7, 2016 Magnolia Creek GC-Educational <u>Register Now for Any Meeting!</u>

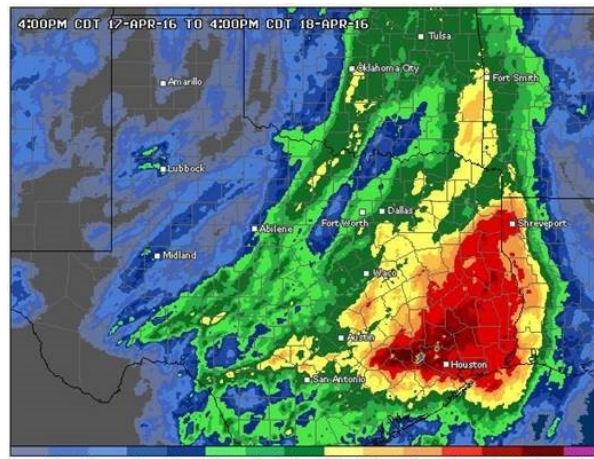
Its' Raining, It's Pouring, The Golf Course is Flooding

Floods may be unpredictable, but the turf manager's recovery program should be well organized.

John Daniels, USGA Regional Agronomist
Central Region



Pockets of water that remain on the course subject the turf to potential injury from submersion.



April 17-18, 2016 Texas Radar Map

"IT'S RAINING, it's pouring, the golf course is flooding" are not words a turf manager wants to hear. By the way, the pesticide storage facility is flooding, too, and the member/guest is scheduled for next week. Is there ever a good time for a flood? Flooded golf courses and flooded pesticide storage facilities were a reality last year on golf courses in the eastern United States. While no one can predict when a flood will occur, everyone can understand the potential for turfgrass injury and everyone can develop a recovery program. This article will review the types of flood damage, out turfgrass recovery strategies, and discuss dealing with flooded pesticide storage facilities.

Types of Flood Damage The three types of flood damage are erosion, submersion injury, and soil deposition. Golf courses in many parts of the country may have to deal with one or more of these types.

- **Erosion** - This form of injury is most likely to occur in flood plains adjacent to rivers that flow rapidly. Generally, putting greens are constructed high enough to avoid most floods. The extent of the injury becomes apparent once the flood waters recede and can range from minimal to severe .
- **Submersion Injury** - Tolerance to submersion varies by turfgrass species, as indicated in Table 1. Bermudagrass has excellent tolerance to submersion injury, and research has revealed that bermudagrass can survive after more than 55 days of complete submersion. Bentgrass is classified as having good tolerance is not completely understood at this time. Little can be done to assess the amount of injury from submersion until the floodwaters subside.
- ♦ **Soil Deposition** - It is possible for several inches of silt, clay, sand, and other debris to be deposited on the turf during a flood. The problems associated with deposition can be immediate and long term. Injury can occur if the turf remains completely buried for an extended period. Additionally, the deposition of a less permeable clay or silt layer on top of existing soil can have long-term drainage implications. The deposition of sodium and/or soluble salts can be a concern for flooded coastal courses, too. Degradation of soil structure, foliage injury, and salt induced drought stress are all associated with this type of deposition. Reducing the sodium and soluble salts is necessary for the turf to make a full recovery.

Continued on page 3

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Recovery Program Outlined below are tips to help minimize flood damage and to promote complete recovery of the turf on putting greens and other parts of the course.



Putting Greens • *Sediment Removal* – Physically remove and/or rinse as much sediment as possible from the putting greens. It is undesirable to have a silt or clay layer capping a sand-based putting green. • *Cultivation* - Aerify the greens with hollow tines and remove the cores. This practice will help increase soil oxygen levels, which may be low due to the flooding and sediment deposition. Additionally, small amounts of sediment will be removed with the cores.

• *Increased Fertility* - The application of a balanced or starter fertilizer will help provide a boost to the turf. The

fertility program should favor the growth of the turf until the greens have completely recovered. At that time, more of an emphasis can be placed on playability.

• *Gypsum Application* - If saltwater or sodium deposition is suspected, apply gypsum at a rate of 2 to 5 lbs. gypsum per 1,000 sq. ft. Conduct a soil test as soon as possible to determine whether a long-term sodium and salinity management program is warranted.

• *Flush Drain Lines* - Some sand based putting greens are constructed with flush-out ports. If flush-out ports exist, flush the drain lines with freshwater until the discharge is clear. This will help clean out any sediment that may have accumulated in the drainage system.

Continued on page 4

Tees, Fairways, and Rough

- *Sediment Removal*- The broad scale removal of sediment from these areas will be labor intensive and will require some amount of trial and error to determine the most efficient removal method. For example, it may not be desirable to allow the sediment to completely dry before attempting to remove it. Some types of sediment can become extremely hard if allowed to dry completely.
- *Cultivation* - Core aeration of fall affected areas will help stimulate recovery.
- *Increased Fertility* - Flood injury can leave turfgrass weak and damaged. A supplemental fertilizer application containing nitrogen and potassium can help stimulate recovery and improve the stress tolerance of the turf.
- *Weed Control*- Be prepared for major weed problems in subsequent seasons. No one can determine how much weed seed was deposited by the floodwaters, but it is safe to assume that flooded golf courses will see more of their typical weeds as well as a few new ones, too.
- *Gypsum Application* - If salt and sodium problems are suspected, take a soil test and apply at least 5 lbs. of gypsum per 1,000 sq. ft.
- *Examine Drainage System* -Floods can damage subsurface drainage systems. First, locate and clean out any catch basins. Next, flush out the drain lines as much as possible.
- *Equipment* - The following equipment will be helpful in cleaning up the golf course: hoses, tractor with box blade, trailers for debris removal, hand tools (flat-bottom shovels, rakes, etc.), broadcast spreader, and pumps.

Table 1
Relative Submersion Tolerance of 12 Turfgrasses (Beard, 1973)

Submersion Tolerance	Turfgrass Species
Excellent	Buffalograss
	Bermudagrass
	Creeping Bentgrass
Good	Timothy
	Rough Bluegrass
Medium	Meadow Fescue
	Kentucky Bluegrass
Fair	Crested Wheatgrass
	Annual Bluegrass
	Perennial Ryegrass
Poor	Red Fescue
	Centipedegrass

Flooded Pesticide Storage Facilities A flooded pesticide storage facility presents entirely different problems for the turfgrass manager. Spills inside a storage room are relatively easy to clean up, but they do pose a greater inhalation and exposure hazard. Outdoor spills have the potential for contamination of surface and groundwater. Proper clean-up can be a complex procedure and will require contact with the appropriate state and federal authorities. Outlined below are brief guidelines that are in no way designed to replace direction from state and federal authorities.

1. Stop the Leak - Stop the spill as quickly as possible by restoring the container to its upright position, closing a leaky valve or hose, or putting

a secondary container in place to catch the leaking solution. Bags that are broken or soaked through need to be carefully placed in a secondary container such as a drum or heavy plastic bags. Wear appropriate personal safety equipment, including gloves, boots, goggles, respirator, and spray suit.

2. Contact the Authorities and Retailer- The Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) requires the reporting of many pesticide spills if the reportable quantity of that pesticide is spilled. These spills must be reported immediately to the National Response Center (800-424-8802). Many states require reporting of any size spill. Contact the appropriate state agency for more information. Also, contact the retailer who sold the chemical for additional information on cleanup.

3. Prepare a Written Report – The report should contain the following information:

- Exact location and time of spill
- Identification of spilled substance
- Estimate of amount spilled
- Area where the pesticide was released- air, land, or water
- Potential for off-site movement
- Your response
- Anticipated human or animal risks
- Any medical attention required

4. Contain the Leak and Isolate the Area - Surround the spill with a spill kit, dirt, or pet litter to prevent the pesticide from spreading.

(continued on page 5)

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4. *Contain the Leak and Isolate the Area* - Surround the spill with a spill kit, dirt, or pet litter to prevent the pesticide from spreading.

5. *Begin Cleanup* - Begin clean up as soon as the situation has stabilized. Quick response is not only required by law, but also prevents the chemical from washing away

6. *Properly Dispose of Contaminated Materials* - Use absorbent materials such as activated charcoal, vermiculite, absorbent gels, pads, or pillows to capture the spilled liquid. These materials can be shoveled or swept into recovery bags or drums. Properly dispose of the recovered materials per local regulations. If there is standing water in your pesticide storage facility, assume it is hazardous until you can check all pesticide containers for leaks or breakage. Do not allow any skin contact with this water. If there is no evidence of pesticide leakage into the water, it can be safely pumped out. However, if pesticides have mixed with this water, the water will have to be pumped to a storage tank for land application. Land application has to be at or below label rates, so first the amount of product spillage will have to be estimated. The water should be filtered before it enters the spray tank to avoid nozzle clogging. Be sure to wear personal protection equipment during all cleanup operations.



Conclusion Floods are a potential risk for many golf courses. Having a recovery plan and the needed supplies on hand before a flood hits will help make recovery efforts as efficient as possible



2016 Ultradwarf Summit

Come be a part of what's new in

Ultradwarf Management Practices!



- The Evolution of the Ultradwarfs and Manage

Bud White, Golf Solutions

- Current Ultradwarf Disease Pressures

Dr. Bruce Martin, Clemson University

- Latest on Mutation Progression

- Nematode Control Update

Dr. Brad Shaver, Helena Chemical

- Bermudagrass Mite Control Update

Gary Brooks, Bayer

- Field Demo - Bud White, Moderator

Power brushing - walk mower

Light and heavy vertical mowing

Topdressing- rates and particle size

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8 am to 3 pm - \$25



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Ultradwarf Summit Agenda

7:00-8:00 Registration 8:00 – 8:10 Welcome/Announcements

8:10-9:00

Bud White, Golf Solutions

Evolution of the Ultradwarfs

- * What have been the adaptation changes over 18 years
- * What has been seen with pest tolerances
- * What has been seen with shade tolerance
- * Latest on Mutation Progressing

9:00-10:00

Bud White, Golf Solutions

Evolution on management

- * Changes in mowing
- * Changes in brushing, vertical mowing, groomers
- * Changes in growth regulator success
- * Topdressing evolution and dangers with some current practices
- * Successful fertility programming

10:00-10:15 Break

10:15-11:15

Current Ultradwarf Disease Pressures

Dr. Bruce Martin, Clemson University

11:15-11:30

Questions for Bud White, Bruce Martin

11:30-12:30 Lunch

12:30-1:30

Nematode Control Update

* Dr. Brad Shaver, Helena Chemical

Bermudagrass Mites Control Update

* Gary Brooks, Bayer

1:30- 3:00

Field Demo

- * Aerification
- * Power brushing
- * Light and heavy vertical mowing
- * Topdressing- rates and particle size
- * Q & A



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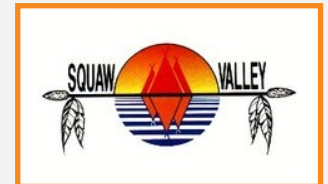
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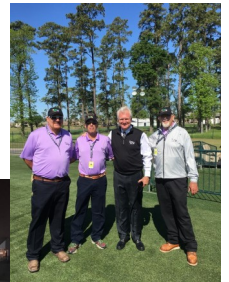
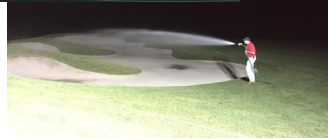
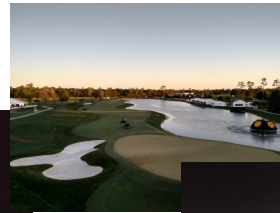
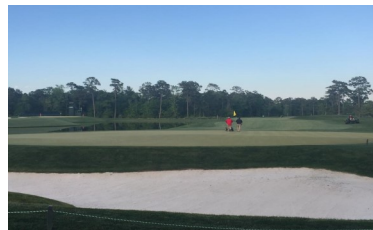
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Brian Buckner did a fantastic job at the Shell Houston Open!

The STGCSA would like to Congratulate Brian Buckner, his entire staff and all the volunteers that help put on a Great Shell Houston Open. The golf course was in superb conditions and the players had nothing but really good things to say about it. Ernie Els said he only hope Augusta was in that good a condition. Thanks Brian for making us all proud to be a part of The Shell Houston Open.

Just look at those greens! (Photo creds: Nick Inberg)



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Corrections and Additions



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We all know member, Bud White. Now Bud has a "blog" of Field Notes, a monthly update of happenings in our industry with timely, short and concise notes. This blog is intended to help keep you abreast of changes, unusual activities, management tips, etc. in the turfgrass industry, which will only take couple of minutes for you to read. You can sign up for Bud's Field Notes by emailing him at: budwhiteturf@gmail.com



Here is his April Field Notes so you can see how useful these are!

April-May is a critical "timing" period for golf course turf applications/programs as we move into the beginning of the growing season. Also, golfers are impatient for playing surfaces to tighten up, especially after the Master's weekend. It never fails - after Master's weekend playing condition complaints rise. Ironically, this is the same time when most superintendents are still waiting for prime growth weather and turf response. Remember the 150° F rule for bermudagrass growth and share it with golfers. Until the daytime high and nighttime low add up to 150° F, bermudagrass will not and cannot actively grow - only leaf growth and greening is what the golfer sees. This is an accurate rule-of-thumb in the North or South and unfortunately it cannot be cheated with the use of increased fertilizer, water, etc.

Late April is great timing for a phosphorus application to, either bentgrass or bermudagrass. I would suggest ½ lb actual P/1000 sf and another in late August. Even early March is good timing for bermudagrass, but wait until mid to late spring on the bentgrass so as not to flush Poa annua.

With respect to application timing, remember May is a better timing for grub application than now, generally speaking. Many spring grub applications are made too early, when the grubs are still too deep in the soil to achieve good control.

Lastly, don't forget the split application of Crab/Goose and Oxadiazon if you use that application approach for goosegrass. For goosegrass on greens, collars and immediate surrounds, a March 1st application followed up with a ½ rate in 50 days gives the late July/August control that one application in early spring cannot. This follow-up application need only be applied to cleanups, collars and immediate surrounds because this is where the infestation occurs most prolifically.

Please contact me anytime I can be of help to you. budwhiteturf@gmail.com. 972/768-3245.



Sterling Country Club at Houston National

May 23, 2016

Host: Nick Johnson



Registration begins at 9:30 am

Meeting and Educational Speaker: 10 am

Lunch 11 am

Golf 12 pm

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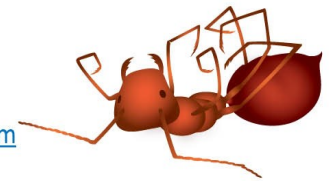


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