LOUISIANA TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

Turfgrass Insider—Winter 2019

Winter 2019

2020 LTA Conference on January 9, 2020

Can you believe the season our Tigers are having? LSU is #1 and undefeated. Don't you want to be in Tiger Stadium to feel the energy that our fighting Tigers are generating? You have that opportunity a few days before the national championship game. Join us for the Louisiana Turfgrass Association (LTA) Annual Conference! The event will be held on **January 9, 2020 at Tiger Stadium in the beautiful Stadium Club South overlooking the south end zone.** Once again we will have great speakers, food, and prizes. The meeting will be a awesome learning experience as well as an opportunity to mingle with 250 attendees from the state's turfgrass industry.

Pre-register with a credit card on our website at www.laturf.net or use the form available on the site and mail in your registration with a check. The fee for the conference is only $50 per person. The 2020 LTA conference will be an opportunity for pesticide recertification for General Standards, Ornamental & Turf (3) , Right-of-Way (6) and RUP Salespersons with LDAF as well as a chance to obtain GCSAA continuing education units. Join us for this educational opportunity in Tiger Stadium and get your new highly coveted LSU Turfgrass Hat (new colors) and win some other great prizes. Register now at www.laturf.net **Our speaker this year is Dr. Beth Guertal, soil fertility expert and professor at Auburn University.** Among the topics that Dr. Guertal will cover includes fertilizing warm season grass and the use and role of microbial products (humic acid and other products) for improved soil health**.** See agenda on page 2.

Vendor Alley Booths are available for $300 per booth. This includes conference registration fees for up to 3 total booth representatives. It's a great opportunity for vendors to interact with potential customers because conference attendees must visit vendors to get their vendor cards signed to be eligible for great prizes. Close contact with attendees is guaranteed. Vendor registration is also available on our website at www.laturf.net

Dr. Beth Guertal—Featured Speaker…

Stadium Club South overlooks the south end zone…

Register for conference now!
www.laturf.net

2020 LTA Annual Conference Agenda
January 9, 2020

Registration from 7:45 - 9:00 am

8:30 – **An NFL Referee's Perspective** — Greg Gautreaux

9:00 – **Myths, facts and legend for warm season fertility** - Dr. Beth Guertal, Professor, Auburn University

9:45 – **Potential for using drones on golf courses, sod farms, and sports complexes** – Dr. Randy Price, Associate Professor – LSU AgCenter and Jimmy Flannagan County Agent, St. Mary Parish

10:20 – **Handling Pesticides Safely** - Bryan Gueltig – LSU AgCenter

10:45 – Break – Visit Vendors

11:00 – **Chosen versus Forced Risks with Pesticides –** Kim Brown — LSU AgCenter

11:45 - **Eat and Fellowship**
12:45 – **LTA Business Meeting**

1:00 – **Microbials and bioproducts – what's out there and how might they work?** - Dr. Beth Guertal, Professor, Auburn University

1:45 – **Professional Development — Leadership –** Dr. Bobby Soileau, LSU AgCenter

2:30 – **LSU Turfgrass Research Update** – Dr. Jeff Beasley, Associate Professor, LSU AgCenter

3:00 – **Employee Team Building** – Training and Managing Employees—Mike Hess, Brooke Inzerella, Troy Romero

3:45 – **Reveal GCSAA CEU numbers/Pesticide Recertification - LDAF**

Register for conference now!
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Algae Causing Severe Problems on Golf Greens

I am seeing a lot more algae on golf greens going into the winter. You will need aggressive strategy to alleviate this problem on your course.

Algae infested greens did not develop overnight. In compacted greens, water does not percolate through the soil profile very easily. The water remains trapped near the surface and algae problems develop, especially during periods of high rainfall. Often algae develops initially in cleanup pass areas where there is a higher level of compaction. I know golfers don't like it, but we are just not deep aerifying our greens enough. We also see more algae problems where greens are stressed by shade from trees. Almost always, there's low potash levels where algae is a problem as an additional stress.

Algae often develop on bare soil or closely mowed thin areas of turf that are overly wet. This results in the production of layers of green to black algal scum that become thick, cracked layers of algal crusts when it dries out. The algae found in turf are generally a mixture of single-celled filamentous green algae and cyanobacteria (blue-green algae). These algae grow primarily during periods of warm, wet weather from late spring to early fall. Although algae are not pathogenic and do not attack the turf directly, they can compete with the turf preventing it from growing by interfering with water and oxygen penetration into the soil.

Managing Algae

The management of algae in turf is based primarily on modifying the environment to makes it less favorable for algal growth and to improve growing conditions for the turf. Since algae are often problems on shady, compacted, poorly drained sites with little air movement, an aggressive program to correct these problems is necessary. First and foremost, the frequency of irrigation should be reduced, but enough water should be applied each irrigation so that the root zone is thoroughly wetted. Topdressing with sand or diatomaceous earth will also help to dry out the algae and the surface layers. If shade and poor air movement are contributing to the problem, it may be necessary to prune or completely remove trees or shrubs from the surrounding area. You have to create growing conditions that promote turf recovery in these stressed areas as well.

Algae Treatment Options

- Chlorothalonil or mancozeb applied at 2 week intervals in warm weather + aeration
- Frequent aeration reduces incidences
- Raise mowing height to reduce stress
- Reduce or remove shade and improve drainage
- Copper based fungicides have activity but watch copper buildup

Probably the most important thing you can do to curb algae is regular core aeration, air injection, and/or spiking as deep as you can. These cultural practices help to reduce compaction, improve drainage and break up the algal layer. If a thick algal crust has developed, it may be necessary to physically remove as much of it as possible by raking or brushing. With the courses that I have been working with over the past few years, frequent deep aeration has been the most important step to recovery. This action creates channels for water to travel through the soil profile away from the green's surface. Also extremely important in the greens recovery is to correct low potash levels.

Air 2 G 2

Toro Procore

I have been stunned at the low levels of potash that I am seeing on soil reports on golf greens. Get a soil report and follow through with the recommendations. Potash levels are lot more dynamic on sand based greens and more frequent applications are necessary. Also, when you see the black layer bleeding through on your greens, the grass is under stress. Raise your mowing height to get more leaf area for the turf recovery.

Fungicides Can Help

Certain fungicides may also help to control algae in turf, but these will be effective only when used in conjunction with cultural practices to improve the growing conditions for the turf. Fungicides containing the active ingredients chlorothalonil, mancozeb, copper or a combination of mancozeb and copper have been reported to be effective in inhibiting the development of algae when applied preventatively. Don't overdo it with copper products, The repeated use of copper-containing materials may lead to the buildup of copper in the soil to levels that could be phytotoxic to the turf.

Summary

I have seen disastrous algae problems turned around by aggressive aeration and fungicide applications in association with reducing other environmental turf stresses recover algal controlled turfgrass. Unfortunately, some areas can be so severely damaged that greens may need sodding or sprigging.

When you start seeing algae bleeding through on your greens, aerify immediately and alter any environmental stresses on your greens.

Lawn Burweed / Sticker Weed (*Soliva pterosperma*)



Lawn burweed (stickerweed) has emerged everywhere! Burweed is a low growing, mat forming winter annual. The leaves are opposite and divided into narrow segments or lobes. The flowers are small and inconspicuous. The seed forms in the leaf axils. The weed gets its name because the seeds have spines that are painful when stepped on. The spines are actually a method of transport for the seed. I see lawn burweed most often in weak turf areas.

I get the most calls on lawn burweed in early spring when athletes, golfers, and home owners get stuck by the spines on the seeds. It's too late to control the weed by then. Control lawn burweed in November/December with simazine + trimec type herbicide. For football fields including practice fields, that means make the application after the last home game. MSM Turf is also very effective postemergence on lawn burweed. Control lawn burweed in overseeded areas such as baseball fields with trimec type herbicides alone.

The key to lawn burweed control is to apply herbicides well before flowering.

Control*:* Metsulfuron, simazine + trimec type herbicide (2,4-D, dicamba, mecoprop), simazine + metsulfuron, atrazine + trimec type herbicide etc.

Register for the 2020 LTA conference!
at

www.laturf.net