

On the Grow

Volume 21 No. 2

April 2011

2010 Professional Applicator of the Year - Wendall Whaley

by Terry Griffith, Agrium Advanced Technologies

Wendall is a conscientious steward in the lawn care industry. He is always aware of the environment, using pesticides as they are strictly labeled. He takes pride in his work and how he can help his community be a beautiful place to live.

Wendall, Chris (his wife), and their two children have lived in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, their whole lives. Wendall took over his father's propane business in 1980 and expanded it in 1995 to include lawn care and dust control by purchasing a local company. He immediately became a member of the IPLCA, recognizing the benefit of belonging to a state organization that could help him in his business expansion.



Wendall has been a member of the IPLCA ever since. He served a term on the IPLCA board. He volunteers at his church and the local, nationally known tourist attraction, Midwest Old Threshers.

Wendall was diagnosed with Waldenstroms disease, a lymphoma of the bone marrow in March 2009. This was a great challenge to him since the disease greatly sapped his energy. He greatly missed being actively involved in his applications for the first half of the year. Friends

were able to help him maintain his business in 2009 and thankfully, now treatment is helping him to resume his normal activity in lawn care.

Wendall is a very good example of professionalism in the lawn care industry of Iowa. His customers know they can count on him to improve the quality of their property and be environmentally responsible. Thank you, Wendall, on being a great example of professionalism in our industry!



RIVER CITY TURF & ORNAMENTAL

DAN KLINDT
Turf Specialist

Seed	Chemicals
Fertilizer	Ice Melters

1-(800) 443-8497 1601 1st Ave.
Cell: (563) 370-2515 Silvis, IL 61282
Fax: (309) 792-8313 dklindt@goldstarfs.com

IPLCA President

BILL FELDMANN, At-Large Director
Feldmann's Yard N' Garden
404 N. Huber Street, Anamosa, IA 52205
(P) 319-462-5377 (C) 319-389-2400
feldmannyng@msn.com

IPLCA Vice President

CHRIS JENSEN, South Central Director
A+ Lawn & Landscape
6990 NE 14th Street, Ankeny, IA 50021
(P) 515-289-2020 (F) 515-289-2255
radarj@apluslawn.com

IPLCA Treasurer

TERRY GRIFFITH, NE Director
Agrium Advanced Technologies
2142 210th Street, Manchester, IA 52057
(P) 563-927-2151 (C) 563-260-1838
(F) 563-927-3424
tgriffith@agrriumat.com

BEN HAWCOTT, North Central Director
Hawcott Lawn Service
PO Box 37, Nevada, IA 50201
(P) 515-290-8551
benh1523@gmail.com

JOHN HOLLEN, Southwest Director
All American Turf Beauty
PO Box 51, Red Oak, IA 51566
(P) 712-623-4550 (F) 712-623-2974
jrh@mchsi.com

PAUL NEREM, Northwest Director
Cardinal Lawn & Sports Turf
123 Maple Street, Fenton, IA 50539
(P) 515-924-3266 (F) 515-924-3381
p.Nerem@yahoo.com

GEOFF PROFFITT, Southeast Director
Hedge Above LLC
27726 95th Street, Crawfordsville, IA 52621
(P) 319-658-2119
glpro@louisacomm.net

KEVIN JOHNSON, At-Large Director
All American Turf Beauty
PO Box 260, Van Meter, IA 50261
(P) 515-996-2261 (F) 515-996-2263
kevin.johnson@allamericanturf.com

JEFF WENDEL, Executive Director
Iowa Professional Lawn Care Association
17017 US Highway 69
Ames, IA 50010-9294
(P) 515-232-8222 (F) 515-232-8228
jeff@iowaturfgrass.org

NICOL E. JONES, Newsletter Editor
Iowa Professional Lawn Care Association
17017 US Highway 69
Ames, IA 50010-9294
(P) 515-232-8222 (F) 515-232-8228
nicol@iowaturfgrass.org

What Would You Do?

by IPLCA Board of Directors

Each month, our board of directors will answer a question or scenario that is about situations you encounter in lawn care in Iowa. They will give candid, off the top of your head answers. Here is April's scenario: Your customer discovers that there is quite a bit of damage that was revealed on his turf with the melting of the snow. It appears to be matted down, almost greasy, damaged turf. You conclude it is a snow mold. What do you do?

Chris Jensen, South Central Director

"Mr. Homeowner, thank you for calling me as soon as you noticed the damage. Your lawn has been affected by snow mold. Now that the snow has gone there are a couple of things that can be done to help speed up recovery. Lightly rake the area to help loosen the grass and break up the matted down areas, then sprinkle some grass seed across the same area and lightly rake again. Do these things just as soon as you can. In the event that it snows again, it will be ok. The snow will not harm the seed and the snow cover will not last long as we are so close to spring. If the affected area is near an area you might have to shovel snow off to, then try to put the snow onto a different location. I will make a note in your account that there has been some snow mold damage and we will check the area out when we are out for your first application.

Kevin Johnson, At Large Director

My normal recommendation has been to heavily rake the affected areas and remove as much of the "greasy" affected grass blades as possible. If it is a lawn that has been on a good fertility program in the past, I will usually wait until

"What Would You Do?" continued on page 4

Pace Supply
TURF & LANDSCAPE

Your one source for Turf, Landscape, & Sports Field Products

These Post-Emergent 4-way Herbicides
ELIMINATE a variety of grassy and
broadleaf **WEEDS FAST.**

1-800-396-7917
www.pacesupplyia.com
pacesupply@southslope.net

Iowa Turfgrass Office Update

by Jeff Wendel, CGCS, Executive/Communications Director, Iowa Turfgrass Office



2011 Conference & Trade Show

The final numbers are tallied and registration for the 2011 Iowa 'show' was up 11.5%. Thanks to everyone who attended, exhibited and presented. We are working on the 2012 Conference, let us know if there is a topic, speaker or idea you have for that event. Thanks again to all the Iowa GCSA, ISTMA and IPLCA members who helped make our event a success.

Iowa GCSA Extension Fundraiser

The 2011 Extension Fundraiser is June 28th at Westwood Golf Course in Newton. The Event will be a 9am shotgun start with lunch by Luke Dant of Syngenta and education by Dr. Minner after golf. This event was started in 2005 by Doug Snook, CGCS and is a critical component of Dr. Minner's travel across Iowa. We will have registration forms online soon, or you can call the Iowa Turfgrass Office at 515-232-8222. Format is a 4-person scramble, so get your group together. Iowa GCSA Member Nick Cummins is our host and the course is interesting and challenging!

Tee Sponsorships are available for \$100, please call the

Turfgrass Office if you would like to sponsor. Hope to see many of you in Newton June 28th.

10th Annual Field Day Classic

The Annual Field Day Classic is at Jewell CC on July 13th. Brian Abels will be hosting the 10th Annual Field Day Classic! Take time to relax, have fun with fellow turf professionals, enjoy a beautiful course and play golf in a tournament that is known for fun & relaxation. Do not worry about your golf ability; the event is designed for all levels. Put together your own foursome or enter as an individual and we will team you up with a winning group. Entry is limited to the first 72 entries (18 teams)! Tee Sponsorships are sold out, but there is still room for teams, sign up early, the event has been sold out every year since 2002.

Online Directory

Be sure to click the RED Online Directory link at www.iowaturfgrass.org, log in and then click the 'My Information' tab on the left to make sure we have your listing correct. Let us know if you have trouble logging in or negotiating the website. Look for Sarah's update on Avectra elsewhere in this issue.

A Game Changer™
Setting a new standard in service excellence and solution delivery

The Promise.
Service excellence

The Delivery.
Best agronomic & economic solutions

The Performance.
We will help your business grow

Agrium Advanced Technologies
DIRECT SOLUTIONS™
www.aatdirectsolutions.com

Your one-stop supplier of the most advanced turf-growth solutions, including:

- Fertilizer Technologies
- Plant Nutrition
- Plant Protection
- Spray Technologies
- Water Management Solutions
- Seed

© 2011 Agrium Advanced Technologies (U.S.) Inc. DIRECT SOLUTIONS, A GAME CHANGER and designs are trademarks owned by Agrium Advanced Technologies (U.S.) Inc. AGRILIUM ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES is a trademark owned by Agrium Inc.

Terry Griffith: 563-260-1838
Eastern Iowa

Jeff Kjolhede: 515-201-4718
Central Iowa

What Would You Do? continued from page 2

by IPLCA Board of Directors

May before deciding the next course of action. Let them know that there is normally a good chance that the turf will recover on its own. I do not push fungicides for home lawns normally. I feel that that once the snow cover leaves and the temperatures warm up, the conditions favoring growth of the disease no longer exist. In early to mid-May I determine the best course of action concerning the damaged portions of their lawn. Normally there is enough re-growth of the grass that no further action is needed. At this point, I encourage our customer to continue on with their normal application program.

John Hollen, Southwest Director & ITI Rep.

I would explain that snowmold usually doesn't require more than a light raking to eliminate the "mat" that is caused by the mycelium of the fungus. Raking also allows air movement through the grass canopy which discourages further fungal growth. I would recommend the customer watch the affected area during the early spring, and if cool, cloudy, damp weather was on-going, we could always inner-seed later if it was deemed necessary.

Geoff Proffitt, Southeast Director

Educate the customer as to the two types of snow mold (Gray & Pink) and what typically brings this on, i.e. leaving the turf to long prior to winter, thatch build up, and/

or lack of a proper fertilization & weed control program. Explain the benefits of maintaining proper mowing heights, a solid fertilization and weed control program, and an annual core aeration. Have them rake it out a bit to get it to dry out. In severe cases it may need to be treated as a bare spot in the yard and repaired.

Darrin Johnson, ITI Representative

In a home lawn situation I would recommend light raking of the damaged area to open up the turf canopy. This will help with air movement and sunlight in getting to the healthy plants. In some cases of severe cases a curative fungicide application may be necessary.

Terry Griffith, Northeast Director

I think the response to this depends on the geography of your customer. Snow mold is a big problem in the northern part of the state and if the homeowner is having a habitual problem with it, it might warrant future preventative snow mold fungicide applications. Most snow mold infestations in southern and central Iowa will clear up with the warming spring temperatures. Raking will help fluff up the area and over-seeding may be needed.

If you have any scenarios or questions, please submit them to Terry Griffith via email at tgriffith@agriumat.com

Unique Solutions For Every Need!



Grassy & Broadleaf Weed Control



Tough Weed Control



Low-Odor Mixed-Amine



Rapid Control of Tough Turfgrass Insects

For your local PBI/Gordon Distributor
visit: pbigordon.com or call
Jeremy Buhl @ 402.920.2249

G pbi / GORDON CORPORATION
An Employee-Owned Company

ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW LABEL DIRECTIONS 01949