

# On the Grow

Volume 24 No. 1

February/ March 2014



*Establishing a Lawn from Seed*

## 2014 Board of Directors

IPLCA President

**MIKE MEIERS** Northwest Director  
Struyk Turf Ltd.  
466 Elliot St., Council Bluffs, IA 51503  
(P) 402-651-1478  
mikemeiers85@gmail.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

**BEN HAWCOTT**, North Central Director

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

**NANCY LONG**, Southeast Director

1301 Washington St., Muscatine, IA 52761  
(P) 563-506-4188  
nlong.kellor@machlink.com

**DAVE HARDY**, Northeast Director

Spray Away  
500 9th Ave SE, Independence, IA 50644  
(P) 319-334-3758  
spray.away07@gmail.com

**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

**KREG LONGNECKER**, At-Large Director

Freedom Landscape and Snow Management  
600 Marshall St., Slater, IA 50244  
(P) 515-745-0998  
klongnecker@freedomslm.com

**CHRIS ROBERTS**, At-Large Director

Van Diest Supply Company  
1218 Fox Trail Drive NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402  
(P) 515-341-3898  
chris.roberts@vdsc.com

**JEFF WENDEL**, Executive Director

Iowa Turfgrass Institute  
1605 N Ankeny Blvd Suite 210  
Ankeny, IA 50023  
(P) 515-635-0306 (F) 515-635-0307  
jeff@iowaturfgrass.org

## Inside this Issue

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 3  | February / March Presidents Message<br>- Mike Meiers                 |
| 4  | Iowa Turfgrass Office Update<br>- Jeff Wendel, CGCS                  |
| 5  | Iowa Turfgrass Conference Review                                     |
| 8  | Northeast Director Update<br>- Dave Hardy                            |
| 10 | Establishing a Lawn from Seed<br>- Nick Christians, PhD & Ryan Adams |

## Advertisers

Pace Supply	4
Agrium Advanced Technologies	7
PBI-Gordon	9
River City Turf and Ornamental	11

Iowa Professional Lawn Care Association  
would like to thank the advertisers for their  
continuous support of the association

Publishing April 2014 Issue;

Articles and Advertisements are due March 10, 2014

For more information regarding articles and advertising  
rates contact the editor.

Sarah Hodgson, One the Grow Editor

1605 N Ankeny Blvd Suite 210, Ankeny, IA 50023

Email: sarah@iowaturfgrass.org

Phone: 515-635-0306

Fax: 515-635-0307



# February / March Presidents Message

---

Mike Meiers, IPLCA President



Hello again, and Happy New Year. I'm sure everyone is getting geared up for spring, so in this article, I would like to talk a little about spring turf disease and other problems. Most if not all lawn care companies run into spring problems, especially after adverse weather conditions typical of Iowa winters. Many highly manicured lawns can have big problems with a variety of disease, especially snow molds. The extreme cold temperatures can also lead to problems associated with winter kill.

Gray snow mold or *Typhula* blight normally occurs with an early snowfall that persists into the cold temperatures of winter. It is characterized by blighted areas up to 2 feet in diameter covered in a grayish mycelial mass. I have found that some lawns can have yearly issues with this disease, especially on areas next to a south facing wall where snow has a tough time melting during warmer temperatures. These areas normally will recover without any extra input, but we occasionally have to rake out any dead material and throw some seed down to keep customers happy.

Pink snow mold, *Microdochium* patch, or *Fusarium* as some call it is more common than its gray counterpart. The blighted areas it causes are sometimes lined with faint pink mycelia, and it is usually about 12 inches in diameter. It is usually seen when warmer temperatures arrive and the snow is melting off and spring is beginning. Like with the gray snow mold, the lawn will typically bounce out of it once warmer conditions arrive. Again, raking any dead material once everything dries out and reseeded is usually best for any areas that die off. If we have a customer that always manages to get snow mold, we typically hold back on nitrogen in the fall to keep the fungal growth to a minimum the following spring.

Yellow patch and necrotic ring spot are two other diseases that can attack turf in early spring but aren't seen as often as snow mold. Necrotic ring spot usually shows up as a frog eye pattern but quickly disappears as the weather warms up. Yellow patch can form irregular yellow bordered patches on Kentucky blue-

grass lawns, and also usually goes away with warmer weather. Thatch control is associated with mitigation of these two diseases on high value lawns, as well as a fertilizer program.

Leaf spot is, in my opinion, the most common disease on Iowa lawns. It is caused by a variety of fungal organisms and attacks just about all lawn species. Lesions or spots are formed on the blades, and can eventually cause the blight of entire leaves and sheaths. Leaf spot can eventually lead to melting out, affecting the crown and effectively killing the plant. I have found that mowing height has a lot to do with leaf spot symptoms. Shorter turf, as you all know, is naturally stressed. The best way to keep the turf healthy and avoid excess leaf spot is to tell the customer to raise the mowing height.

Winter kill is another problem many companies face in spring. Winter kill is really a general term used for a variety of turf issues related to winter weather. Desiccation can occur following extremely cold temperatures and dry conditions, which I think we may have some problems with this spring; it has been the 9th coldest winter in 121 years of weather records in Iowa. Low temperature stress can also be attributed to turf death, especially in ryegrass lawns. Bluegrass and fescue usually do better in low temperature situations. Low temperature stress is at its worst when the soil temperatures drop significantly because the crown is close to or under the soil surface.

Solutions to most spring problems are almost always cultural. Thatch control and proper mowing height play the biggest role in maintaining healthy turf and preventing disease symptoms. Chemical control is seldom warranted except on high value landscapes like high input parks and golf courses. Reestablishment is usually the best solution to any loss of residential turf.

# Iowa Turfgrass Office Update

Jeff Wendel, CGCS, Iowa Turfgrass Institute

## Updating Your Membership

The Iowa Turfgrass Office uses an online membership solution to manage your membership. Each member has an individual record in this database. You can use your email address and password to sign in and make changes to your record.

If you forget your password or change your email address, PLEASE don't create a new signup! To change your email, use your old email and password to sign in, then click the "My Information" tab on the left and change your email. If you forget your password, first try using the "Forgot your Password" link on the login page. If you still aren't able to access your record, call 515-635-0306 or email to [jeff@iowaturfgrass.org](mailto:jeff@iowaturfgrass.org).

In most cases we can fix any issues quickly and preserve your membership history. Creating a new record loses your membership and its history. We don't have your password, but can reset it to Password1 so you can access your individual record and setup a new password. The record you have populates the Directory, so please keep your information up to date.

## Calendar of Events

May 8th: ISTMA Construction Workshop, Waukee & Various locations

Host: Casey Scheidel, CSFM

May 12th: State Meeting – Carroll Municipal Golf Course

Host Superintendent: Dan Smith

June 19th: Extension Fundraiser – Coldwater Golf Links, Ames

Host Superintendent: Rob Lindsay

July 9th: ISTMA Summer Workshop - Grinnell College

Host: Jason Koester, CGCS

July 16th: Field Day Classic Golf Tournament – Ballard CC, Huxley

Host Superintendent: Randy Robinson

July 24th: Iowa Turfgrass Field Day – Horticulture Research Station, Ames

Host: Dan Strey

Sept 16th: ISTMA Fall Workshop – City of Iowa City Kickers Soccer Complex

Host: Joe Wagner

September 25th: Iowa GCSA State Meeting w/ Eastern Iowa – Thunder Hills CC, Peosta

Host Superintendent: Joe Stelzer

October 6th: ITI/Iowa GCSA Benefit Tournament – Glen Oaks CC, West DSM

Host Superintendent: Chris Coen

November 12th: IPLCA Workshop – Iowa Western Community College, Council Bluffs

December 4th: Iowa GCSA Seminar – Otter Creek GC – Ankeny

Host Superintendent: Lennis Berkland

January 20-22, 2015: Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show

The Meadows Event and Conference Center - Altoona

## Pace Supply

**TURF & LANDSCAPE**

*Iowa's Source for Turf, Landscape, & Sports Field Products*



### Ero-Guard

**Straw, Straw/Coconut, & Coconut (8' x 112.5')**

**Futerra EnviroNet**

**Green & Natural (7' x 135')(40" x 135')**

**ERO-GUARD**  
EROSION CONTROL BLANKETS

**Futerra**  
ENVIRONET

**1-800-396-7917**

**[www.pacesupplyia.com](http://www.pacesupplyia.com)**

**[pacesupply@southslope.net](mailto:pacesupply@southslope.net)**

# 2013 Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show Picture Review



# Keynote Aaron Thomas



**Congratulations to  
Dave Minner, PhD**

**2013 ITI Meritorious  
Service Award Winner**

**Thank you to our 2014 Iowa Turfgrass Institute Sponsors**

## **Silver**

ACME Material  
Bayer Environmental Sciences

## **Gold**

Agrium Advanced Technologies  
BUSH Sports Turf  
D & K Products  
Iowa Golf Association  
Syngenta  
TurfWerks  
Van Wall Equipment  
VGM

## **Bronze**

Ajinomoto USA  
Dow Agro Sciences  
Miller & Sons  
MTI Distributing  
PACE Supply  
The Andersons  
Zimco

# Job Posting: Lawn Care Technician

Struyk Turf LTD of Council Bluff, IA is in search of a college level applicator/spray technician to join our team. This position involves applying fertilizer and pesticide to residential and commercial lawns, diagnosing and treating lawn problems, responding to customer needs and many other tasks as assigned, all in a timely and efficient manner. The ideal candidate will possess a two or four year degree in Turfgrass Management or a related field. Turf Industry experience is also desired.

Struyk Turf offers an independent work environment, advancement opportunities and very competitive wages. To apply, please send resume to [struykturf@gmail.com](mailto:struykturf@gmail.com) or apply in person at 1628 9th Avenue, Council Bluffs, IA. Struyk Turf is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



## About LI700® :

LI 700 is a soy derived, non-ionic penetrating surfactant, which reduces off target spray drift, and reduces spray water pH. It's unique formulation technology and quality ingredients separate LI700 from the competition, and as the world's #1 selling adjuvant, you can trust LI700 for your adjuvant needs.

### Features:

- Multipurpose adjuvant composed of natural surfactants and penetrants
- Contain's Leci-Tech- a unique and proprietary chemistry derived from soy lecithin
- Non-Ionic surfactant
- Low foaming

### Benefits:

- Lower's spray tank pH
- Increases pesticide penetration
- Improves spray droplet deposition
- Reduces drift without increasing droplet size
- For use with herbicides, insecticides, PGR's, and liquid foliar nutritionals

### Rates:

**Greens:** 1-4 pints per 100 gallons or 1-6 oz per 5 gallons

**Fairways:** 1-4 pints per 100 gallons or 1-6 oz per 5 gallons

**Roughs or Residential:** 1-4 pints per 100 gallons or 1-6 oz per 5 gallons

#### pH Correction:

**Highly Alkaline water** (pH 8 or higher): 8 to 16 oz per 100 gallons

**Mildly alkaline/acid water** (pH 6.5-8): 4-8 oz per 100 gallons

### Leci-Tech:

Leci-Tech was developed by Loveland Products, a leading world producer of adjuvant technology. Thousands of customers, ranging from farmers to turf professionals, trust adjuvants from Loveland Products to maximize their pesticide and nutrient spray programs and to stretch their dollars further.



#### Drift Reduction

Leci-Tech products reduce spray drift without increasing the number of large droplets.



#### Droplet Retention

Leci-Tech products ensure that more droplets hit the target and stay there, providing more consistent control.



#### Penetration

Leci-Tech products provide quicker uptake with no impact on plant safety, maximizing pesticide and nutritional performance.

Contact your local Direct Solutions sales representative to learn more. Or, visit [www.aatdirectsolutions.com](http://www.aatdirectsolutions.com) to find a rep near you.

# Northeast Director Update

---

## Dave Hardy, Spray Away

It's -20 in Independence today. I can't even remember when we had a day above freezing here. It was a relief to head down to Des Moines for the annual ITI Conference where it was in the upper 30s while I was there. Special thanks for all the people that helped put on the conference as it was once again a great time. The keynote address from Aaron Thomas was worth the price of admission alone.

I have been hearing on the radio and news of the daily water main breaks, which is telling us that the frost has really gone deep this winter. It makes me wonder how spring will go. I could see where perhaps I might be treating some guys lawn this spring and going around the block to a neighbors lawn that still might be froze. I guess time will tell.

I am planning on hiring 1 or 2 full time people this year. It's been of concern to me to try this. Over the years I have had several employees but most I would consider part time seasonal positions. So taking this step is tough for me. I have wondered in the past how I will keep them busy on rainy days, during hot and dry periods, and keeping them employed during the off season. Until now!

My brother owns a local landscape business, and he has had similar challenges about hiring new staff. This past year we worked with a local investor and purchased an 8 unit apartment building. My brother and I agreed to manage the rental business in exchange for the investor putting down the 20% required to get standard financing. And the new business has done well. We have since purchased additional units. Some of them have required some remodeling and repairs.

The remodeling and repair portion of the units has worked really well for me and my brothers staff. We already owned most of the necessary tools, and with a little guidance our staff has been able to do good work. We are looking at buying more homes now and if we can purchase them for a good price, I will feel good about hiring more staff for my business. So I guess we will see how this strategy pays off for me in future. Hopefully on my next article I will have a good report for you.

I hope your spring is a success

-Dave Hardy

## Welcome new IPLCA Members!

Kevin Hicks  
Jan's Lawn Care  
North Liberty, IA

Jim Hall  
Hall & Martin Landscape Services  
Huxley, IA

Josh Schonhorst  
Turf Masters Lawn & Landscape  
Iowa City, IA

Kevin Wicks  
No Lawn Left Behind LLC  
Perry, IA

David Leighton  
Wright Outdoor Solutions Inc.  
West Des Moines, IA

Mike Waldner  
Waldners Lawn Service  
Cherokee, IA

Sharon McNutt  
Struyk Turf Maintenance  
Council Bluffs, IA

Jill Albin  
Struyk Turf, Inc.  
Council Bluffs, IA

# Kirkwood Community College Joins Ranks of PLANET Accredited Schools

Clackamas Community College and Oklahoma State University/Stillwater Earn Reaccreditation Status

HERNDON, Va., February 25, 2014 — PLANET is pleased to announce that Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa has earned its accreditation status, while Clackamas Community College in Oregon City, Ore. and Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Okla. has earned their reaccreditation status.

PLANET's industry accreditation certifies that schools with four-year Bachelor of Science and two-year Associate of Science degree programs meet or exceed industry standards for landscape industry and horticulture curriculums. The accreditation program also provides guidance to create and/or improve program curriculum.

It is the only nationally recognized endorsement offered to colleges and universities with landscape/horticulture curriculum.

Accredited schools also receive discounts on certification testing and participation in Student Career Days.

Twenty-eight institutions of higher learning now have programs that are PLANET accredited.

For more information about PLANET accreditation, visit PLANET's website or contact Zane Castle at 800-395-2522.



## HIGH SPEED

**INSECT CONTROL** for trees & shrubs

- Especially Effective On Japanese Beetles When Used As A Soil Drench
- Rapid Movement Through Plant Tissue
- Extended Systemic Activity
- Controls More Than 70 Sucking and Chewing Pests

**Zylam Liquid**  
SYSTEMIC INSECTICIDE

For more information visit [GordonsProfessional.com](http://GordonsProfessional.com) or call Jeremy Buhl at 402.920.2249

**Labeled For TREES & SHRUBS**

**pbi / GORDON CORPORATION**  
An Employee-Owned Company

Always read and follow label directions. Gordon's® and Zylam® are registered trademarks of PBI-Gordon Corp. 03/14 03115

# Establishing a Lawn from Seed

Nick Christians, PhD and Ryan Adams, Iowa State University



The establishment of a home lawn from seed can be challenging. The keys to successfully establishing a lawn from seed are selecting high quality seed, seeding at the optimum time, and following proper establishment procedures.

## Time of Seeding

The best time to seed a lawn in Iowa is between mid-August and mid/late September. However, lawns can be successfully established as late as late-September in central Iowa and early October in southern Iowa. Late summer planting is preferred to spring seeding because seeds germinate and grow rapidly in the warm soil. The warm days and cool nights are ideal for seedling growth.

Establishment from seed in the spring is possible when irrigation is available. However, lawns established in spring often become infested with annual weeds unless preventive steps are taken. A pre-emergent herbicide such as siduron or mesotrione should be applied to the area during a spring establishment. Most of these preemergent herbicides kill the seeds of the cool season lawn grasses and cannot be used at the time of seeding. Mesotrione and siduron are the only exceptions. Siduron can be applied to areas seeded with Kentucky bluegrass, fine and tall fescues, and perennial ryegrass. Siduron selectively control weedy annual grasses, such as crabgrass, foxtail, and barnyardgrass, while allowing the desirable turfgrasses to grow. Siduron is the active ingredient of many crabgrass preventer/starter fertilizer materials. Once the barrier of siduron has been established, the soil should not be further disturbed. Wherever the barrier is broken, annual weeds will emerge. Mesotrione is labeled for preemergent use only on newly seeded Kentucky bluegrass lawns to help control crabgrass seedlings and other annual weeds.

**Do not use crabgrass preventer unless it is labeled for new seedlings.**

**Seeding from late May to mid-August is extremely difficult and usually unsuccessful.**

## Fertilizer

Fertilization is very important at the time of seeding. This is the only time you will be able to incorporate required soil amendments or fertilizer into the root zone.

Prior to preparing the seedbed, broadcast fertilizer according to soil test recommendations, then incorporate to a depth of 4 to 6 inches. Soil testing information can be found at [www.extension.iastate.edu/publications/ST11.pdf](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/publications/ST11.pdf).

If the soil tests results indicate a need for nitrogen and phosphorus, select a farm grade fertilizer that is high in phosphorus, such as diammonium phosphate (18-46-0), or monoammonium phosphate (11-52-0). Fertilization at a rate providing 0.75 to 1 pound of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet is usually sufficient. Additional fertilizer may be needed 3 to 4 weeks after germination, when the grass is approximately 1 to 1.5 inches tall. See PM 1057, Lawn Fertilization, for more information on fertilization.

## Preparing the Seedbed

Preparing the seedbed is the most labor intensive and time consuming step in establishing a lawn, but it is also very important. A well-prepared seedbed is essential for rapid, successful establishment of a lawn.

Using a rototiller or other cultivation equipment, work the soil to a depth of 4 to 6 inches, incorporating the fertilizer or other soil amendments recommended from soil test results. Do not till the area when the soil is wet. The soil

is too wet when a handful of soil formed into a ball retains its shape when pressed with the thumb. The soil is ready to till when the soil ball crumbles. Be sure not to overtill the soil, which will destroy soil structure and is undesirable.



Rake the area to finish-grade just prior to seeding. Light rolling will indicate any low spots or irregularities in the seedbed.

### Seeding

Select high quality seed of the grass species best adapted to the site. Perennial ryegrasses may be included in seed mixtures for spring plantings to help the lawn establish quickly. However, for late summer planting, a mixture of three or four Kentucky bluegrass varieties is preferred. The following table lists several seed mixtures and the seeding rate for each. See PM 1067, *Which Grass Is Best for Your Lawn*, for information on selecting lawn grasses and buying seed.

Divide the total seed quantity in half. Using a dropseeder, sow one half in one direction and the other half at right angles to the first. After the starter fertilizer and seed have been broadcast, lightly rake the area to cover the seed to a depth of no greater than 0.25 to 0.5 inches. Seeding depth varies based upon seed size. The larger the seed size, the deeper it can be covered with soil. Roll the area lightly to firm the soil around the seed.

Grass seedlings are very susceptible to desiccation and the surface of a newly seeded lawn should not be allowed to dry. Water should be applied only in amounts necessary to keep the soil surface moist. Avoid overwatering and runoff. Two light applications of water per day will usually be sufficient unless it is hot and windy. In more extreme conditions, up to four light waterings per day may be necessary.

### Mulching

When irrigation is not available, mulching the lawn with clean (weed free) straw will help conserve moisture and prevent erosion. 1 to 1.5 bales of straw per 1,000 square feet will give a light mulch covering that will not have to be removed after germination. There are also other mulching materials available for lawn establishment. These include pelletized newspaper and excelsior (wood shavings) mats.

### Mowing

Kentucky bluegrass should be maintained at a mowing height of 2 to 3 inches. As a rule, no more than one third of the grass blade should be removed during a single mowing. The new grass should be first mowed when it reaches 3 to 3.5 inches in height. Mowing at this time will promote the spreading and thickening of the grass. New lawn grasses should not be allowed to grow excessively long before the first mowing. If this occurs, it will be necessary to mow the grass in stages, preventing scalping and removal of more than one-third of the tissue.

### Broadleaf Weed Control

After you have completed the task of establishing your lawn, you will notice broadleaf weeds germinate along with the grass seedlings. Most broadleaf weeds can be easily controlled with a broad spectrum selective broadleaf herbicide like 2,4-D after the turf is established. It is safe to apply a herbicide after the lawn has been mowed at least 3-4 times. See PM 930, *Weed Control in Home Lawns*, for more information on lawn weed control.

Seed mixture	Seed rate	
	lb./1,000 sq. ft.	lb./acre
100% Kentucky bluegrass	1 - 1½	45 - 65
20% perennial ryegrass + 80% bluegrass	2 - 2½	85 - 110
50% perennial ryegrass + 50% bluegrass	3 - 3½	130 - 150
50% red fescue + 50% bluegrass	2½ - 3	110 - 130
100% red fescue	3½ - 4½	150 - 195
100% tall fescue	7 - 9	300 - 390

Revised by Ryan Adams, extension turfgrass specialist and Nick Christians, professor of horticulture. Previously revised by Michael Agnew, extension turfgrass specialist from materials originally prepared by Norman Hummel, former extension turfgrass specialist, and Nick Christians, associate professor of horticulture.



**Dan Klindt**

<b>Seed</b>	<b>Chemicals</b>
<b>Fertilizer</b>	<b>Ice Melters</b>

563-370-2515  
[dklindt@goldstarfs.com](mailto:dklindt@goldstarfs.com)

# Iowa Turfgrass Log-In Information

If you have not done so yet, it is very important to check out the new online Membership Database.

You will gain access to:

- Online Event Registration
- Online Store
- IPLCA Membership Renewal
- Iowa Turfgrass Membership Directory
- Exclusive 'Member Only' webpages

To Log on:

Go to [www.iowaturfgrass.org](http://www.iowaturfgrass.org) and click on 'Online Directory - Members of ITI Affiliates Only' from there you will be directed to a log in page.

Your Primary email is the same one you receive your Monthly Quicknotes and Electronic 'On the Grow' Newsletter. **Note: If you do not receive 'Quicknotes' or the Electronic Newsletter and you are a current member of the IPLCA please do not make a 'Visitor Profile'. You have an existing profile but not a valid email address, contact Sarah: [sarah@iowaturfgrass.org](mailto:sarah@iowaturfgrass.org) or 515-635-0306.**

First Time Users:

- Enter your primary email
- The password: Password 1 (capital P and number 1)
- Click 'Go'
- Complete information on the 'Change Password' page
- Click 'Change'
- Hit the 'Click Here to Continue' button

Now you can:

- Explore the Iowa Turfgrass Database
- Change/ update your personal information
  - Click the 'My Information' Tab in the left column
  - Review your personal and organization information
  - Click 'Edit Information to make changes'
- Enter the Association 'Secure Pages'
- Register/ View upcoming events
- View previous transactions
- Visit the online store

Please contact Sarah in the Iowa Turfgrass Office if you have any questions or problems. 515-635-0306 or [sarah@iowaturfgrass.org](mailto:sarah@iowaturfgrass.org)