

Welcome—Spring 2009! Aaron Goy

Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of In The Know...With ProGro!"

We plan to use this—along with other forums to keep the communication lines open and current. We will share technical, product, personal and current events information that we hope you find valuable. It will be a quick read, however, any of use will be happy to provide additional detail if needed.

We're not totally out of the woods yet, but we are getting close to sending another winter season off to summer hibernation. While we are normally consumed with preparing and planning for the new season, we added all of the turmoil and uncertainty of the economic situation to this

years "off season." While no one really knows what will happen—it seems that in the past we have prospered and become better for it. I see no reason we will not do the same this time around!

We made a few changes this year to the company as well. I, John Leibold and Steven Herrig formed a new company named ProGro, Inc. ProGro, Inc purchased the assets of Bull Market Turf and Ornamental and will look to continue our growth in the golf and athletic field markets. We have a great team in place with Rob Colby, Agronomist Central Region and Rusty Stachlewitz. Agronomist Chicago Region providing counsel and product solutions to their respective clients. Barney Burnett

will again join us this spring serving as warehouse and delivery manager. Tim Buse, will provide us with customer service and tactical field support from the East Dubuque office. Stacy O'Sadnick will coordinate our marketing efforts from the Mendota Distribution Center.

Our objective is to provide our customers with the highest level of agronomic expertise, quality product solutions and unparalleled service.

We are adding some exciting new products to our current line of outstanding performers.

We look forward to earning your business this season.

Pre-emerge Weed Control

Rob Colby / Agronomist Central Illinois Region

ProGro-Solutions provide a few different options for pre-emerge weed control, **Prodimine Pro WDG** and **AT CGC 40**. When selecting the option that is best for your specific situation it is important to understand the specific advantages for each of the primary products used for pre-emerge weed control.

Prodimine Pro WDG is an excellent option for pre-emerge weed control. It can be applied during the late fall or early spring. However, timing in the spring is critical since Prodimine Pro does not have any post emerge activity on annual weeds, such as crabgrass. Prodimine Pro is not labeled for greens or bentgrass that is maintained under ½ inch. Prodimine Pro does have very predictable results

since prodimine breaks down at soil temperatures above 50 degrees at a rate of .10 pounds per month. Therefore, a spring application of .65 pounds of prodimine will assuredly provide about 4 months of pre-emerge weed control. In addition, this product is water insoluble which allows it to settle in the top ½ inch of the soil profile where your annual weeds will be attempting to germinate. **AT CGC 40** is also a superb option for pre-emerge weed control. It can only be applied during the spring for control of annual weeds; therefore timing is not as critical with AT CGC 40. It does have post activity on crabgrass up to the 2 leaf stage prior to tilling. AT CGC 40 is labeled for use on all professional turf including bentgrass greens and fairways. AT CGC 40

have dependable results. We recommend a split application during springs with excessive rainfall and irrigation. These conditions may result in AT CGC 40 to move deeper into the soil profile due to its high water solubility.

When working with new seeding establishment, we recommend **Turpersan**. This pre-emergent controls crabgrass during a seeding project and does not harm the new seedlings.

Contact your **ProGro-Solutions** sales representative to discuss your needs to help your course stay weed free during the entire season.



Spring Fertilizer Application, Which is best Practice?

Rusty Stachlewitz / Agronomist Chicago Area Region

With so many choices to serve your fertility needs it can get confusing. **ProGro Solutions** focuses on the natural growing patterns of grass to help you achieve the results that you need to succeed. Healthy grass is very dependant on deep roots, roots that allow the plants to gather water and nutrients. When grass comes out of the dormancy of winter it begins to grow rapidly so that it can manufacture carbohydrates and increase root mass. The problem is that many granular fertilizers are dependant upon temperature for release. Spring can often be cool and these fertilizers may not have the best nutrient release. We also know that April showers are supposed to bring May flowers. These showers can also lead to nutrient leaching of water soluble granular fertilizers. This moves the nutrients past the root-zone before

they are able to be used by the plant. This is especially a problem on sand based soils such as putting greens. We can over come this by use of foliar fertilizers. Our **Campo Verde** line of products from EnP Inc. allow us to ensure that the plants are getting the nutrients they require when they are needed so that we can maintain the largest root mass possible. Zeta plex technology ensures that the maximum amounts of nutrients can be taken up by the plant regardless of the temperature. Nutrients are maintained as smaller sized particles (Dalton Units) in these fertilizers that can easily penetrate the plant cuticle. The particles are actual able to enter the plant through the transcuticular pores, small gaps in the waxy covering of the leaf. This is the most effective way to get nutrients through the foliage and it provides

immediate plant nutrition. There are many other benefits to foliar nutrition with the Campo Verde line of products. Since the nutrients are taken in through the leaf surface the nutrient uptake is not affected by soil moisture or pH. As previously mentioned, root health or length is not a factor in foliar nutrient uptake. The benefits of foliar feeding can be made the most of year round but they are particularly important in the heat of summer when grass roots stop growing and often die back. Using the Pro-Gro Summer Stress Foliar Program can help overcome these stresses. Contact your Pro-Gro Agronomist to learn more about this important program.



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