Off-Type Management in Ultradwarf Bermudagrass Putting Greens

E.H. Reasor, Ph.D.



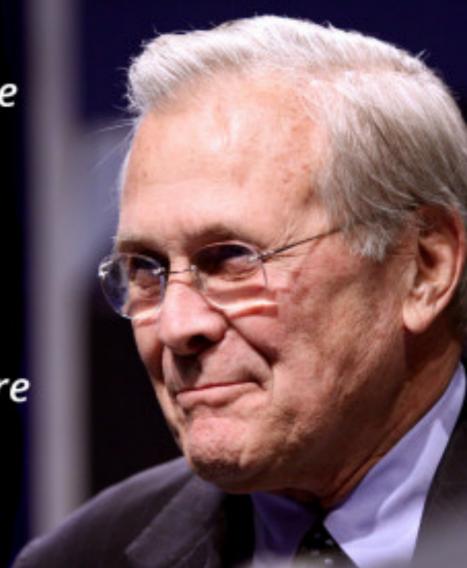


There are known knowns; there are things we know that we know.

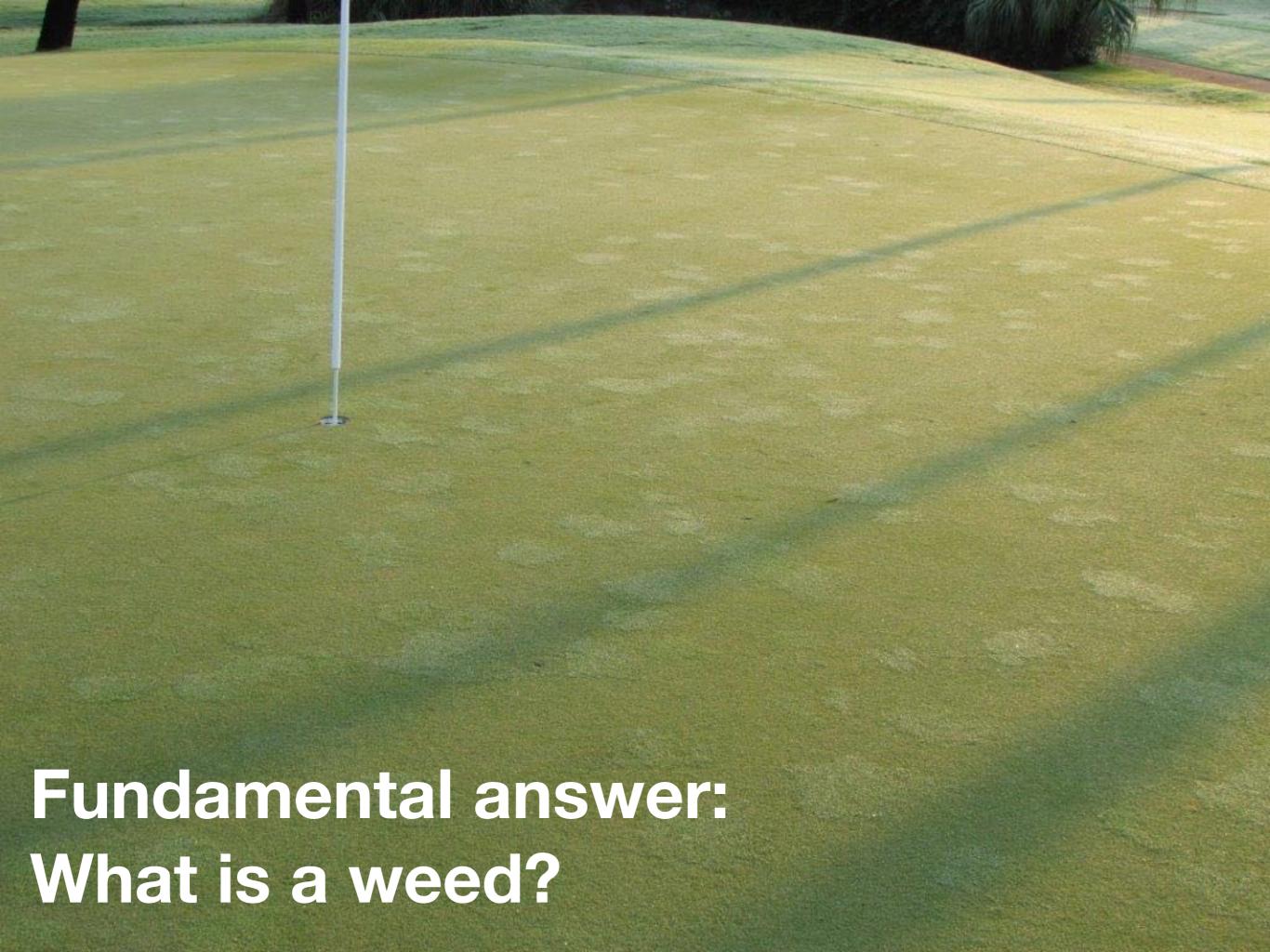
There are known unknowns; that is to say, there are things that we now know we don't know.

But there are also unknown unknowns – there are things we do not know we don't know.

-Donald Rumsfeld





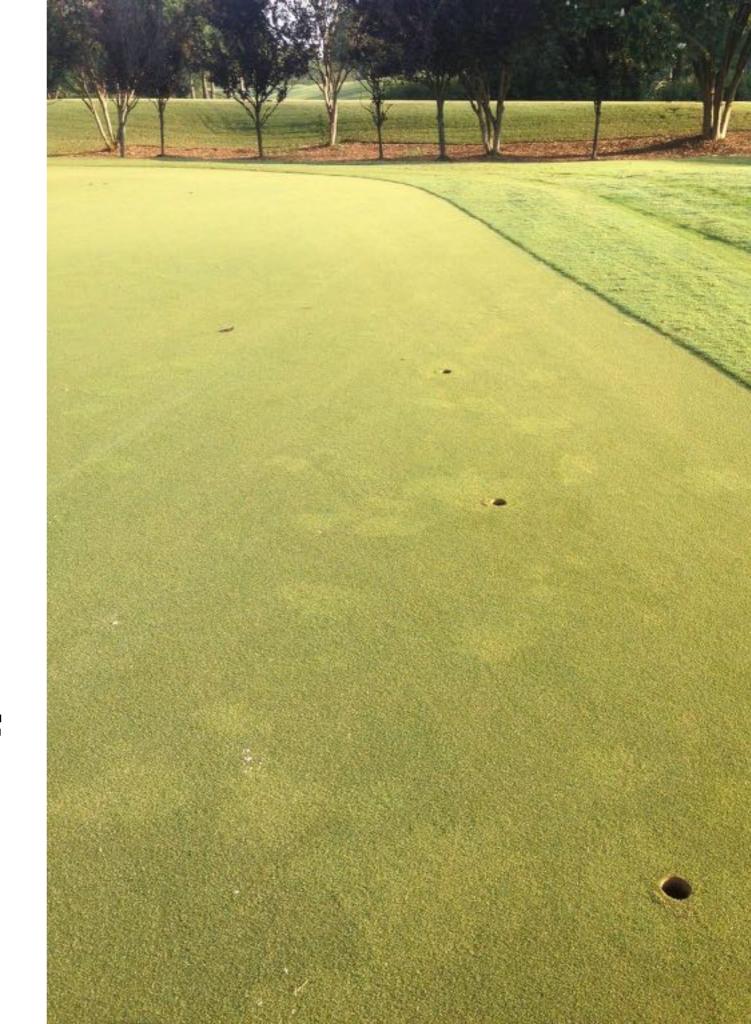






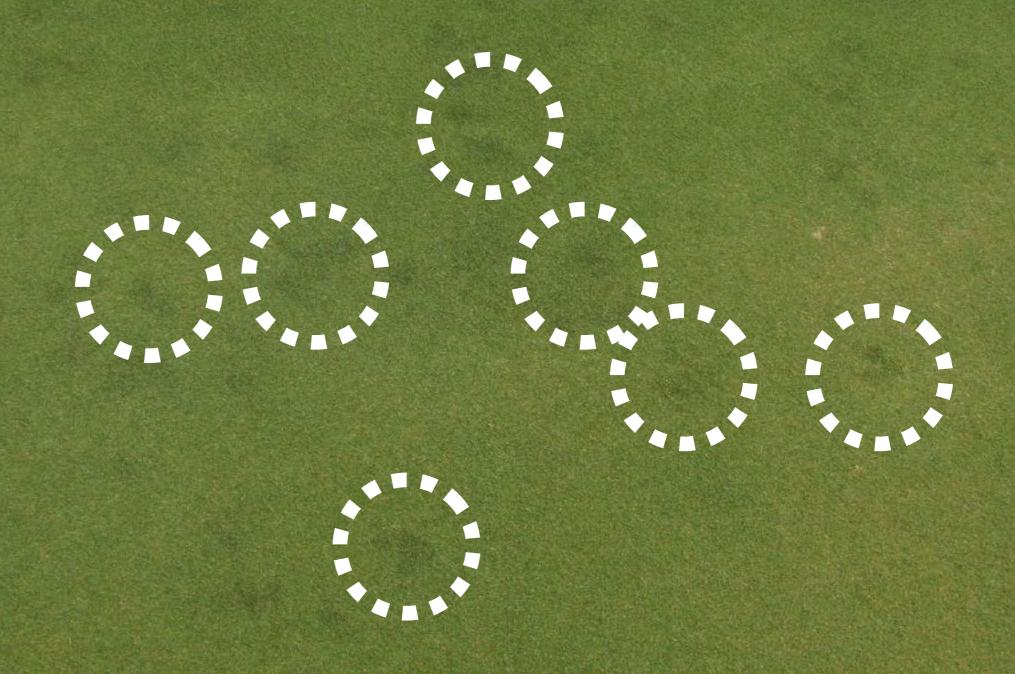


Grasses with different **MORPHOLOGY** and **PERFORMANCE** than desired turf



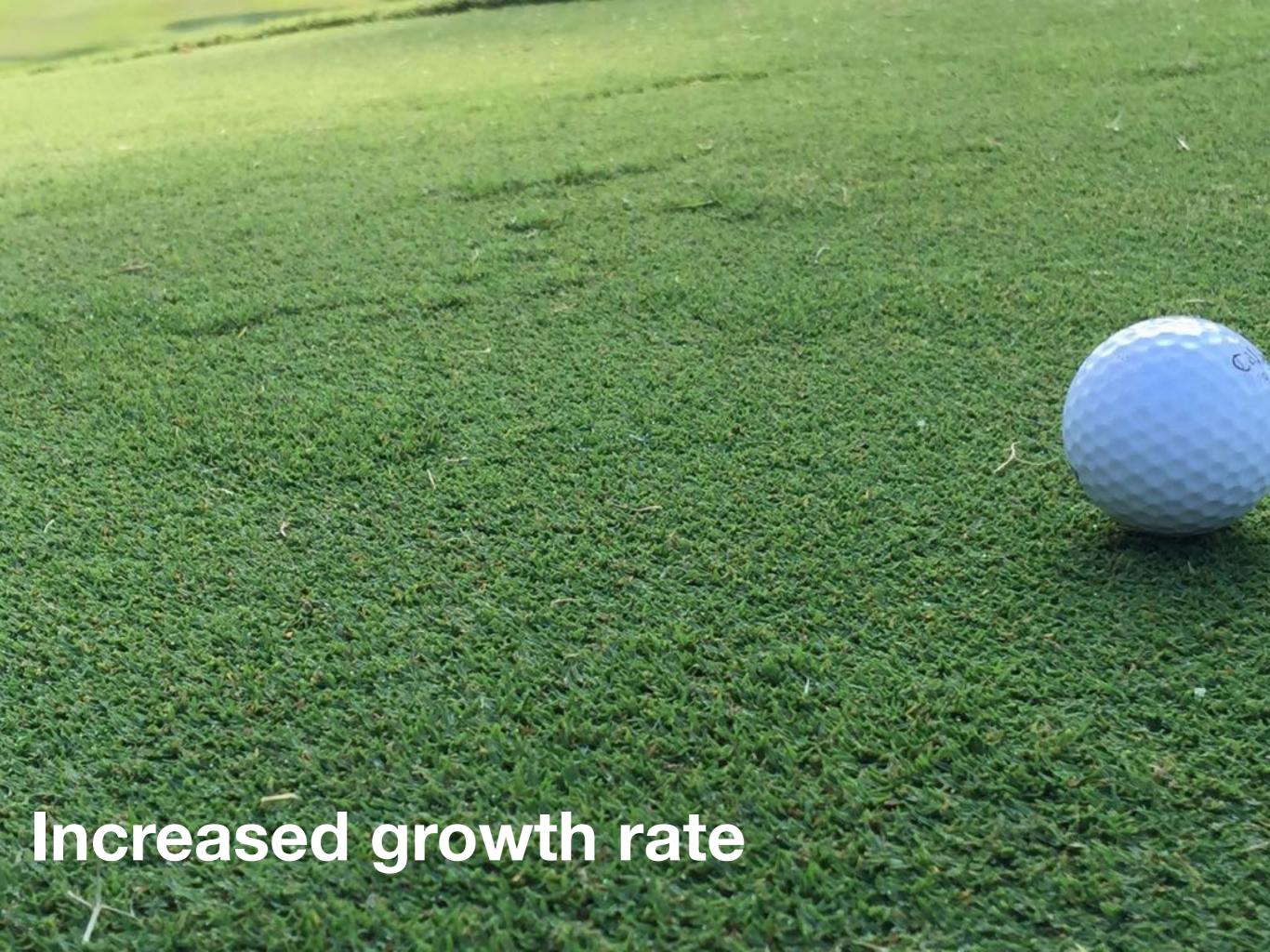






Darker color









Scalping









Bermudagrass Decline

- Tend to be an issue on newer, sandier greens
- Associated with micronutrient deficiencies (Mn, etc)
 - High pH soil/water, high in sodium, bicarbonate
 - Addressing the small details
- Nematodes can cause lesions for pathogen to infect
- Symptoms can be masked in summer, more visible in shoulder seasons

If you see this...

- Consult your local pathologist

- Test pH of soil/water, as well as nutrients

- Acidifying nitrogen sources

- Adjust micronutrients to balance availability issues

- Critical need for fungicide programs in shoulder seasons

- Re-evaluate your PGR program



Optimize Programs for Other Pests

What Type of Testing?

- Soil nutrient analyses

- Irrigation water testing

- Disease diagnostics

- Nematode assays

Ruling out other factors help confirm off-type issues







Weed Diagnostics Center

Weed Diagnostics Center

Diagnostic Services

Sample Submission

Contact



Weed Identification



University of Tennessee Weed Diagnostics Center

The University of Tennessee Weed Diagnostics Center (UTWDC) provides diagnostic testing of weeds infesting both crop and non-cropland systems including maintained turfgrass, ornamentals, and utility rights of way. The UTWDC blends both whole plant and molecular techniques to provide customers with services such as weed identification, herbicide resistance screening, as well as bermudagrass off-type assessment. Results of all diagnostic tests conducted at the UTWDC will be coupled with research-based solutions for managing weeds in the field.

Why Have Weeds Tested?

- Proper identification is critical to successful weed control
- Diagnostic results allow managers to implement optimal management strategies
- Results allow managers to conserve labor, financial, and technological resources
- Resistance screening helps steward effective technologies for weed management

Off-Type Characterization at UT

Don't be afraid to assess morphology

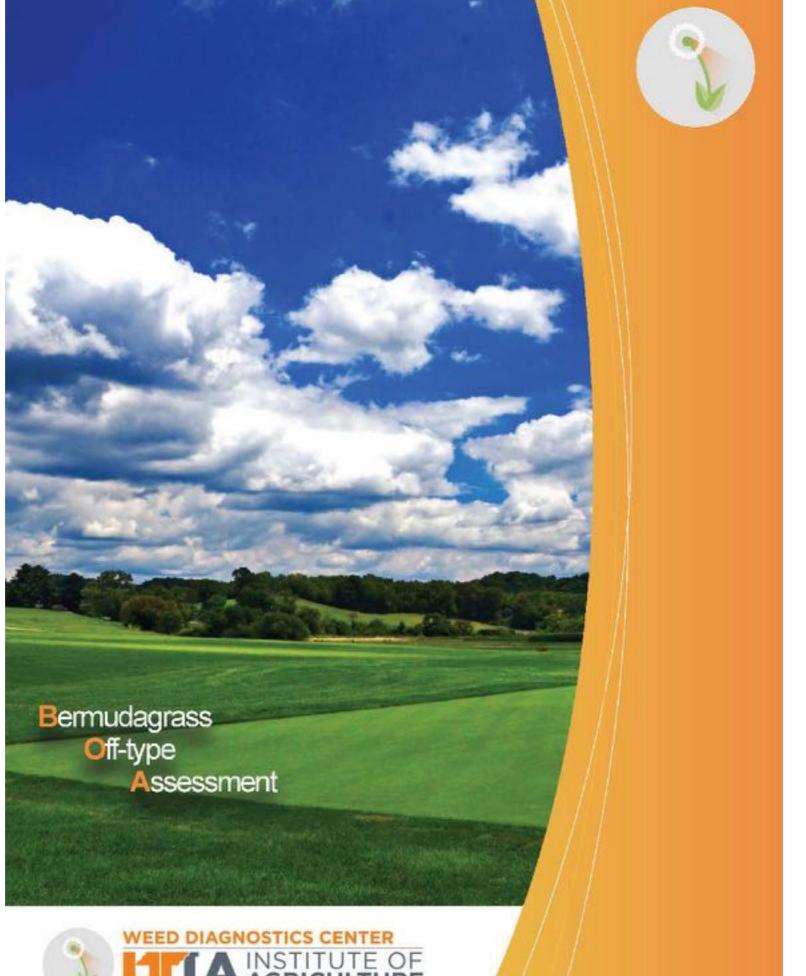


Off-Type

Desirable

Minimum 10 stolons with 4 nodes







Introduction

XXXXX COUNTRY DLUB (ANYTOWN, USA)

Two ultradwarf permudagrass samples from XXXX Country Club (Anytown, USA) were submitted to the University of Tennessee Weed Diagnostics Center (WDC) for off-type assessment. Samples were harvested directly from putting surfaces using a standard cup cutter and received by WDC personnel on July 28th, 2016. Upon receipt, samples were transplanted into greenhouse pets filled with peat-based growing media and maintained under controlled conditions optimized for ultracwarf bermudagrass growth. Samples were not moved after receipt but did receive 0.5 lb nitrogen (N) per 1000 ft² per week from a complete fertilizer (20-20-20) and were treated with insecticide as needed.

BERMUDAGRASS OFF-TYPE ASSESSMENT

Submitted samples were allowed to grow until producing a minimum of at least ten stolons with four nodes. Once this perchange was reached, diagnosticians at the WDC assessed morphology of both samples by measuring internode length, stolon diameter, leaf length, and leaf width with digital calipers. Measurements were made at the third visible node from the bud and replicated ten times using ten different stolons. All samples were photographed after measurement.



GRASS A

Figure 1. Two grasses (Grass A & Grass B) were submitted from XXXX Country Club for off-type assessment. Grasses were cultured to produce a minimum of ten stolons with at least four nodes prior to being morphologically characterized on September 15th, 2016. Image taken after morphological data were collected.





Figure 2. Visual differences in leaf length among two grasses (Grass A & Grass B) submitted from **XXXX Country Club** for off-type assessment. Measurements were made September 15th, 2016 using digital calipers

Table 1. Differences in morphological parameters of two grasses (Grass A & Grass B) submitted from **XXXX Country Club** for off-type assessment. Measurements were made September 15th, 2016 using digital calipers and replicated ten times

| | GRASS A | GRASS B | Significantly Different |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|----------------------------|
| Internode Length (mm) | 28.66 | 30.66 | NO |
| Stolon Diameter (mm) | 0.78 | 0.75 | NO |
| Leaf Length (mm) | 9.41 | 18.34 | YES |
| Leaf Width (mm) | 2.10 | 1.89 | NO |

^{*}Differences between Grass A and Grass B statistically compared using a Welch Two Sample T-Test in B-Studio at $\alpha=0.05$



Figure 2. Visual differences in leaf length among two grasses (Grass A & Grass B) submitted from **XXXX Country Club** for off-type assessment. Measurements were made September 15th, 2016 using digital calipers

Table 1. Differences in morphological parameters of two grasses (Grass A & Grass B) submitted from **XXXX Country Club** for off-type assessment. Measurements were made September 15th, 2016 using digital calipers and replicated ten times

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RESULTS

Grasses submitted for off-type assessment significantly differed in leaf length (Figure 2, Table 1), with Grass A having leaves nearly 50% shorter than Grass B. This variability in morphology suggests that cff-type grasses are likely present in putting surfaces at XXXX Country Club. However, the origin of these off-types cannot be determined from this diagnostic assay.

RECOMENDATIONS

- On-going research at the University of Tennessee is exploring optimal strategies maintaining ultradwarf putting surfaces containing off-types. Changes to plant growth regulator and nitrogen fertility programs can help mask differences in morphology among grasses. To that end, the following management changes should be considered at XXXX Country Club:
 - Do not apply more than 3 flioz/A of the plant growth regulator trinexabac-ethyl (Primo Maxx) at any time. Applications at the 3 flioz/A rate (the maximum labeled use rate for ultradwarf putting greens) should only be used during optimal environmental conditions for hybrid bermudagrass growth. Lower rates should be used during periods of sub-optimal weather.
 - Do not apply plant growth regulators on a weekly basis. Applications
 do not reach peak growth regulation on XXXX bermudagrass until 14
 DAT. Applying on shorter intervals will over regulate the desirable XXX
 bermudagrass creating an advantage for any off-types present in
 putting surfaces. Measuring the volume of fresh clippings after moving
 can determine when plant growth regulators should be re-applied.
 - Prohexadione-Ca (Anuew) has shown efficacy for off-type regulation in preliminary trials. Applications of Anuew (6 oz/A) + Primo Maxx (1 fl oz/A) have been shown to reduce leaf length of off-type bermudagrasses in putting greens. Given the morphology results of this assay, incorporation of Anuew would be recommended at XXXX Country Club.
 - Increases in clipping yield due to nitrogen (N) occur more rapidly in XXX than off-types. Therefore, maintaining balanced N fertility through weekly spoon-feeding is recommended to prevent situations where offtype grasses are at a higher N status than the cesirable XXX bermudagrass.

Question #1 What are these off-types?

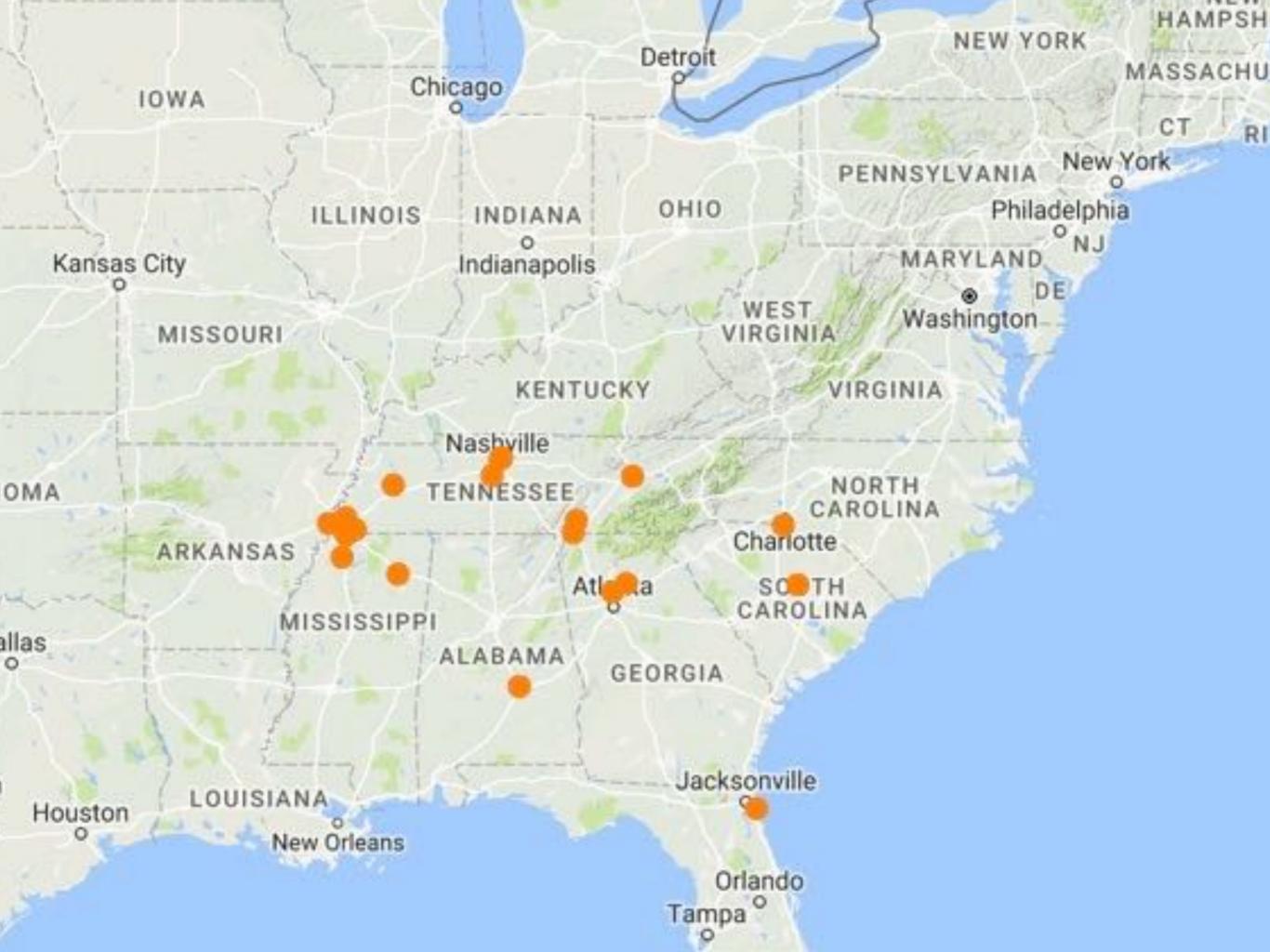
Building a Collection

- Sampled golf courses from 2013-2016

- Not a random sample → targeted those with OT issues

- Greens established to Champion, MiniVerde, TifEagle, and Sunday

Collected the OT and sample of desirable from each facility





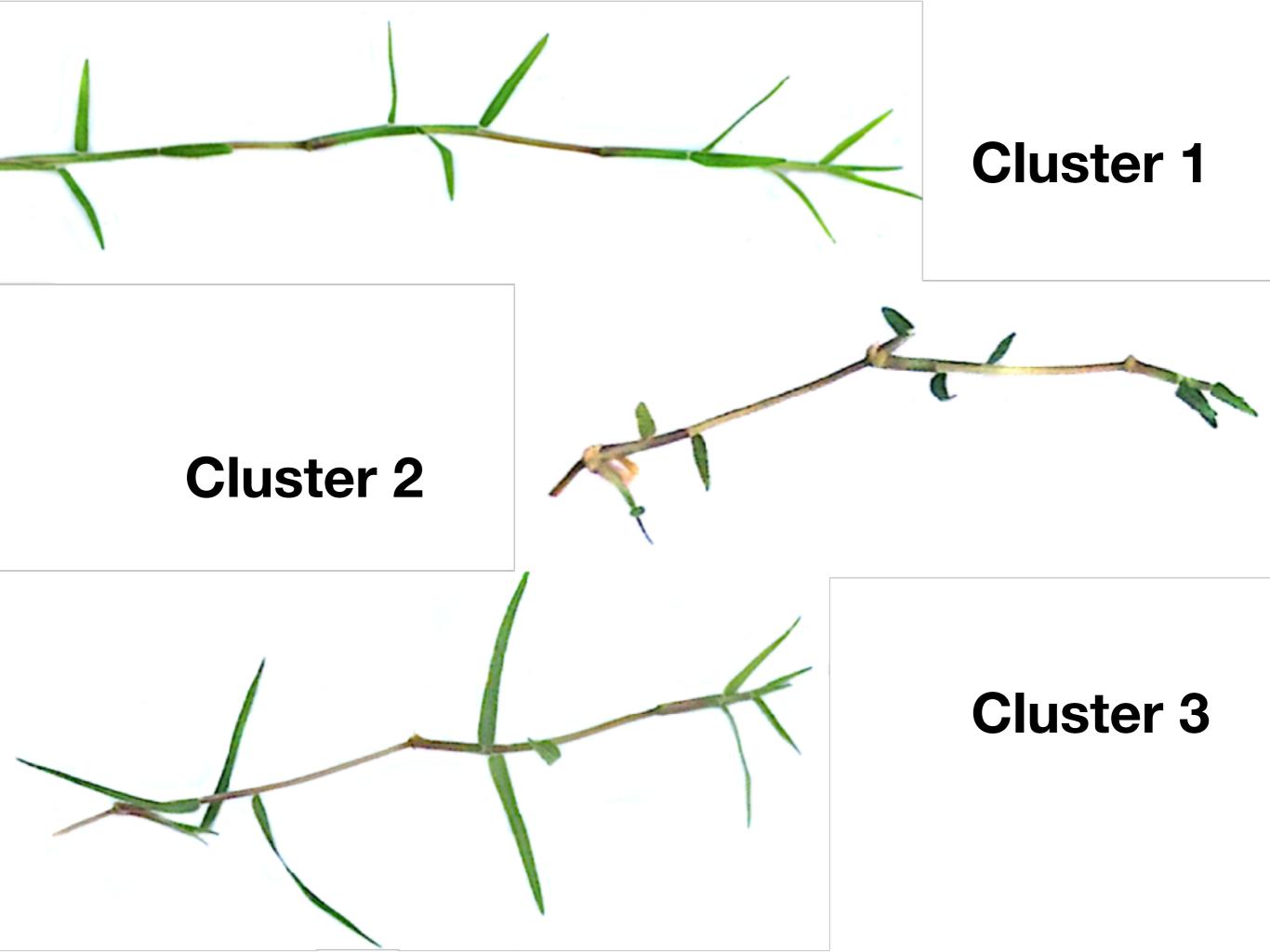
After sampling... What have we learned?

Morphological Measurements

(Roche and Loch, 2005)







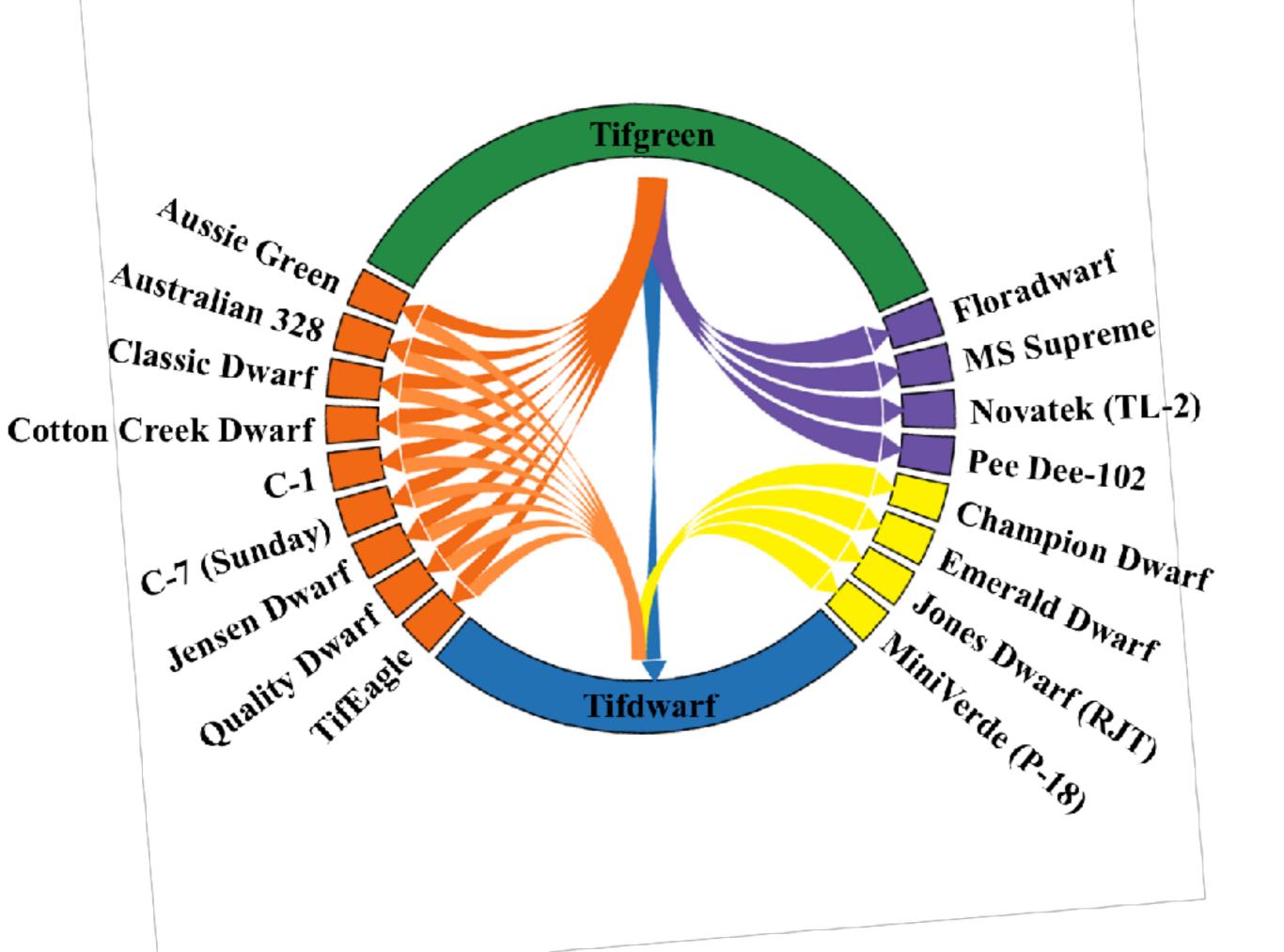
Flow Cytometry Results

- Measures DNA content in cells

- All 52 samples are triploid hybrids

- Peaks suggest all 52 samples belong to 'Tifgreen' family







REVIEW

The genetic and phenotypic variability of interspecific hybrid bermudagrasses ($Cynodon\ dactylon\ (L.)\ Pers. \times C.\ transvaalensis$ Burtt-Davy) used on golf course putting greens

Eric H. Reasor¹ • James T. Brosnan¹ · Robert N. Trigiano² · J. Earl Elsner³ · Gerald M. Henry⁴ · Brian M. Schwartz⁵

Received: 1 March 2016/Accepted: 16 July 2016/Published online: 22 July 2016 © The Author(s) 2016. This article is published with open access at Springerlink.com

Abstract

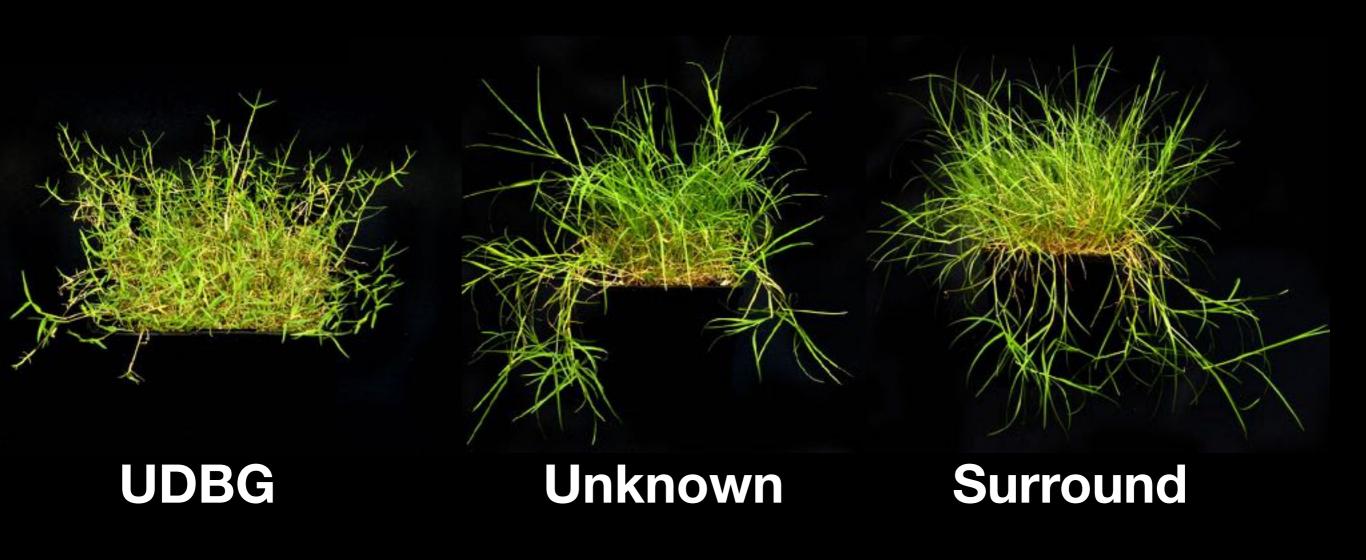
Main conclusion Some interspecific hybrid bermudagrass cultivars used on golf course putting greens are genetically unstable, which has caused phenotypically different off-type grasses to occur in production nurseries and putting surfaces. Management practices to green use in lieu of common bermudagrass. However, offtype grasses began appearing in established Tifgreen stands soon after commercial release. Off-type grasses are those with different morphology and performance when compared to the surrounding, desirable cultivar. Off-types have the potential to decrease surface uniformity, which negatively

Samples tested are NOT common bermudagrass or "yellow dog" 419





Diligence During Renovation





Samples Submitted to WDC - Spring 2017

Genotyping-by-Sequencing (GBS)

- Technique to identify unique genetic markers

- Divides DNA into small segments

- High-throughput sequencing (270 million reads)

- Included:
 - TifEagle, MiniVerde, and Champion standards
 - Common bermudagrass and Tifway
 - All OT samples in our collection as well as desirables from each course visited

MDS Component 1

GBS Results

- Only 5 Its were genetically unique

- Could NOT identify majority from parent cultivar

- Grasses are genetically similar and differences in phenotype may be related to gene expression

RESEARCH Open Access



Genotypic and phenotypic evaluation of off-type grasses in hybrid Bermudagrass [Cynodon dactylon (L.) Pers. x C. transvaalensis Burtt-Davy] putting greens using genotyping-by-sequencing and morphological characterization

Eric H. Reasor^{1*}, James T. Brosnan², Margaret E. Staton³, Thomas Lane³, Robert N. Trigiano³, Phillip A. Wadl⁴, Joann A. Conner⁵ and Brian M. Schwartz⁶

Abstract

Background: Interspecific hybrid bermudagrass [Cynodon dactylon (L.) Pers. x C. transvaalensis Burtt-Davy] is one of

Question #1 - What are they?

- Triploid hybrids from 'Tifgreen' family

- High degree of genetic similarity
 - Would suggest these are mutation rather than contaminants → but does that even matter?

- Differences could be related to gene expression

Question #2 Is this problem worse in a specific cultivar?

It depends...

- Courses established to Champion, MiniVerde, TifEagle, and Sunday











-Ages <1 year to 17 years

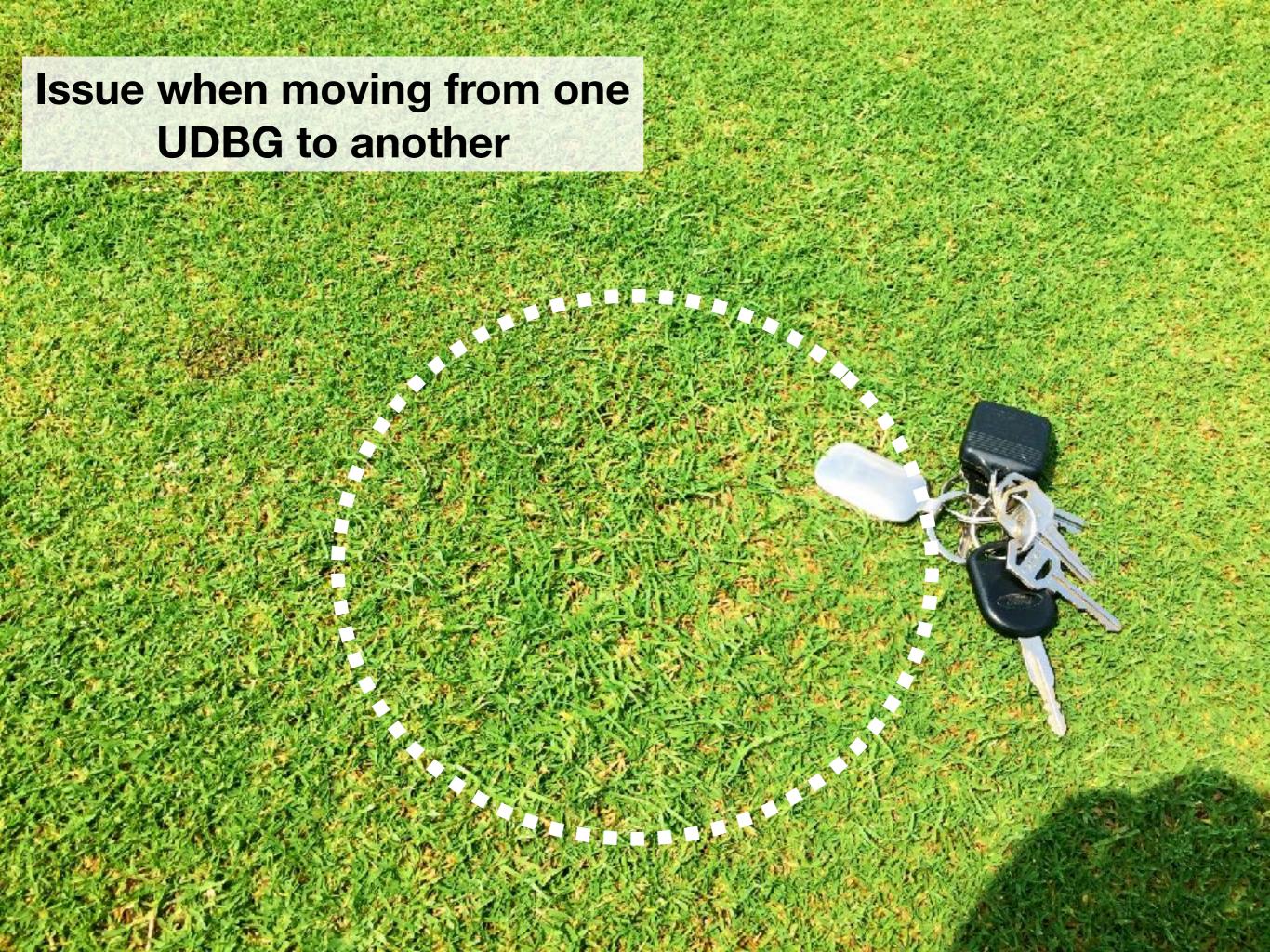
- Array of previous grasses (prior to current UDBG)
 - Tifgreen (328) to creeping bentgrass

- Array of establishment
 - Single Roundup application to fumigation and new mix









Question #2 - Cultivar?

- Seen in all commercial cultivars sampled
 - More in Champion, could be a function of marketshare in transition zone

- Seen on greens of varied history (previous grass, renovation technique)

Question #3 How do I start off on the correct foot?



www.ontracklearning.net

Visit other greens in your area Talk about the OT Problem



Visit sod producers Talk about the OT Problem







CERTIFIED "BLUE TAG" TURFGRASS PRODUCTION MANUAL

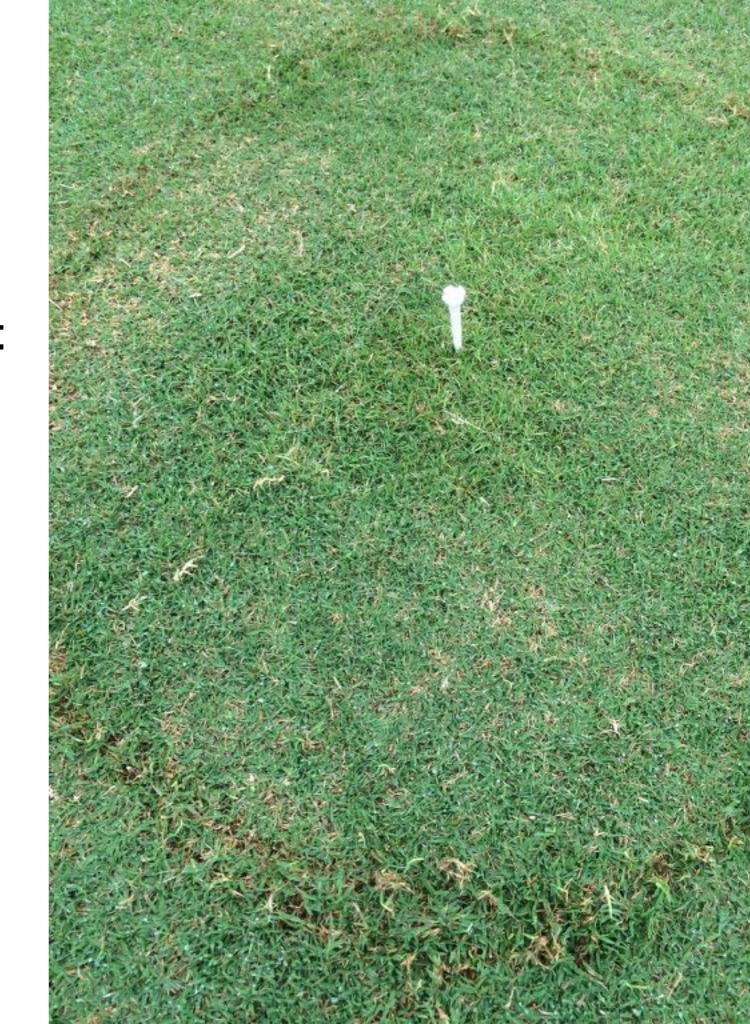
Remember You're the customer

As a customer You have the power



Inspect Fields Yourself

- Visit when dew is present
- ID differences in color, texture, seed heads, etc.
- Visit just prior to next mowing
- Overall sanitation



Learn about the field history

- Age of the field
- Establishment method
- Planting material
- History of pesticide use



Ask Questions

- How often are the fields inspected?

- What are the roguing/eradition methods?

- How often are off-types removed?

- How often are new fields left fallow, re-planted elsewhere?
 - For example, TifEagle growers limited to 5 years before required to re-establish foundation material



www.ontracklearning.net



Explore non-conventional production

Non-Conventional Production

- Material produced using your management strategies

- May help ID more off-types

- High upfront cost, but well worth it





Do not hesitate to Reject plant material

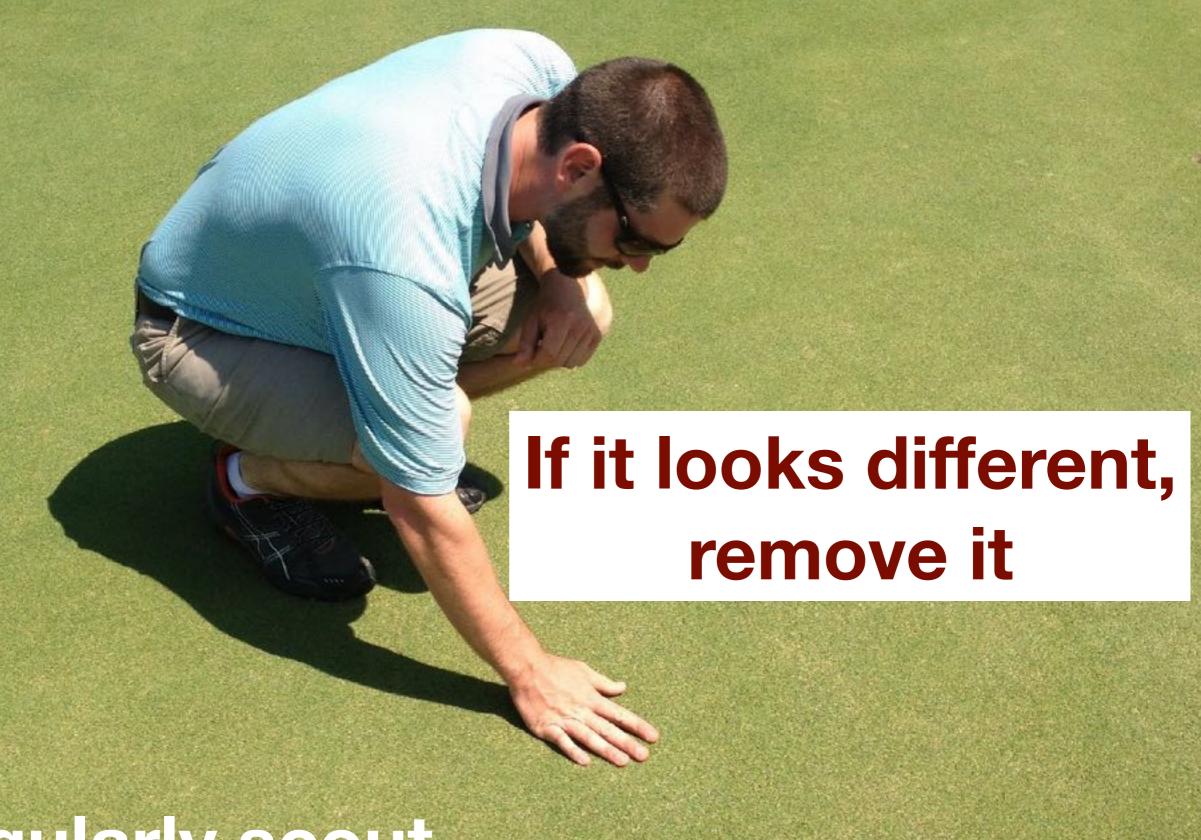








Regularly scout your greens



Regularly scout your greens

Question #3 - Starting Right?

- Have the conversation
 - Other superintendents, sod producers, etc.
- Carefully select a producer you're comfortable with
 - Ask questions about production process, OT issue
 - Visit fields to inspect for yourself
 - Non-conventional production?
- Reject plant material on-site that looks off
- Scouting starts immediately after sprigging and never stops

Question #4 I have off-types. Now what?





Greenhouse Experiments Knoxville, TN





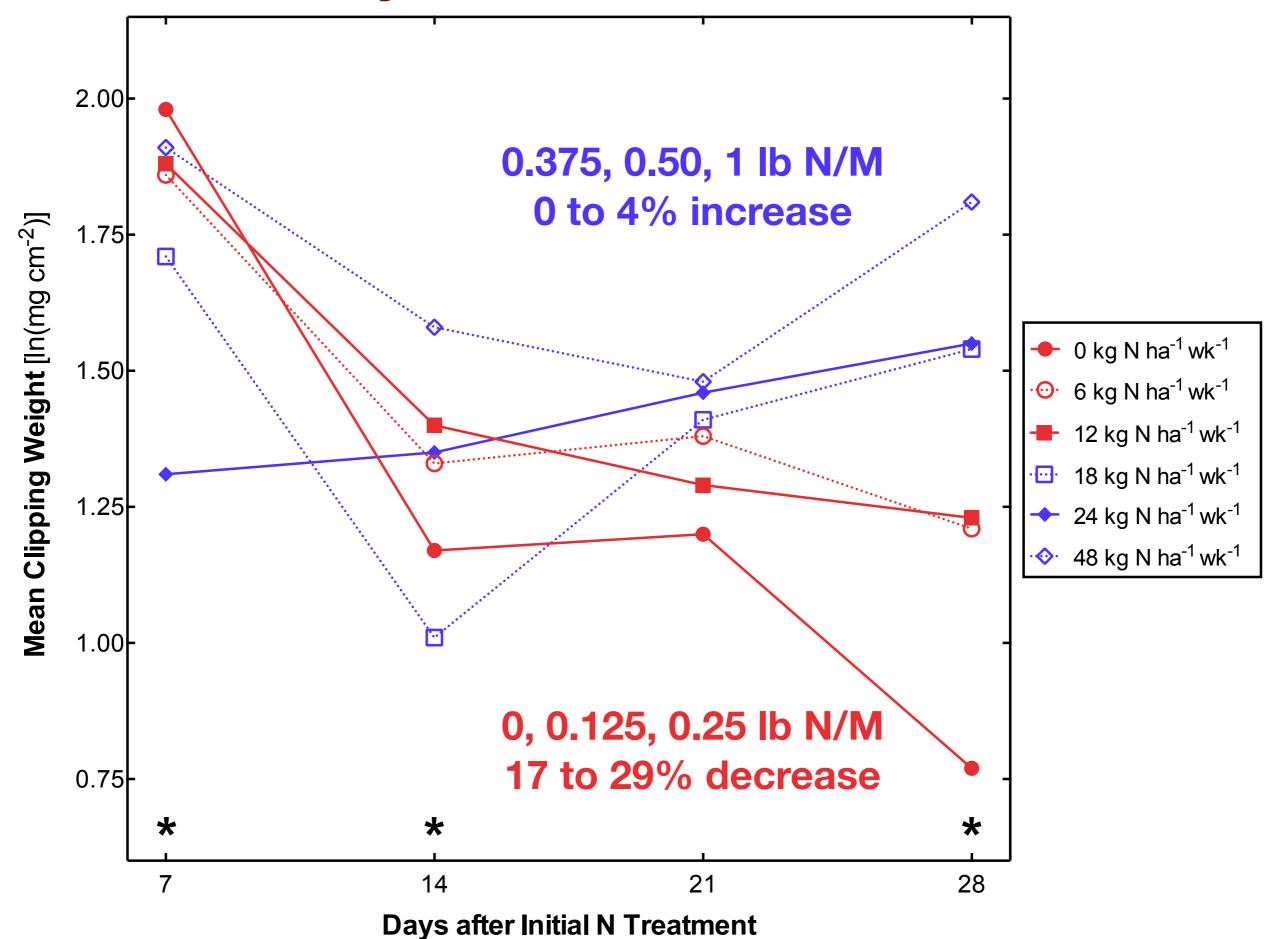
- 'Champion', 'MiniVerde', 'TifEagle', and 3 off-type grasses
- -80/20% sand/peat (USGA specifications)
- -Single 3-node sprig planted 27 to 31 August 2015
- -1 cm mowing height and 0.5 lb N/M/week

Nitrogen Rate Response

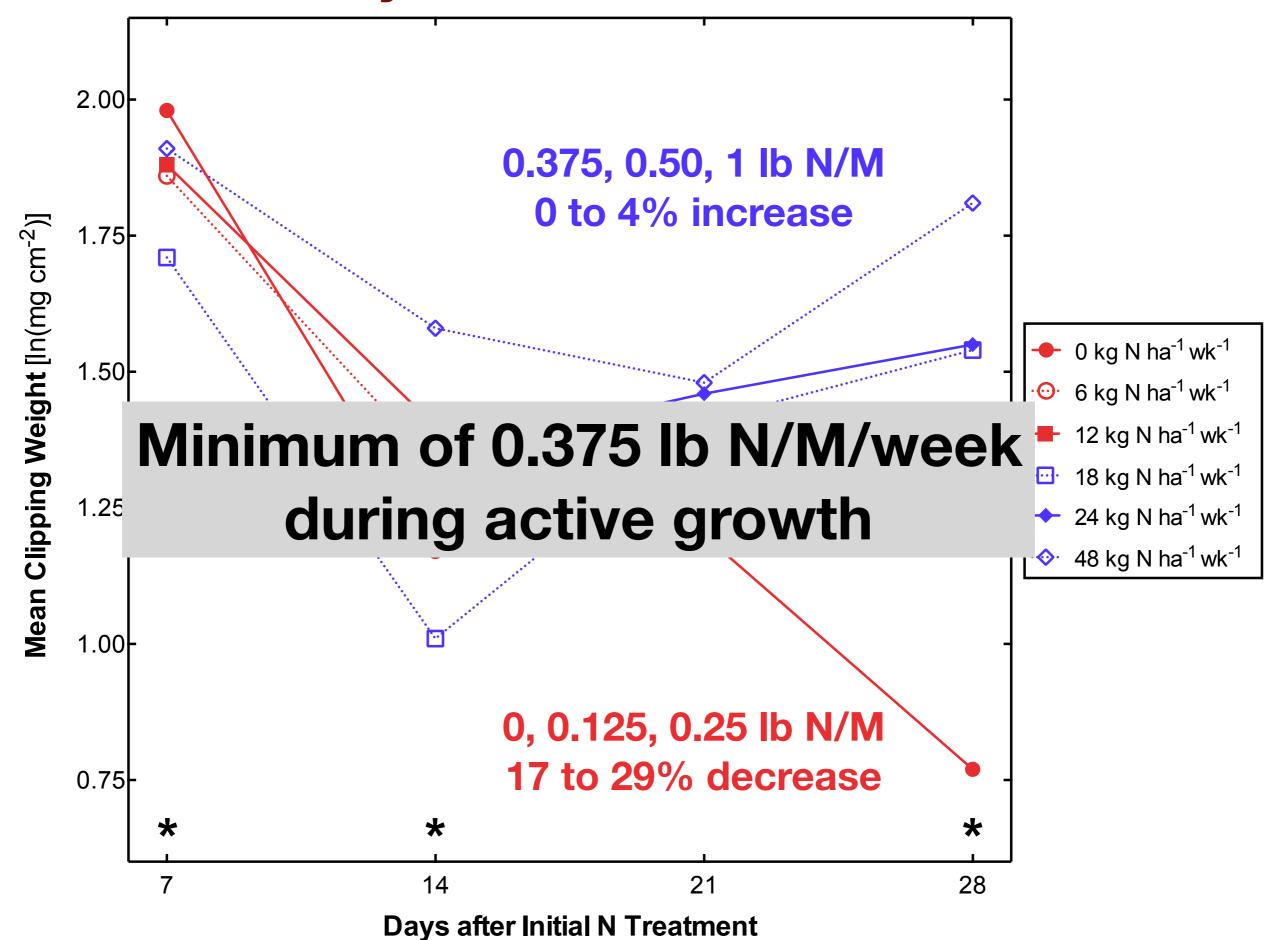
- 0, 0.125, 0.250, 0.375, 0.5, or 1 lb N/M
- 46-0-0 micro-prill dissolved in water
- Clippings harvested 7, 14, 21, and 28 days after initial treatment (DAIT)



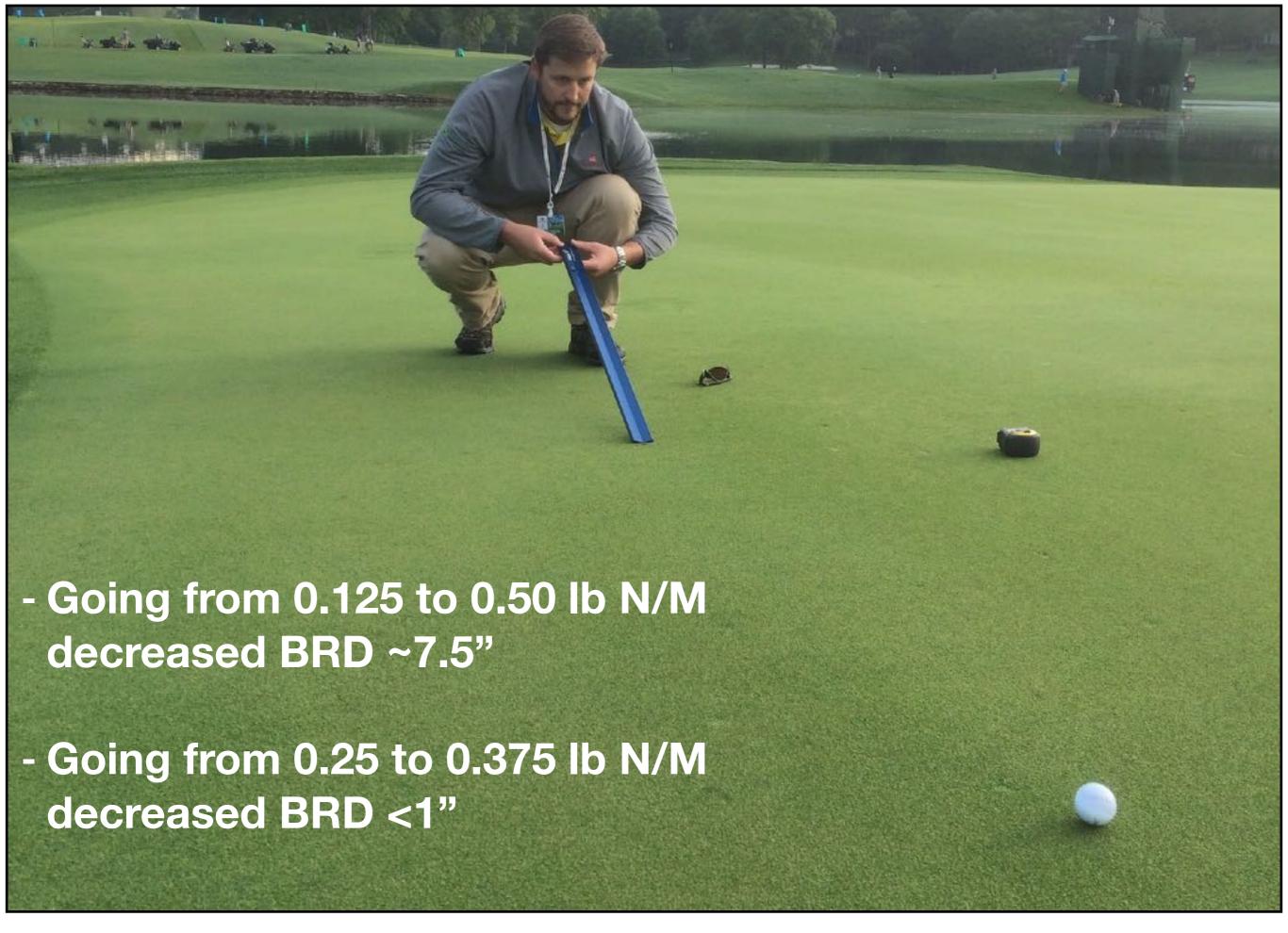
N Rates and Days After Treatment



N Rates and Days After Treatment



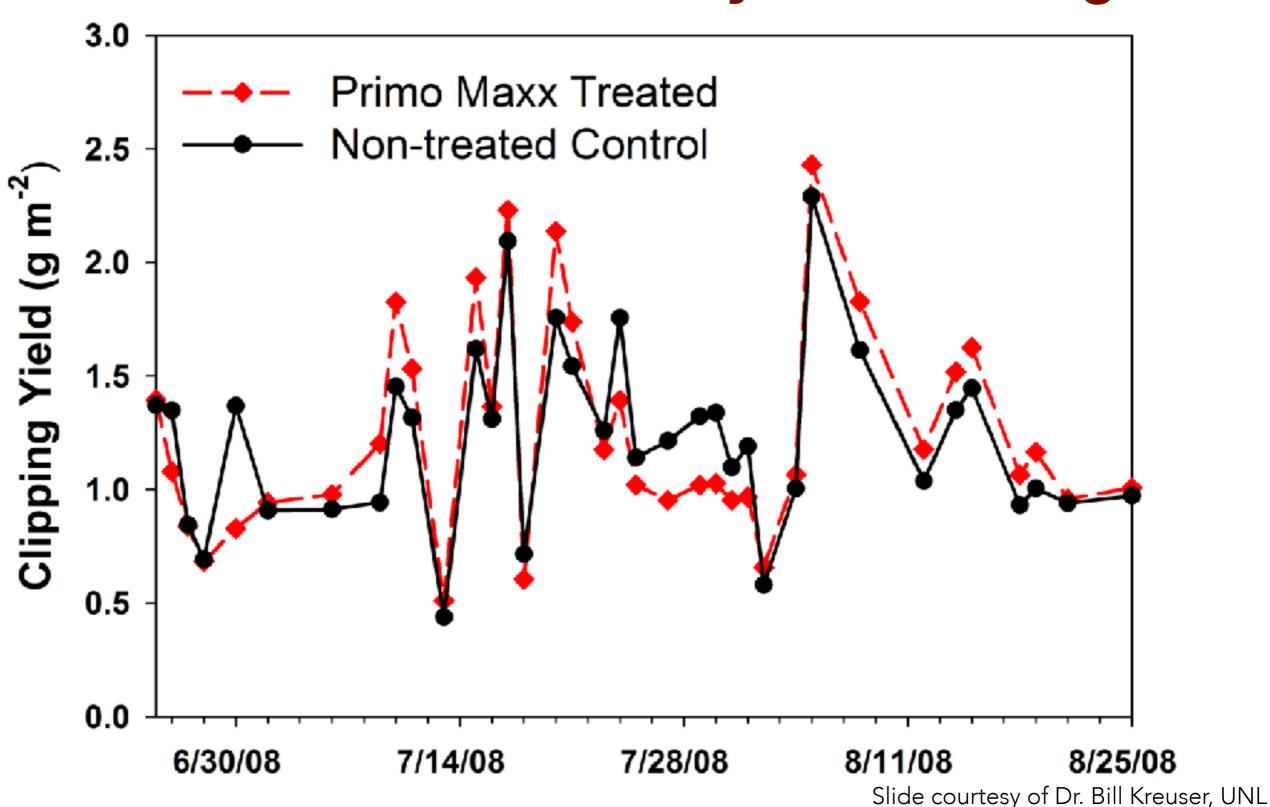






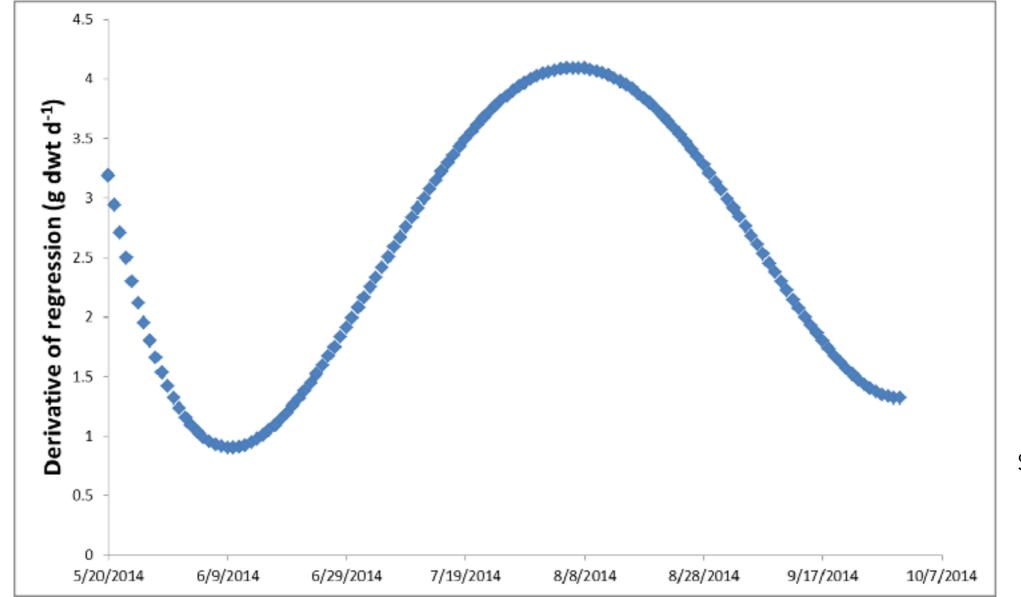
The Biggest Challenge with PGRs

Its Hard to Know if They Are Working



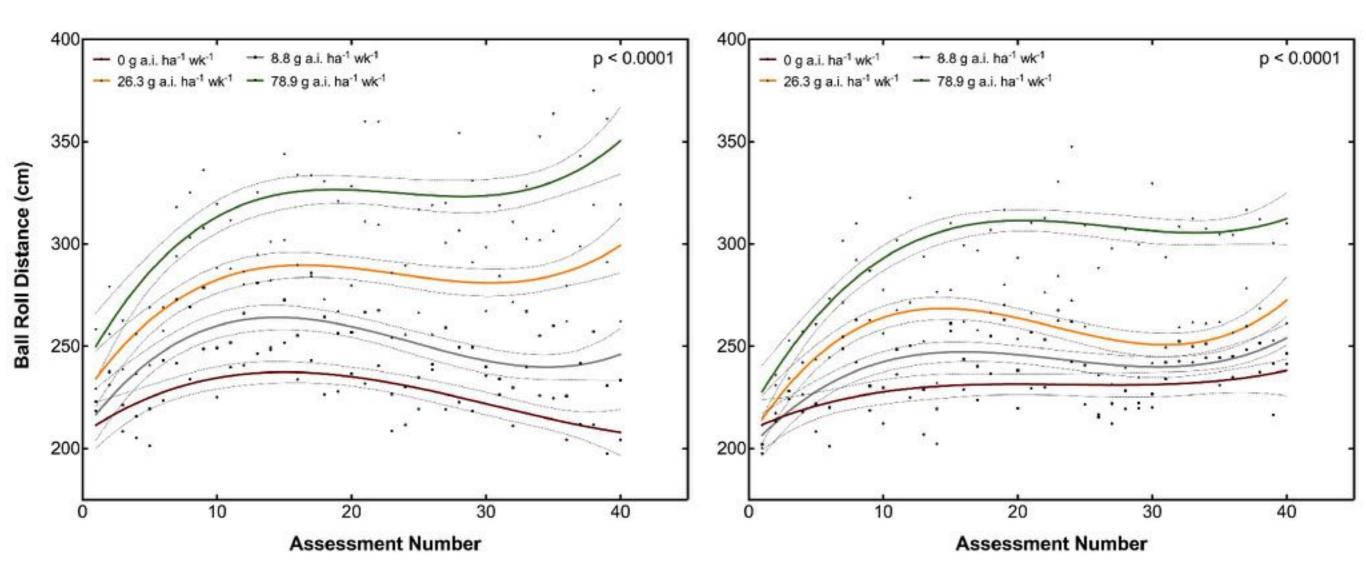
Soil nitrogen mineralization confounds PGR performance

- Absolute clipping yield vs relative yield
- Greatest in warm and moist soils



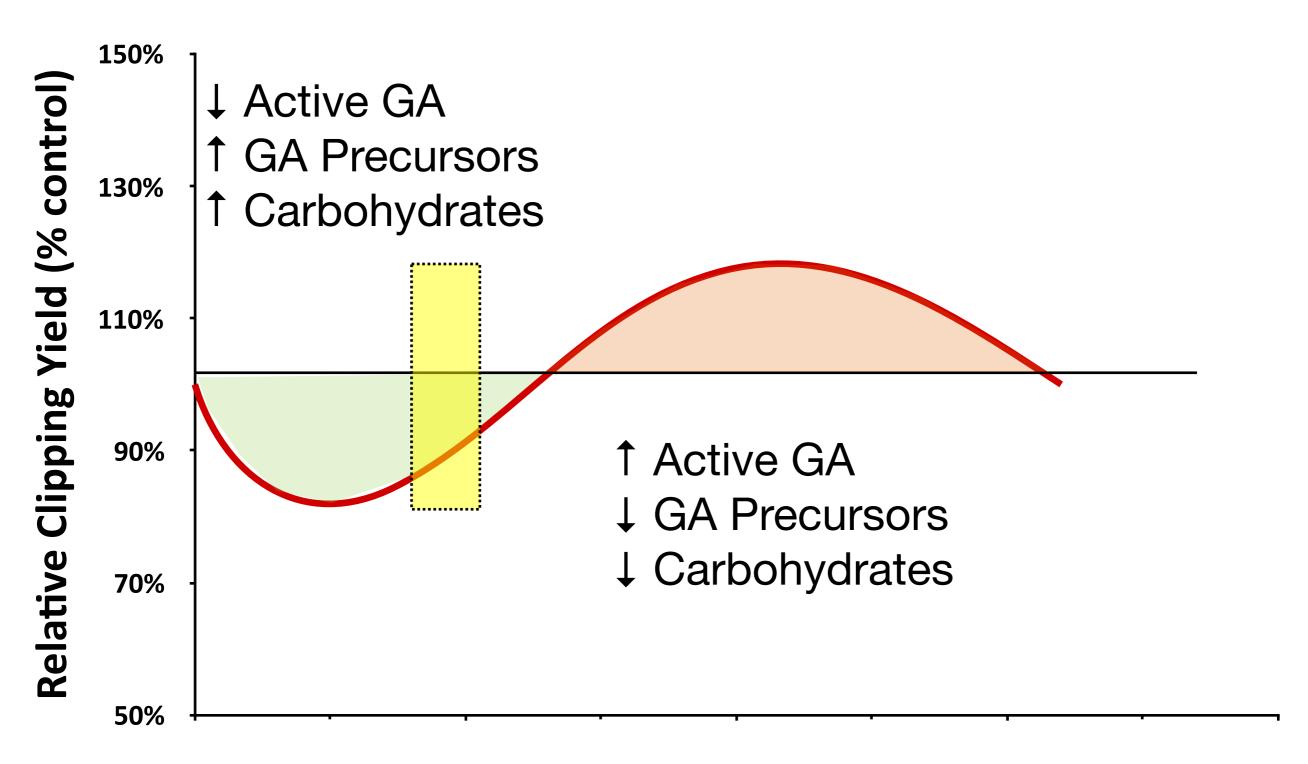
Slide courtesy of Dr. Bill Kreuser, UNL

Ball roll distance of 'MiniVerde' in response to weekly applications of Primo at 0, 1, 3, or 9 fl oz/A





Generalized PGR Response to Turf



Time (hours/days/GDD)

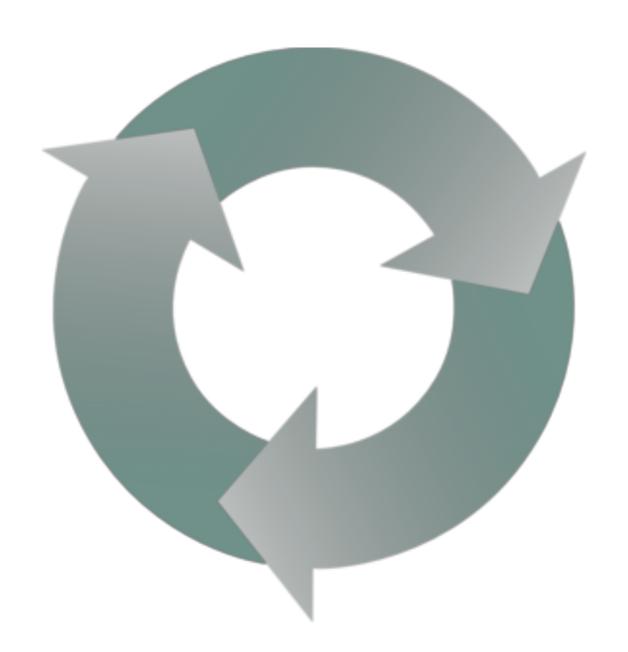
Goals for a PGR Program

- Sustain growth suppression for the season
- Avoid too much growth suppression
- Avoid wasting money
 - Too frequent applications
 - Too infrequent applications



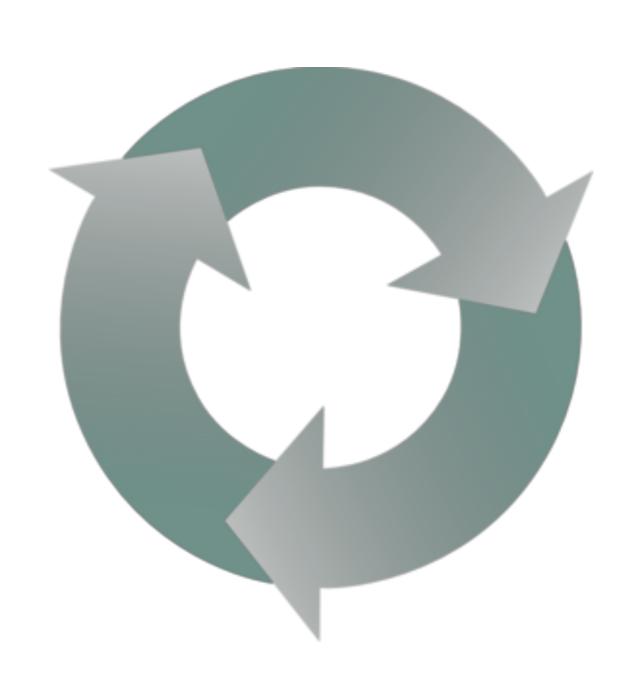
Differential Response to Primo MAXX 14 DAT

Unbalanced growth across a green



Re-apply PGR (or increase rate)

This use causes over-regulation making issue more apparent





Growing Degree Days

- Measure of heat accumulation

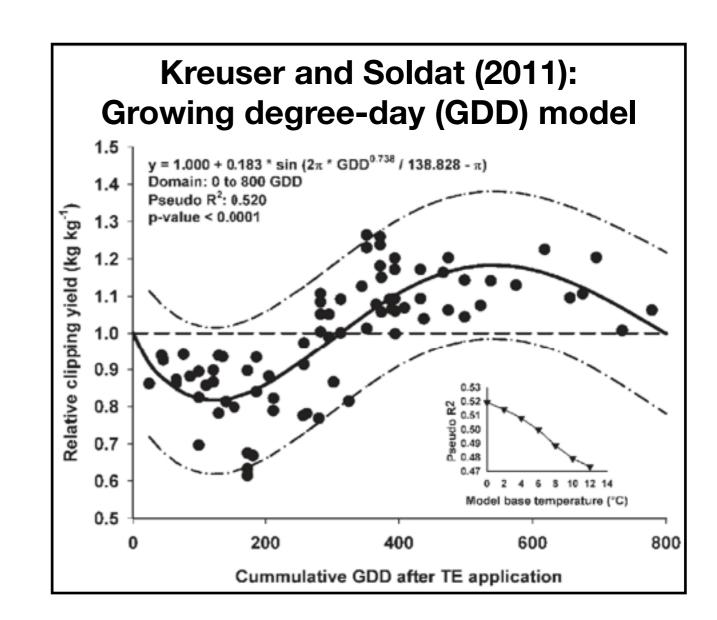
Average temperature compared to a pre-specific base

Example

| DAY | HIGH TEMP (F) | LOW TEMP (F) | AVERAGE (F) | BASE TEMP (F) | GDD |
|---------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|-----|
| SUNDAY | 80 | 60 | 70 | 50 | 20 |
| MONDAY | 70 | 50 | 60 | 50 | 10 |
| TUESDAY | 75 | 55 | 65 | 50 | 15 |
| | | | TOTAL | | 45 |

GDD Based PGR Applications

- For creeping bentgrass putting surfaces
- Developed by Dr. Bill
 Kreuser at University of
 Nebraska and Dr. Doug
 Soldat at Wisconsin
- Target re-application at 200
 GDD (base temp 32 F)
- Research on-going to develop similar model for UDBG —> Bent model does not apply



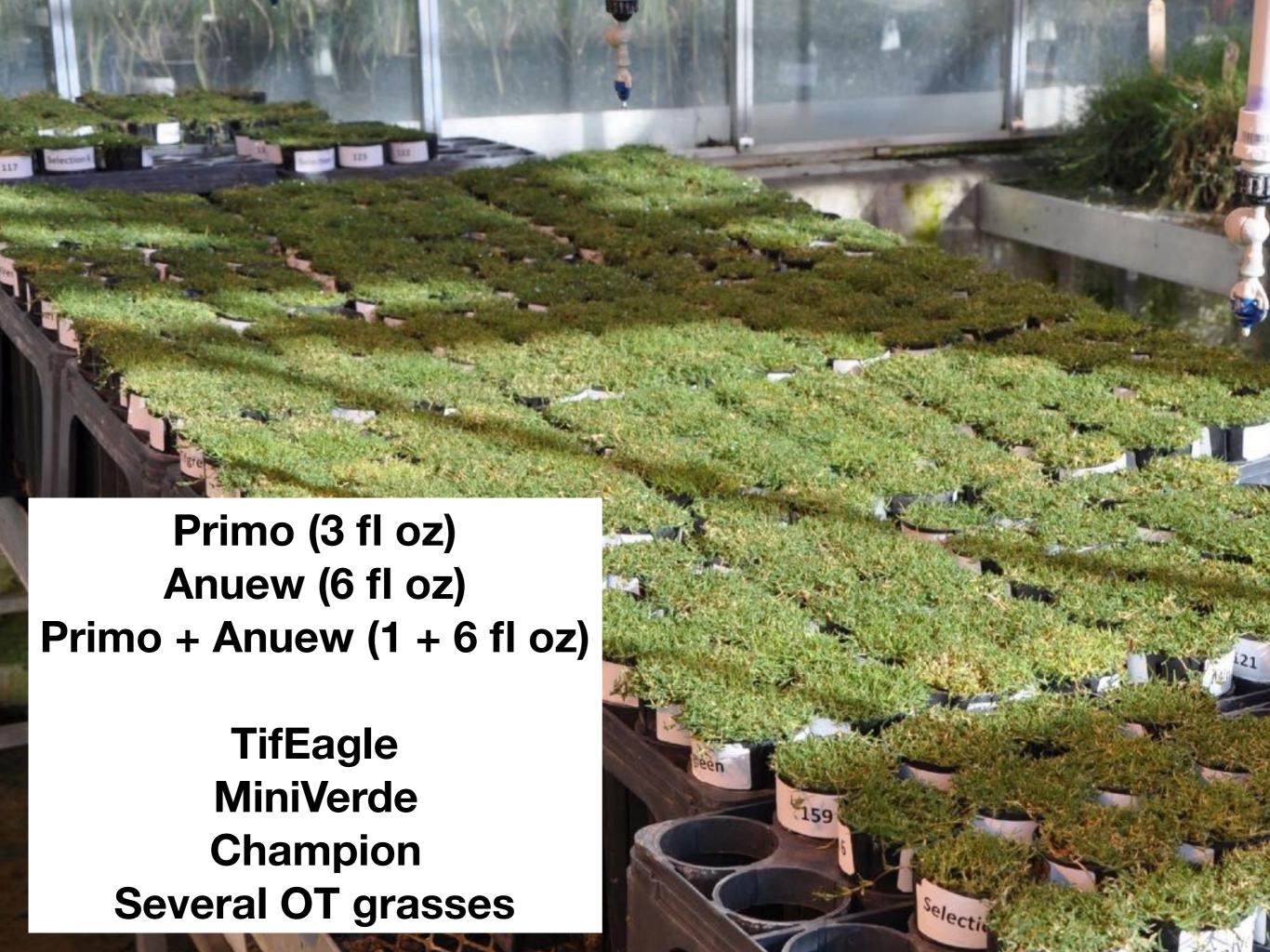
Anuew

- Prohexadione-Ca

- Late GA inhibitor, similar site as Primo MAXX

 On-golf course demonstrations in 2016 showing effects on UDBG greens





Anuew Results - Greenhouse

- Less overall regulation with Anuew 7 to 21 DAT

- Less rebound with Anuew for 21 to 28 DAT

 Mixing Anuew + Primo lessened rebound compared to Primo alone

- Required field confirmation

2017 PGR Research on UDBG

- Field trials conducted in June, July, and August 2017
 - East TN AgResearch & Education Center.
 Knoxville, TN 'MiniVerde'



- R.R. Foil Plant Science Research Center. Starkville, MS - 'TifEagle'



Hope Valley Country Club.
 Durham, NC - 'Champion'



 On-site weather stations at each locations used to calculate GDD accumulation after application using a base temperature of 10 C

Growing Degree Day Models for Plant Growth Regulator Applications on Ultradwarf Hybrid Bermudagrass Putting Greens

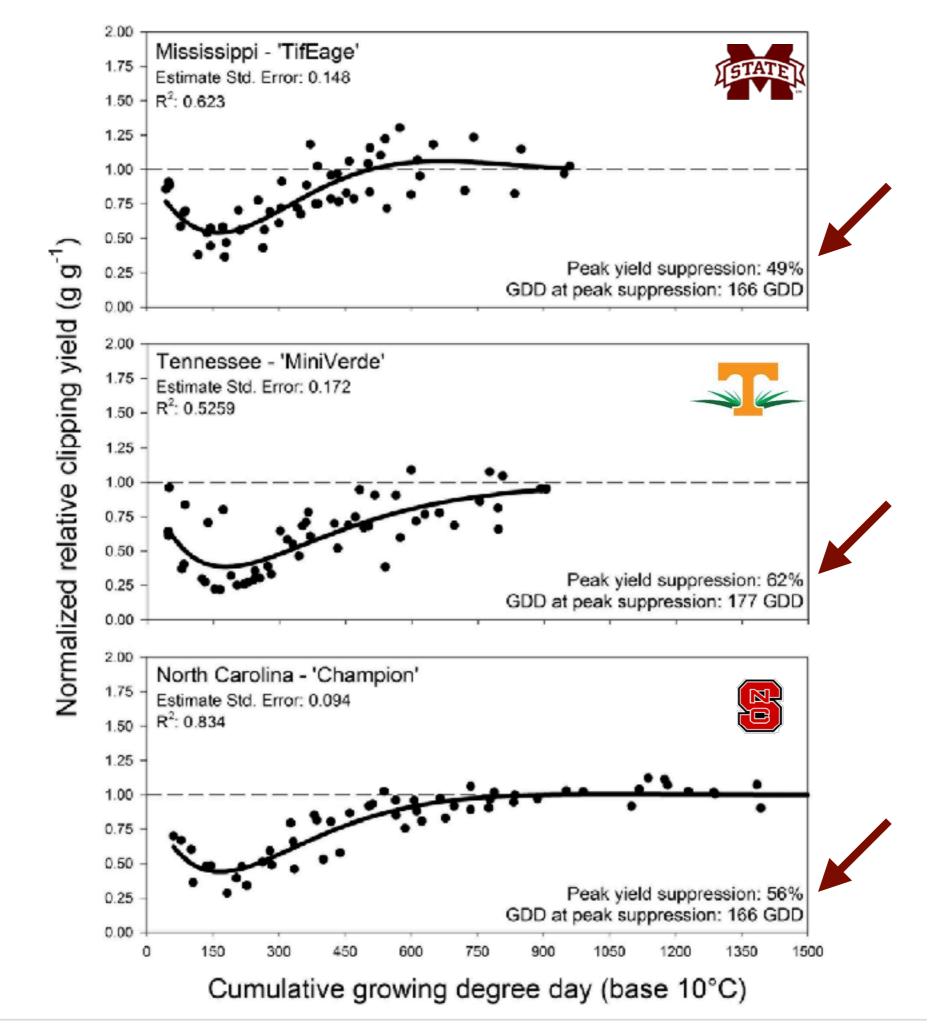
E. H. Reasor, J. T. Brosnan, J. P. Kerns, W. J. Hutchens, D. R. Taylor, J. D. McCurdy, D. J. Soldat, and W. C. Kreuser*

ABSTRACT

Plant growth regulators (PGRs) are commonly applied to ultradwarf hybrid bermudagrass [Cynodon dactylon (L.) Pers. × C. transvaalensis Burtt-Davy] putting greens during the growing season. Trinexapac-ethyl (TE) and prohexadione-Ca (PH) are PGRs that inhibit gibberellic acid biosynthesis and are used to reduce clipping yield and improve turfgrass visual quality. Growing degree day (GDD) models have optimized the timing of PGR reapplications to creeping bentgrass (Agrostis stolonifera L.) putting greens, but no information is available regarding proper PGR reapplication timing on bermudagrass putting greens. The objective of this research was to develop a GDD model to determine optimal TE and PH appliE.H. Reasor and J.D. McCurdy, Dep. of Plant and Soil Sciences, Mississippi State Univ., 117 Dorman Hall, 32 Creelman St., Box 9555, Mississippi State, MS 39762; J.T. Brosnan and D.R. Taylor, Dep. of Plant Sciences, Univ. of Tennessee–Knoxville, 2431 Joe Johnson Dr., 252 Ellington Plant Sciences Building, Knoxville, TN 37996; J.P. Kerns and W.J. Hutchens, Dep. of Crop and Soil Sciences, North Carolina State Univ., Campus Box 7620, North Carolina State Univ. Campus, Raleigh, NC 27695–7620; D.J. Soldat, Dep. of Soil Science, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706; W.C. Kreuser, Dep. of Agronomy and Horticulture, Univ. of Nebraska–Lincoln, 202 Keim Hall, Lincoln, NE 68583–0915. Received 30 Jan. 2018. Accepted 24 Apr. 2018. *Corresponding author (wkreuser2@unl.edu). Assigned to Associate Editor Douglas Karcher.

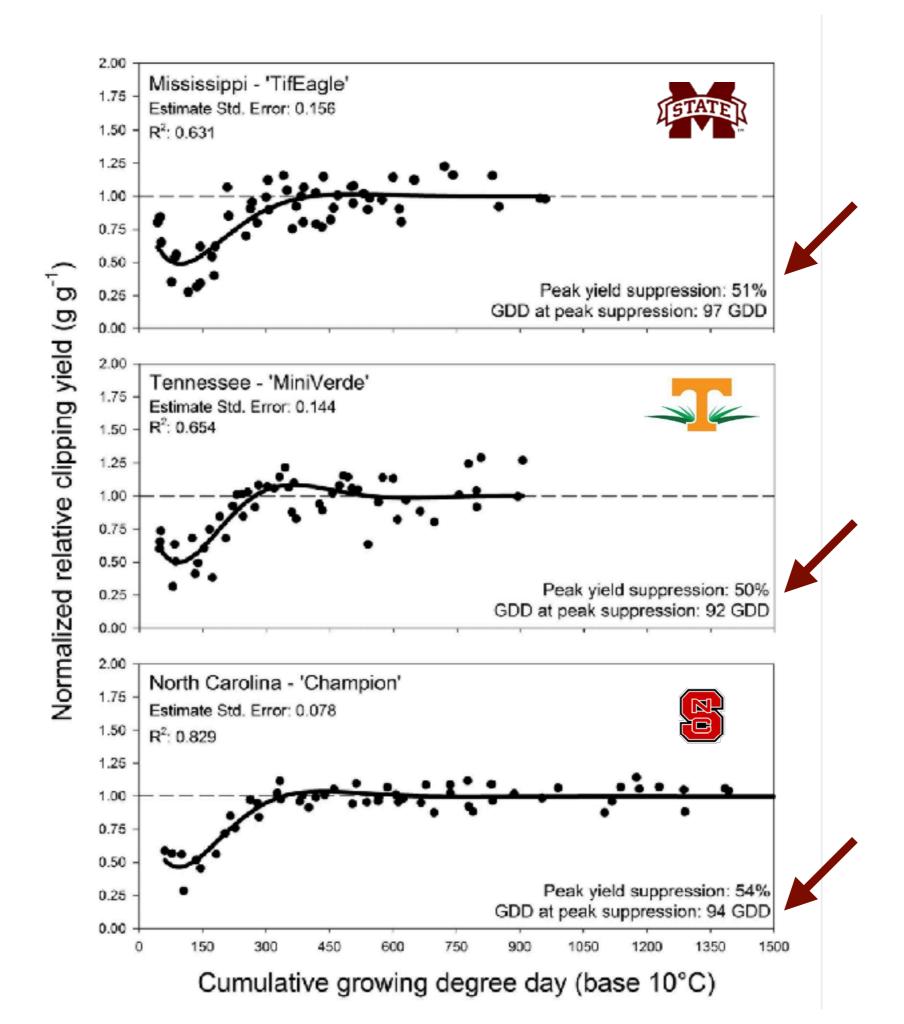
Abbreviations: GA, gibberellic acid; GDD, growing degree days; GDD_{10C}, growing degree days calculated using 10°C as the base temperature; PGR, plant growth regulator; PH, prohexadione-calcium; TE, trinexapac-ethyl.

Crop Science. Vol. 58 No. 4, p. 1801-1807



2017 GDD Results - Primo

| CULTIVAR | PEAK SUPPRESSION (%) | GDD TO PEAK | RE-APP |
|-----------|----------------------------|----------------|--------|
| CHAMPION | 56 | 166 | 216 |
| MINIVERDE | 62 | 177 | 230 |
| TIFEAGLE | 49 | 166 | 216 |



2017 GDD Results - Anuew

| CULTIVAR | PEAK SUPPRESSION (%) | GDD TO PEAK | RE-APP |
|-----------|----------------------------|----------------|--------|
| CHAMPION | 54 | 94 | 122 |
| MINIVERDE | 50 | 92 | 120 |
| TIFEAGLE | 51 | 97 | 126 |

GDD Models Fit UDBG

- Similarity across cultivars in time to peak regulation

- Optimal re-application for Primo is 220 GDD_{10C}

No rebound observed

- Anuew acts faster than Primo. Optimal re-application is 126 GDD_{10C}

- Regulation of growth 49 to 62% with single application

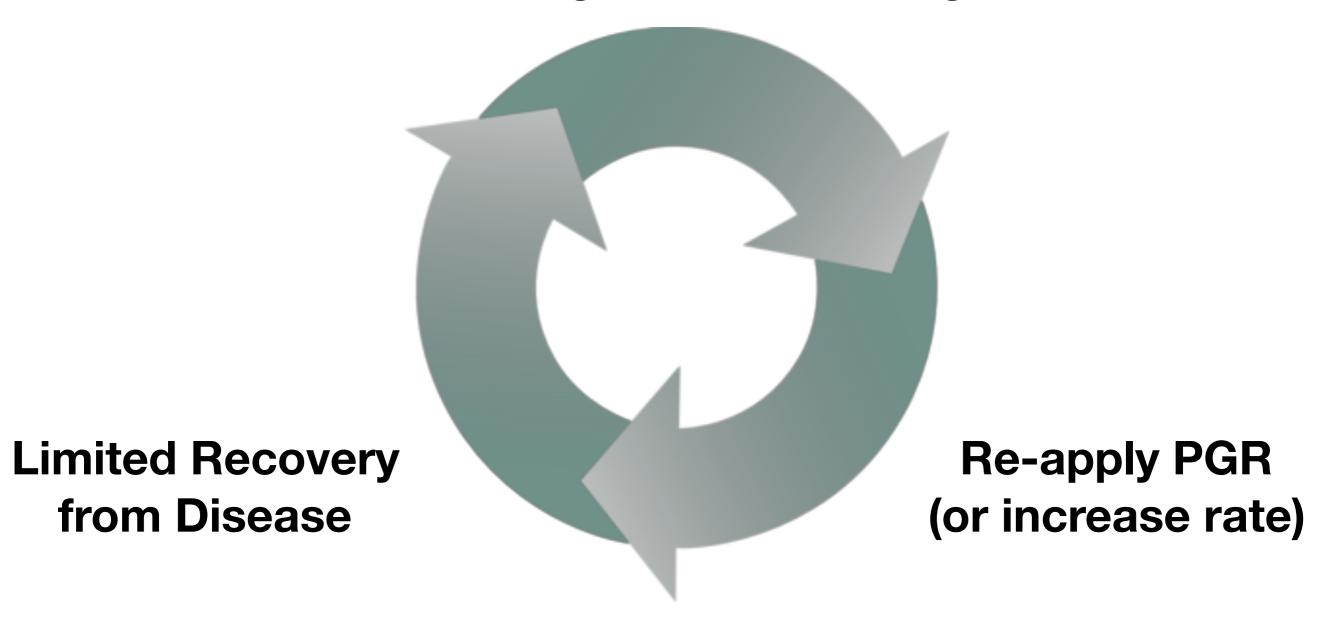








Unbalanced growth across a green



Vicious Spiral of Bad Decisions

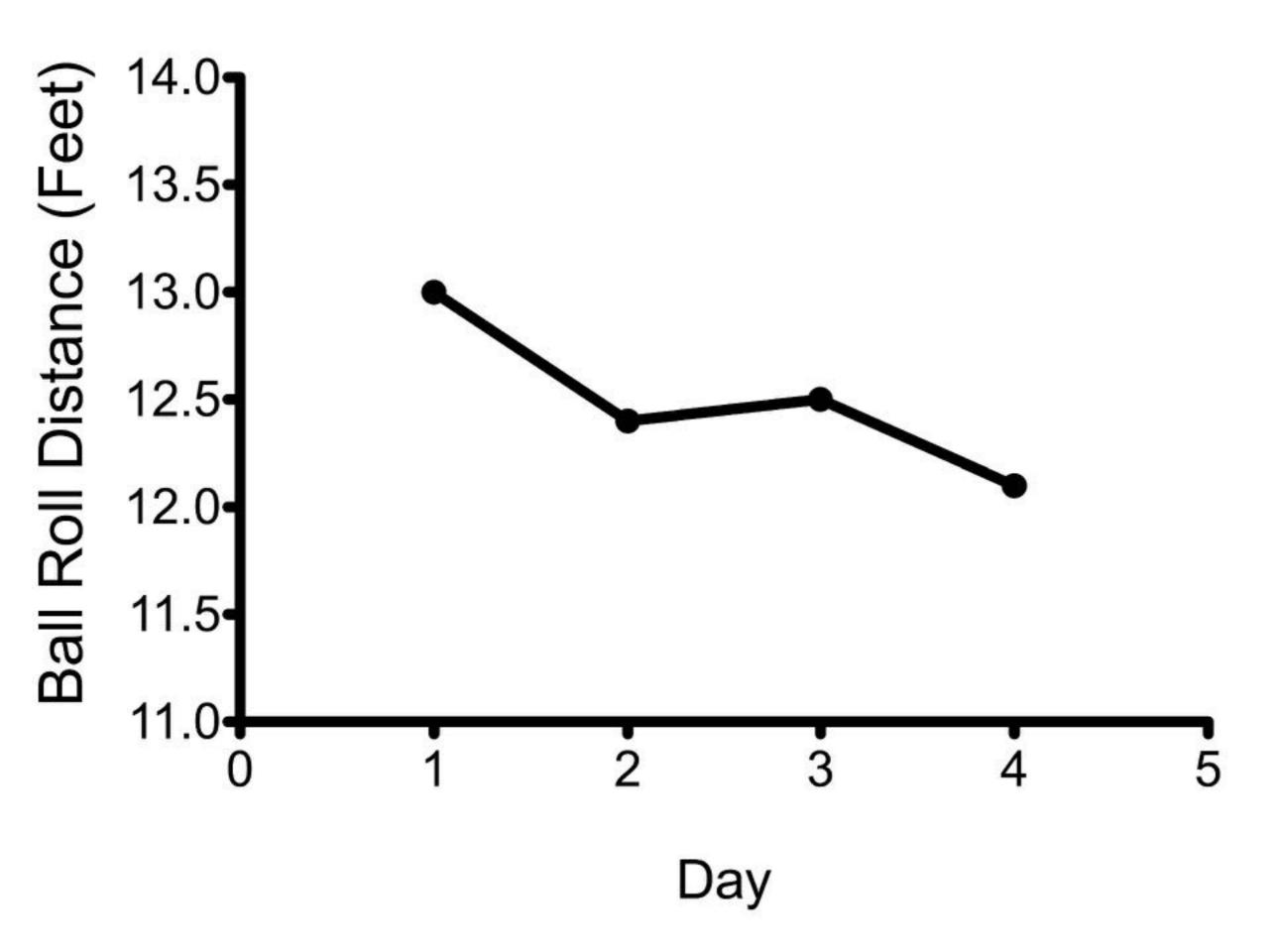


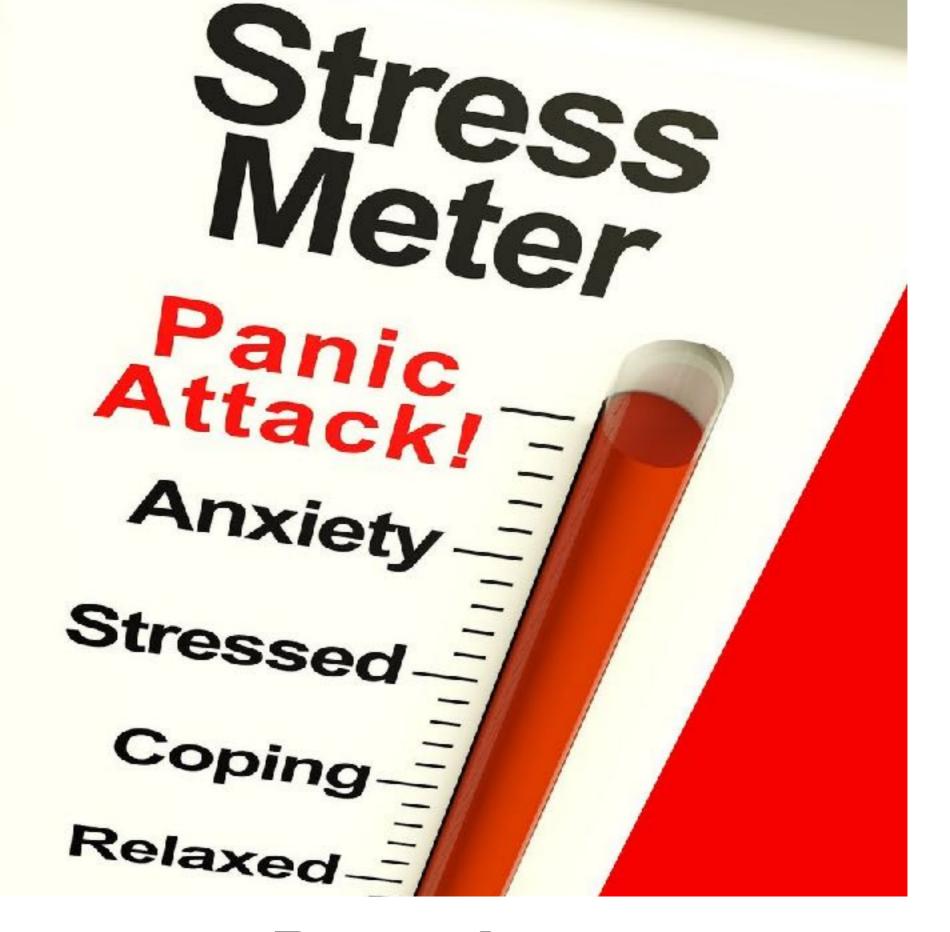
Stress Meter

Panic Attack! — Anxiety —

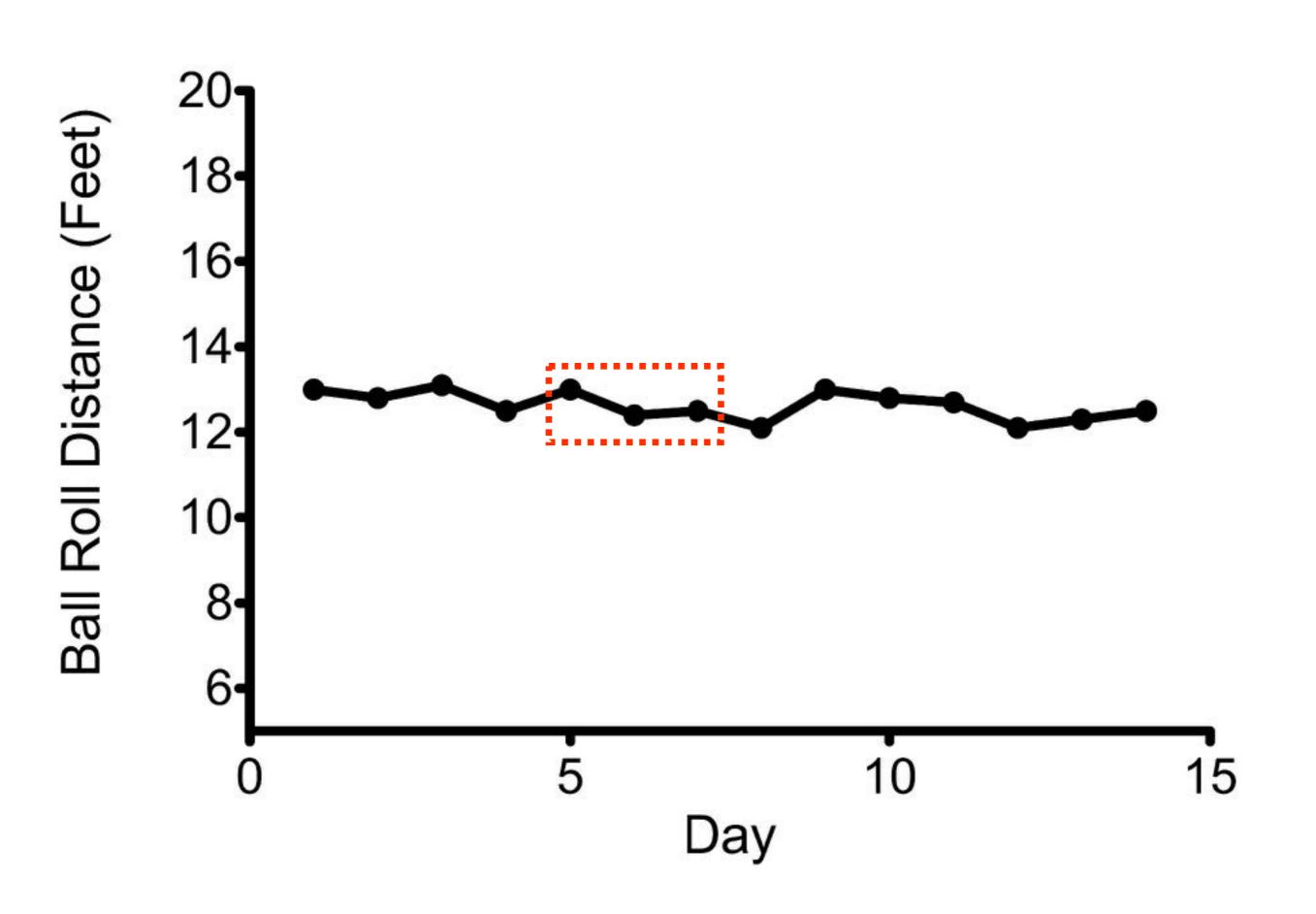
Stressed

Coping___ Relaxed______





Detach



2018 GDD Research

- TifEagle, MiniVerde, and Champion

- Project began in June 2018 and is still active

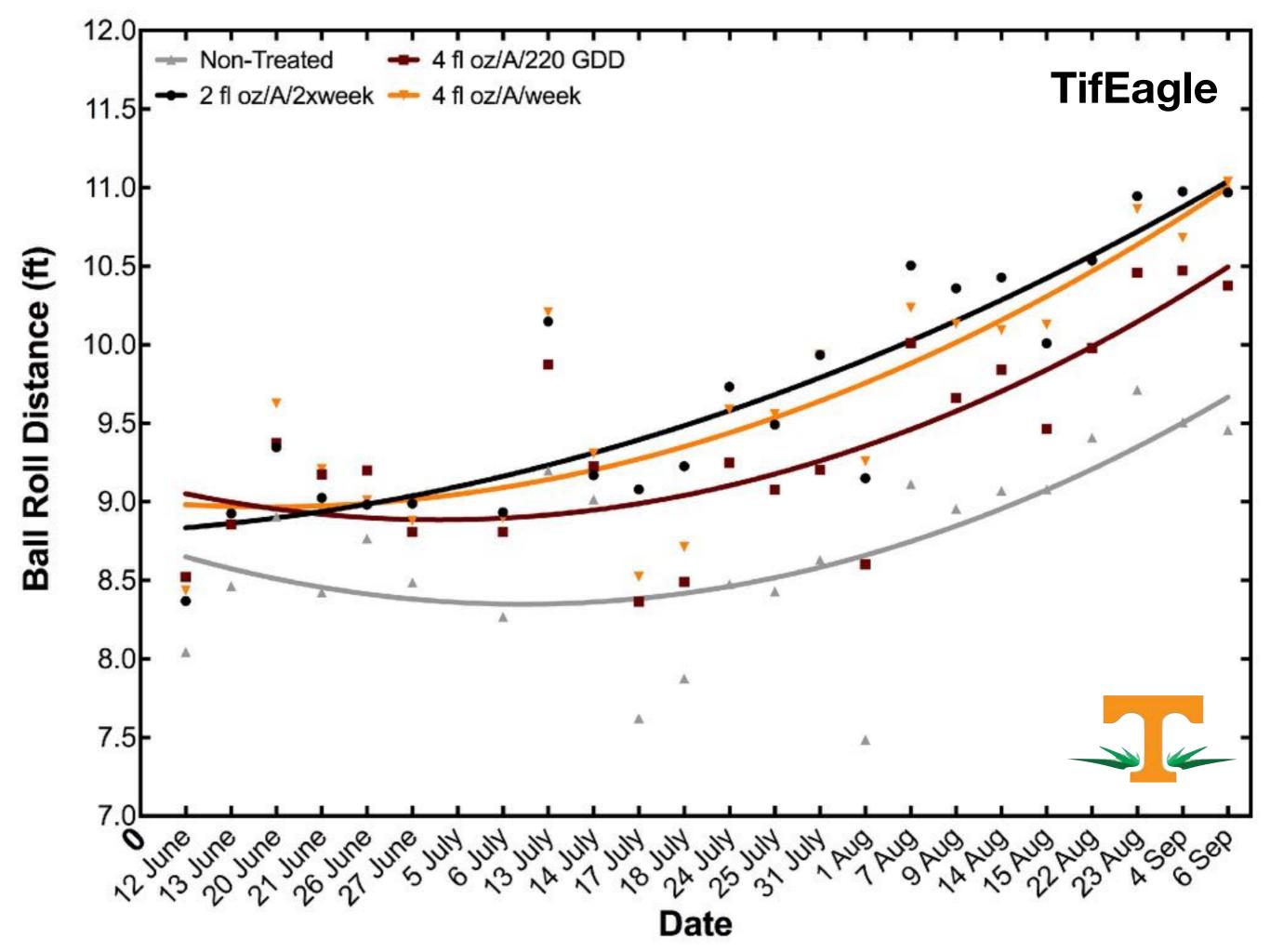


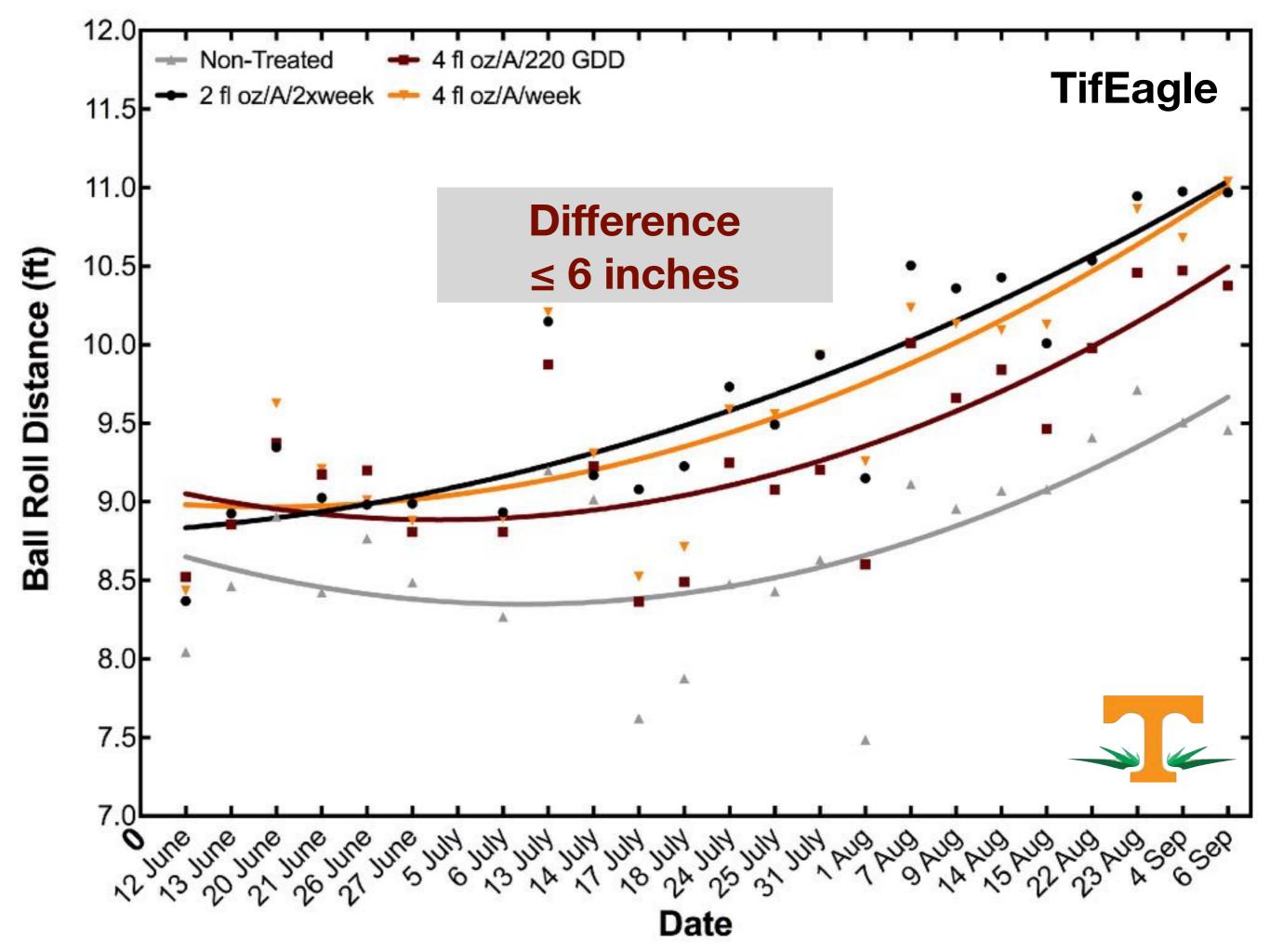
- Treatments
 - Primo at 4 fl oz/A weekly
 - Primo at 2 fl oz/A (2x week)
 - Primo at 4 fl oz/A every GDD_{10C}
 - Non-treated control

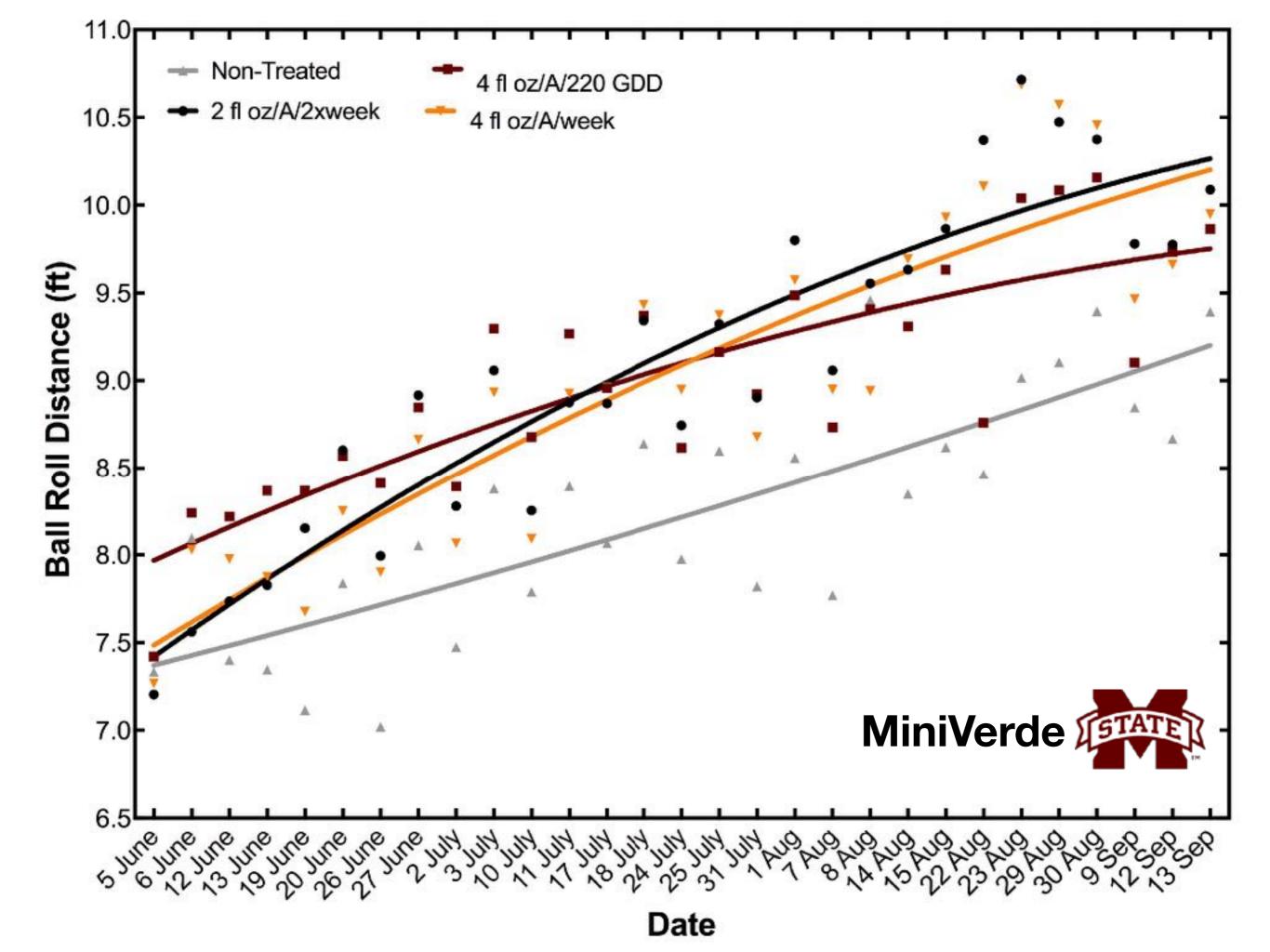


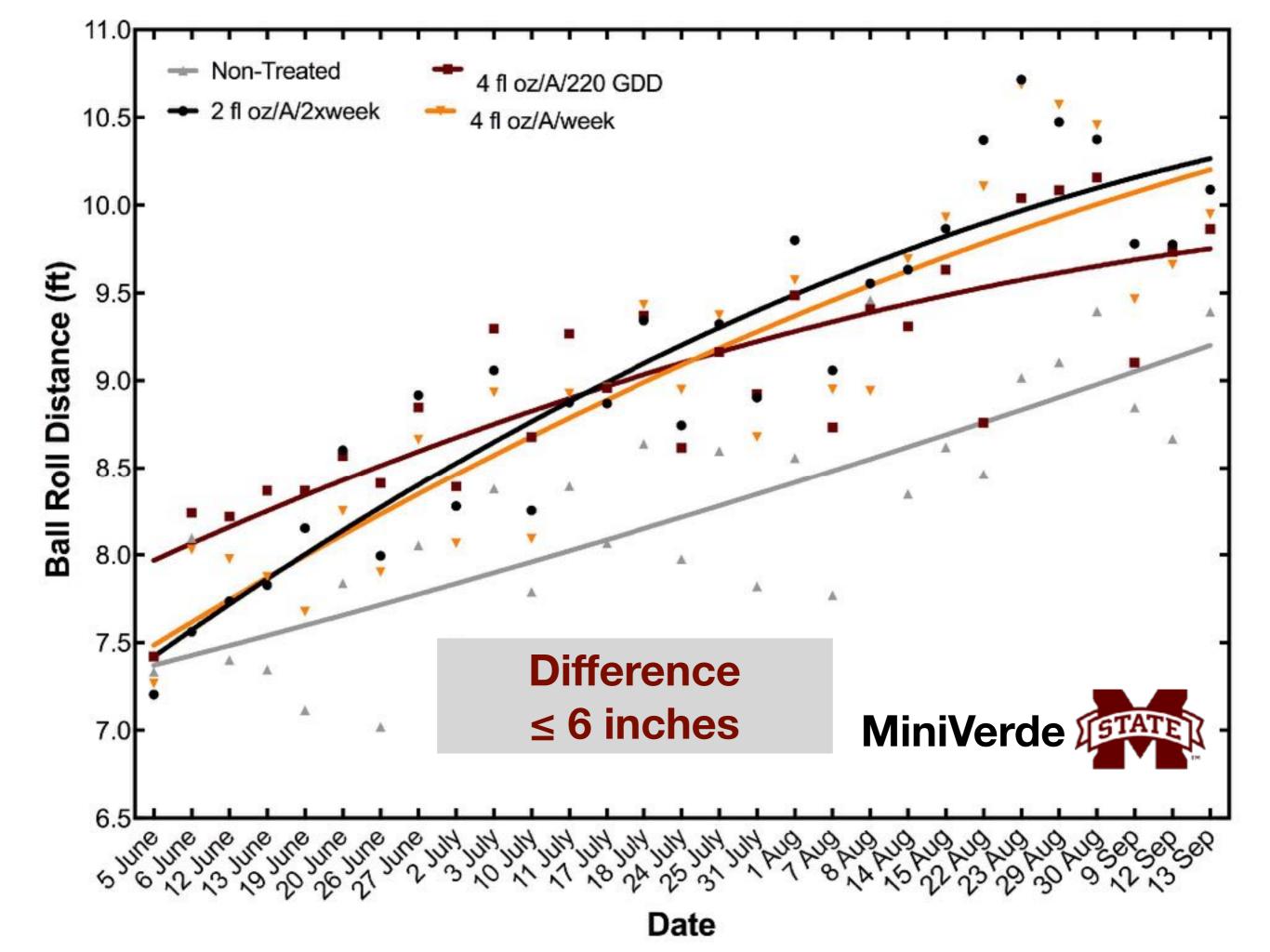


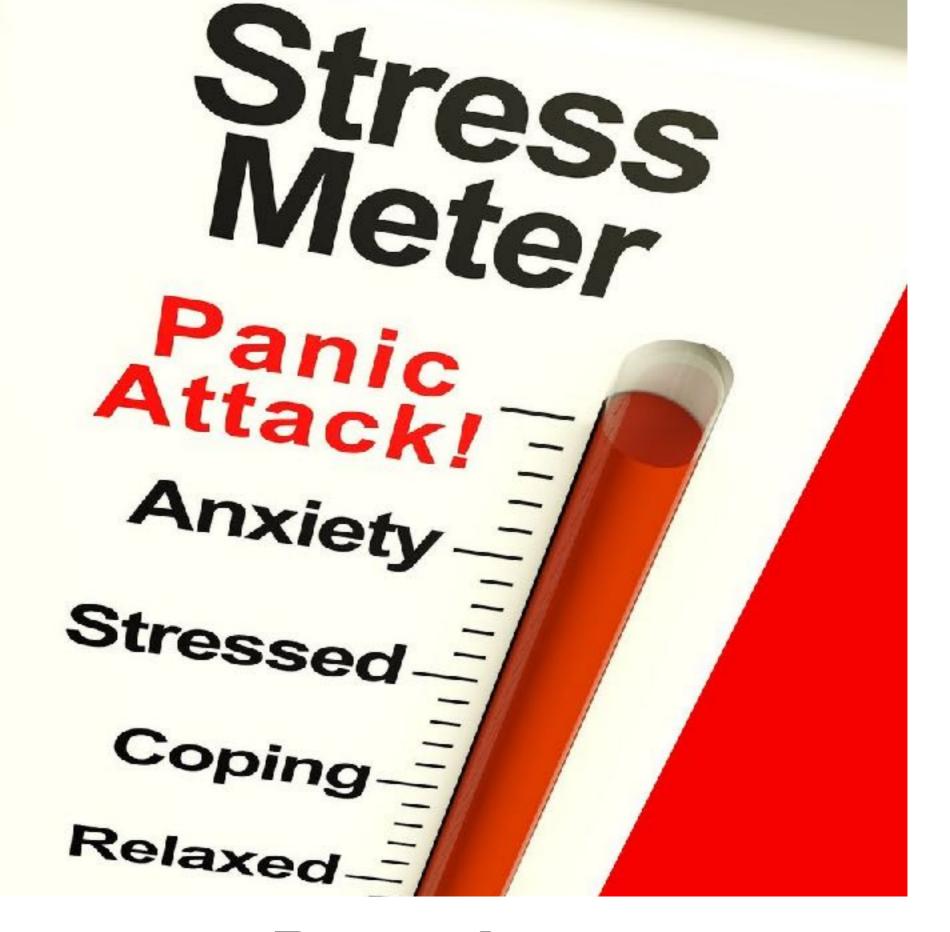
- Ball roll (2x per week, 3x per day), TQ, clipping yield, disease incidence











Detach

What does it mean?

- We know that over-regulation makes off-types more visible

 GDD scheduling can prevent over-regulation, helping mask off-type problems

- Primo and Anuew affect UDBG different → benefits to mixture, particularly on greens with off-types

- Is the 6 inches of green speed worth it at your facility? (when golfers can't tell the difference)



Pythium spp. Outbreak in September 2018 Knoxville, TN

Image: 28 Sept. 2018









Integrated Off-Type Management

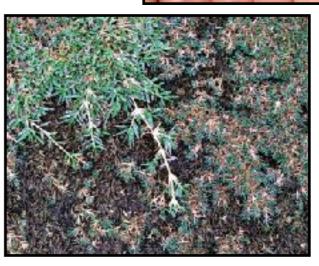












Conclusions

- Starts with producer selection and never stops after grass in place

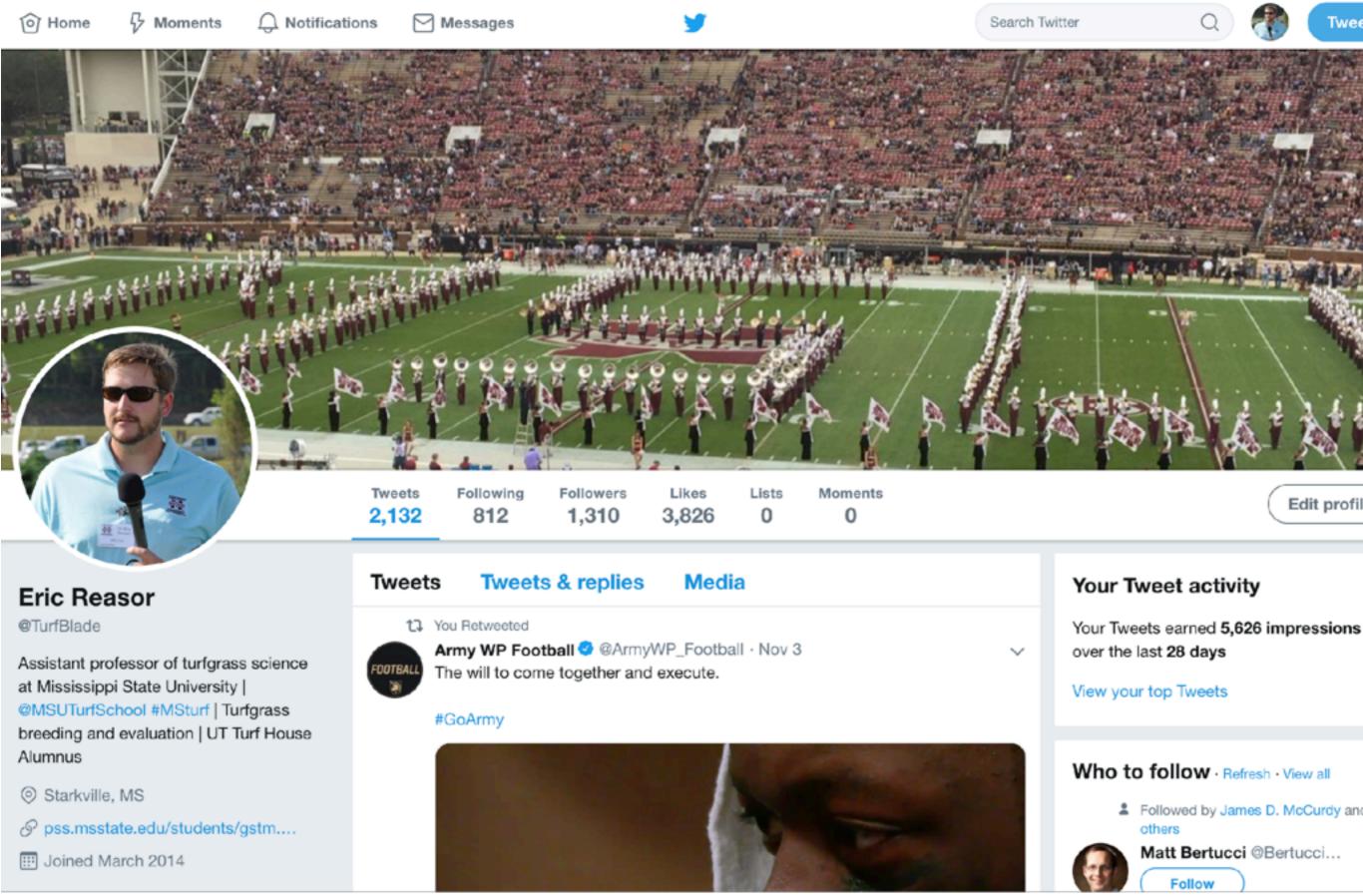
- Diligence at establishment is critical

- PGR applications best means of masking

- No need for weekly Primo applications at 3 fl oz/A (or higher)
 - Every application is reducing growth 49 to 62% (under best conditions) and complete recovery takes an extended period



Consider GDD based PGR applications in 2019



@TurfBlade

eric.reasor@msstate.edu

Questions?



