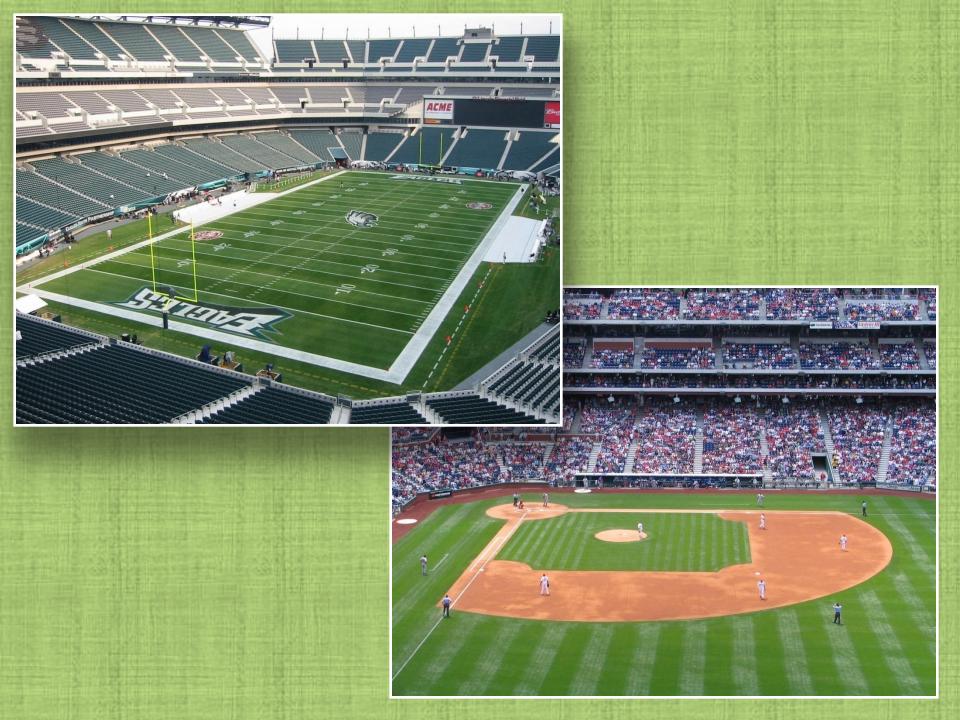
# Making Plant Growth Regulators Work For You

Tom Serensits
Penn State University





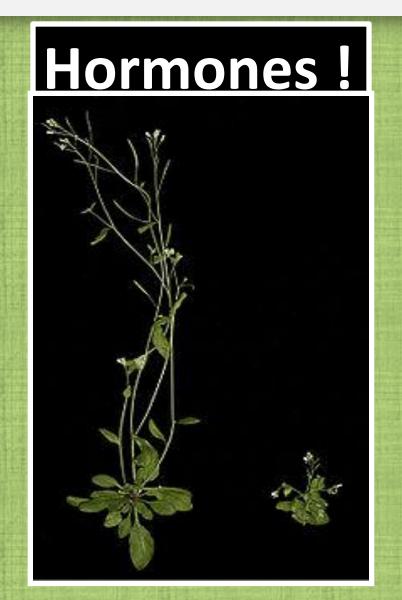


# **How do PGRs Work?**

# Hormones!



# **How do PGRs Work?**







# **PGR - Definition**

 An organic compound, which when present or applied in small amounts, results in a change in turf growth or development



# **Plant Hormones**

- 6 Classes of Plant Hormones
  - Auxin Rooting
  - Abscisic Acid Stomate Closing
  - Brassinosterioids Shoot Growth
  - Ethylene Fruit Ripening
  - Cytokinins Cell Division
  - Gibberellins Cell Elongation

#### **Plant Hormones**

#### **Growth Promoters**

- Auxin
- Brassinosteriods
- Cytokinins
- Gibberellins

#### **Growth Inhibitors**

- Abscisic Acid
- Ethylene

So, do PGRs we use on turf contain additional growth inhibitors?

# Answer – No!

- Majority of PGRs
  - Inhibit Growth Promoters (Gibberellins or Cytokinins)

 Proxy (Ethephon) – Enhances Release of Ethylene Gas – Seedhead Suppression

# **PGR Use in Turf**

First Used in the 1950s

Limited Use –
 Discoloration

1970s – Poa annua
 Seedhead
 Suppression



# **PGR Classification**

Traditional Classification

- Type I
  - Foliar-Absorbed, Inhibit Cell Division (Cytokinins)
  - Seedhead Suppressors
- Type II
  - Crown and Root-Absorbed, Inhibit Cell Elongation (Gibberellins)
  - Suppress Vertical Shoot Growth

# **PGR Classification**

New Classification System – 5 Classes

Class A – Inhibit Gibberellins Late in Synthesis,
 Foliar-Absorbed (*Primo Maxx*)

Class B – Inhibit Gibberellins Early in Synthesis,
 Root-Absorbed (*Trimmit, Cutless*)

# **PGR Classification**

- <u>Class C</u> Inhibit Cell Division, Foliar-Absorbed (*Embark*)
- Class D Herbicides (Roundup, Prograss)
- Class E Promote Ethylene Production, Foliar-Absorbed (Seedhead Suppression) (*Proxy*)
- Class F Combinations

# Class A and B PGRs

 Gibberellins – More than 130 Identified

- Functions of Gibbs
  - Cell Elongation
  - Promote Flowering
  - Promote Seed Germ.
  - Promote Parthenocarpy (Seedlessness)



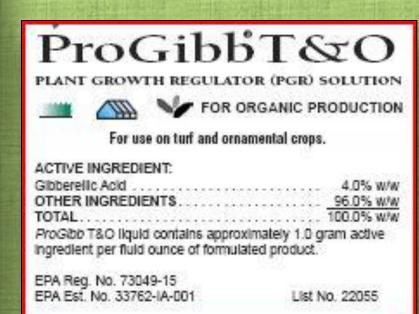


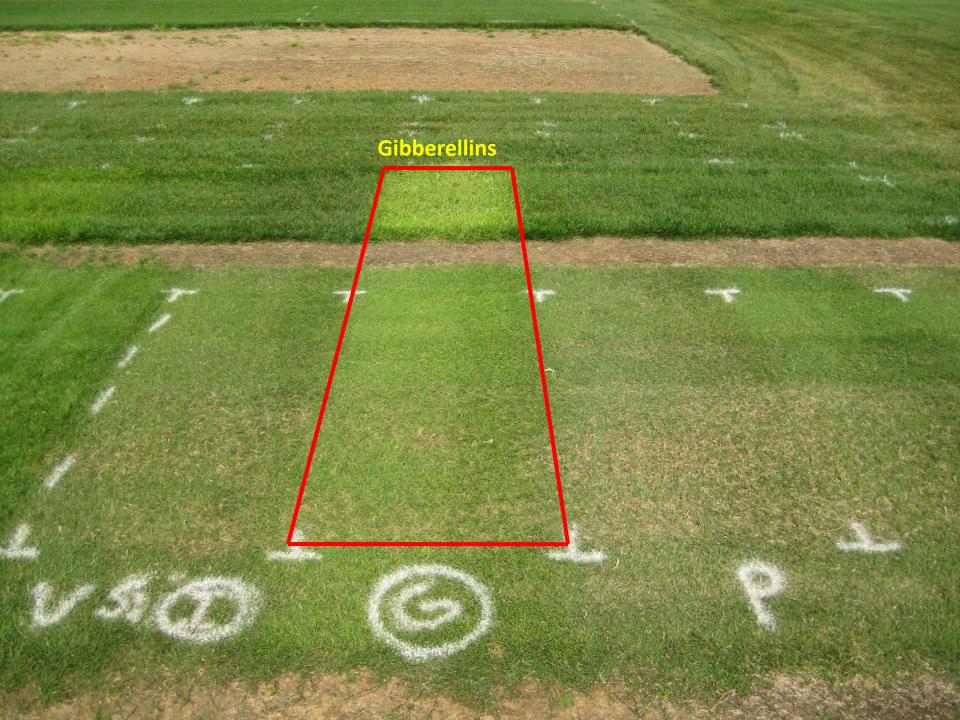
# **Gibberellins in Turf**

ProGibb T & O

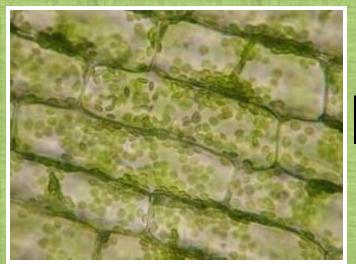
 Labeled for Bermudagrass (Maintain Growth During Cold Stress)

 Produces Rapid Vertical Growth

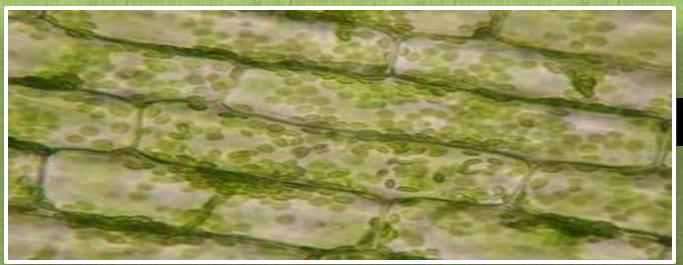








Normal Gibb.



Increased Gibb.

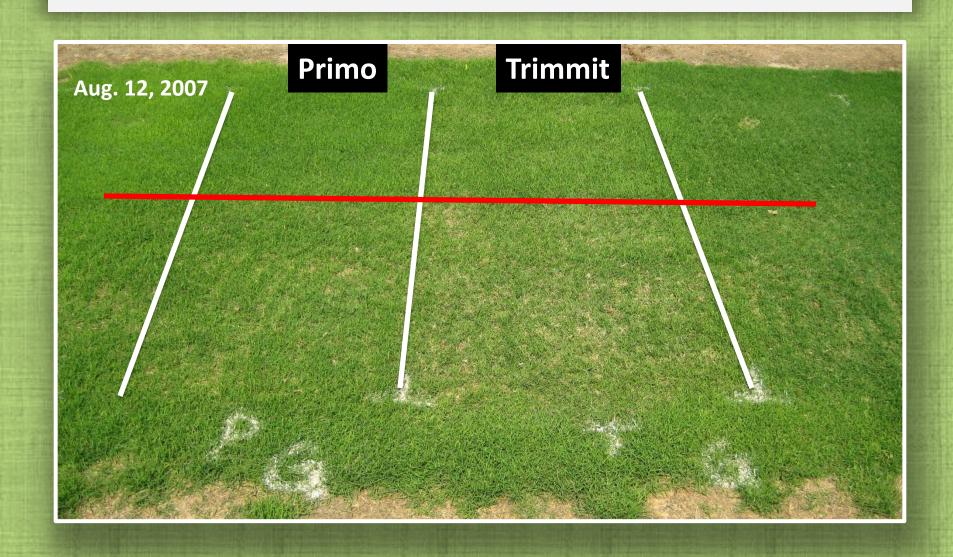
# Gibberellins on Bermudagrass



# Gibberellins on Bermudagrass



# **Break Out of Growth Regulation**



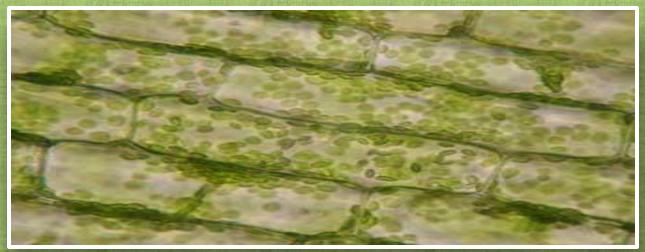
# **Gibberellins in Turf**

 Class A and B PGRs Block the Biosynthesis of Gibberellins and Create Miniature Plants





Normal Gibb.

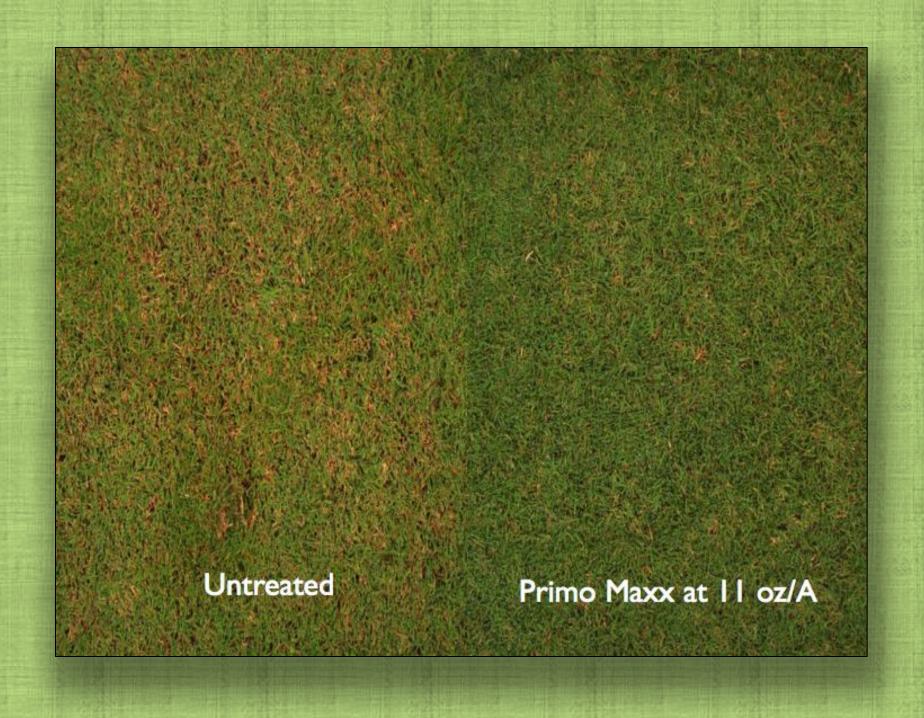


**Increased Gibb.** 



Reduced Gibb.





# **Common Bermudagrass**

 Gibberellin Inhibiting PGR Applications May Cause Common Bermudagrass to Resemble Hybrid Bermudagrass

More Compact Leaf Canopy Because of Shortened
 Internodes

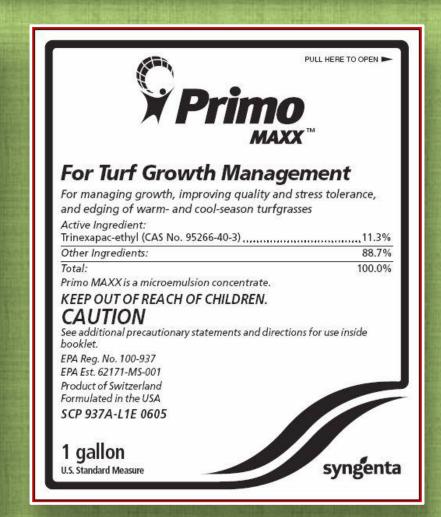
# **Class A PGRs**

- Primo Maxx
  - Trinexapac-ethyl

 50% Reduction in Clippings (28 Days)

Increased Tiller Density

Rooting??



# Class A PGRs

- Governor
  - Trinexapac-ethyl
- Granular

- Apply to Damp Turf
- Similar Results to Primo Maxx

# **GOVERNOF**Growth Regulator

For Turf Growth Management

- Contains same active ingredient as Primo®
- · Unique granular formulation for spreader application.
- · Ideal for hard to reach mowing areas.
- Reduces turf grass clippings by up to 50%.

# ACTIVE INGREDIENT: 0.17% Trinexapac-ethyl (CAS No. 95266-40-3) 0.17% OTHER INGREDIENTS: 99.83% Total 100.00%

EPA Reg. No. 100-930-9198
EPA Est. No. 9198-OH-1<u>M</u>, 9198-OH-2<u>B</u>, 9198-AL-001<u>A</u>
Underlined letter is first letter used in run code on bag.
Primo<sup>®</sup> is a trademark of a Syngenta Group Company
Governor™ is a trademark of The Andersons Agriservices, Inc.

# Class A PGRs

- T-NEX
  - Trinexapac-ethyl
- Post-Patent

Same Amount of A.I.

Regimax



# T-NEX<sup>™</sup> 1 AQ

#### Specimen Label

#### FOR TURE GROWTH MANAGEMENT

A microemulsion concentrate used to manage growth and improve quality and stress tolerance of turf edging and warm- and cool-season turfgrasses.

#### ACTIVE INGREDIENT:

Trinexapac-ethyl:	 					·				٠.						11.3%
OTHER INGREDIENTS:	 			10			 ·	٠.	٠				186			88.7%
TOTAL:	 														 1	00.0%

EPA Reg. No. 73220-12

EPA Est. No. 37429-GA-001

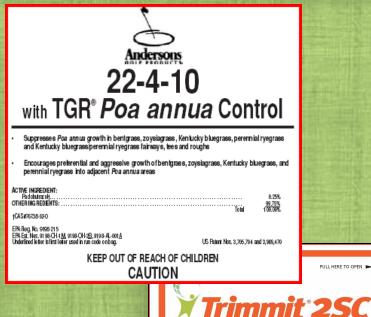
KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN
CAUTION

# Class B PGRs

- Trimmit, TGR
  - Paclobutrazol (Granular and Liquid)
- Root-Absorbed Water In

Reduced Growth – 6 to 8
 Weeks

Poa annua control

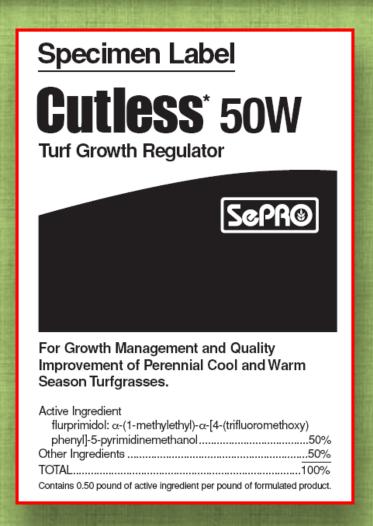




# Class B PGRs

- Cutless
  - Flurprimidol

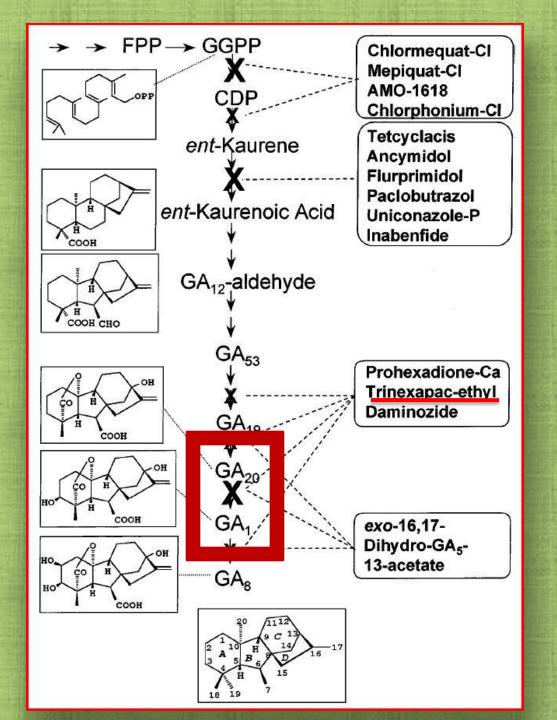
- Granular Formulation
  - Landscape –Ornamentals
  - Less Trimming
  - Darker Green



# Class A vs Class B

- Class A Primo Maxx
- 2 Gibberellins are Involved
  - GA<sub>1</sub> Responsible for Shoot Elongation
  - GA<sub>20</sub> Produces GA1

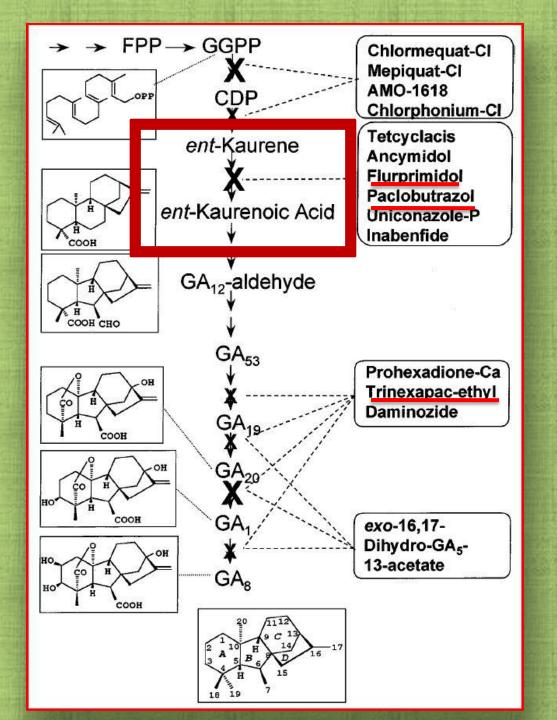
- Enzyme that Converts GA<sub>20</sub> to GA<sub>1</sub> is Inhibited
  - $-GA_{20}$ -3- $\beta$ -hydroxylase



# Class A vs Class B

- Class B Trimmit
- Blocks the Formation of Ent-Kaurenoic Acid
  - Precursor to Active Gibberellins

- Target Enzyme
  - cytochrome P450 monooxygenase



#### Class C PGR

- Embark T & O
  - Mefluidide

- Slows Cell Division (Cytokinins)
- Seedhead Suppression

Turf Injury



#### **Turf and Ornamental Growth Regulator**

#### ACTIVE INGREDIENT:

Equivalent to 0.2 lbs. (2.4% by weight) (N-[2,4-dimethyl-5-[[(trifluoromethyl)-sulfonyl] amino]phenyl]acetamide) per gallon.

U.S. Patent Nos. 3,639,474; 3,894,078; 4,013,444.

CAUTION

## Class E PGR

- Proxy
  - Ethephon
- Enhances Release of Ethylene Gas
- Foliar Absorbed

Seedhead Suppression



#### **GROWTH REGULATOR**

- \* For Commercial Use on Turf including Golf, Parks, and Sports Turf.
- \* Not For Residential Use.

#### ACTIVE INGREDIENT:

Ethephon [(2-chloroethyl)phosphonic acid]*	.21.7%*
OTHER INGRESIDENTS	
TOTAL	100.0%

KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN

DANGER PELIGRO

## **Combination – Class F**

- Legacy
  - Flurprimidol and Trinexapac-ethyl
- Foliar and Root Uptake
- Less Rebound Effect

No Water for 2 Hours;
 Water Within 24 Hours



#### **PGRs on Athletic Fields**

- Gibberellin Inhibiting PGRs
  - Primo

- Trimmit

Cutless

- TGR



# **Surface Stability**

<u>Divoting</u> = complete shearing (removal) of turf root system from rootzone



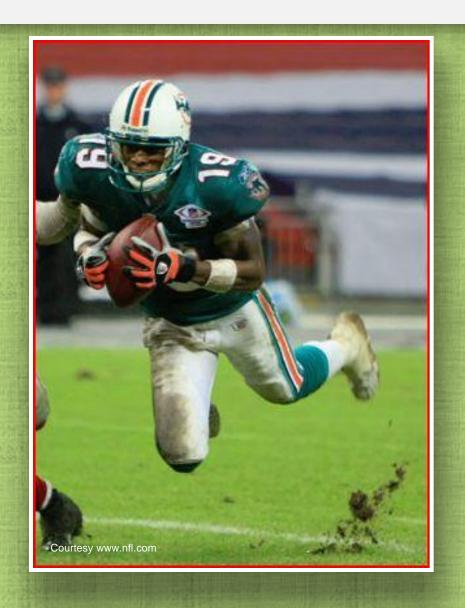
## Primo

Increased Rooting?

Increased Tillering?



## **Does Primo Reduce Divot Size?**



#### **Research Trial**

Kentucky Bluegrass

- 2 Rootzones
  - USGA Sand
  - Silt Loam Soil



 Evaluated Divot Resistance, Tiller Density, and Root Mass

# **Primo Applications**

• Rate: 0.5 oz/1000ft<sup>2</sup>

28-Day Intervals

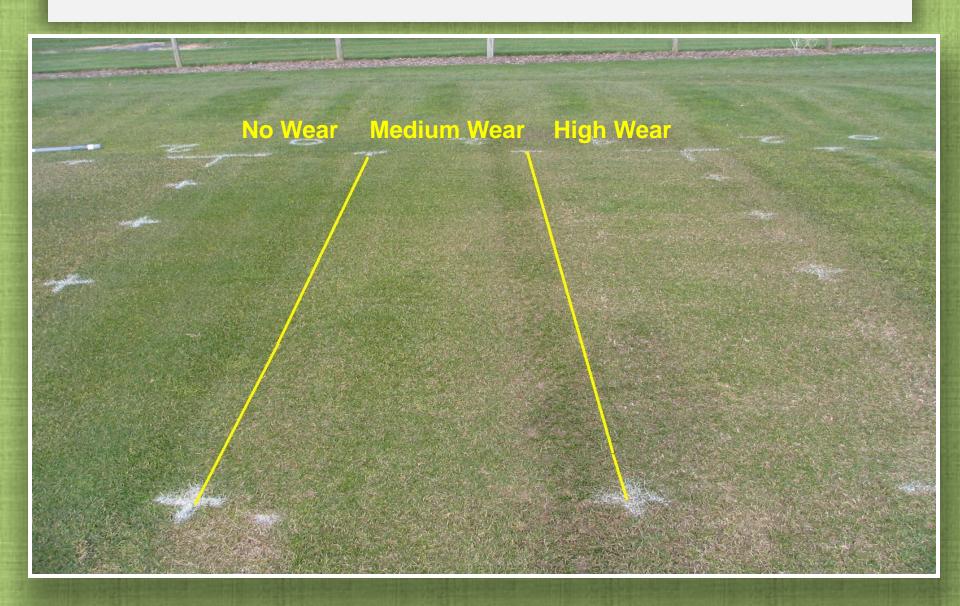
- 2 Application Regimes:
  - May July (3 Applications)
  - May October (6 Applications)



# **Simulated Football Season**



# **Simulated Football Season**



# **Divot Resistance Evaluation**





#### Results

 Primo Applied From May – July Reduced Divot Size Most

– Sand: 10 – 20% Reduction

- Soil: 10% Reduction

 Primo Applied From May – October was not better/worse than Untreated Plots

## Results

- Tiller Density
  - Primo Treatments Increased Tiller Density up to
     15%

- Root Mass
  - Primo Applied May July Increased Root Mass by 10%

# How Does Primo Increase Tillering / Rooting?

 Hybrid Bermuda – 50% more N was Allocated to Roots / Rhizomes when Treated with Primo (Fagerness et al., 2004)



#### **How are New Roots and Tillers Formed?**

- Cell Division
  - Cytokinins

Does Primo Affect Cytokinins in Plants?



# **Primo and Cytokinins**

Ervin and Zhang (2007)

Found an Increase in Cytokinin Levels Following
 Sequential Applications of Primo

 Do Not Know How Decreasing Gibberellin Levels (from Primo) Increase Cytokinin Levels

#### **Primo Effects**

A Shift of Plant Carbohydrates to Crowns,
 Stems, and Roots May Increase Rooting and

**Tillering** 



## **Conclusions From Trial**

- Primo Applied in Spring and Summer Improves Divot Resistance for Fields Used in the Fall
  - Increase in TillerNumber
  - Increase in Root Mass



## **Conclusions From Trial**

- Primo Applications
   Continued During the
   Season Did Not
   Improve Divot
   Resistance
  - May Negatively Affect
     Recovery from Wear



# **K. Bluegrass Cultivars**

Primo had biggest effect on least divot resistant cultivars

 Most divot resistant: Limousine, Rugby II, P105, Julia

Least divot resistant: Baron and Midnight

# K. Bluegrass Cultivars & Primo

 Primo made least divot resistant cultivars perform like most divot resistant cultivars (untreated)



# What About Bermudagrass?

- University of Tennessee
   Research William
   Haselbauer
  - Primo
  - Similar treatments to Penn State study (also overseeding)
  - Tifway, Celebration,
     Riviera, Patriot



# **Bermudagrass and Primo**

 "Pre-Stress Conditioning" Primo treatment improved traffic tolerance

Continuing Primo apps through season decreased traffic tolerance

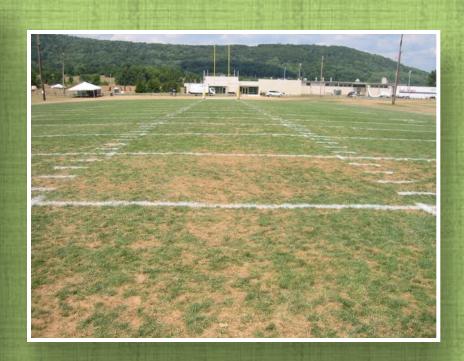
 Overseeding combined with "Pre-Stress Conditioning" Primo treatment was best

# **Bermudagrass Cultivars**

Tifway and Celebration were best

Riviera performed well

 Patriot – least traffic tolerance



# Other PGRs on Bermudagrass

University of Tennessee – Dr. Jim Brosnan

- Ethephon (Proxy)
- Trinexapac-ethyl (Primo)
- Paclobutrazol (Trimmit)
- Flurprimidol (Cutless)
- Flurprimidol + Trinexapac-ethyl
- Ethephon + Trinexapac-ethyl

# Other PGRs on Bermudagrass

- Riviera bermudagrass
- "Pre-Stress Conditioning" Primo treatment
- Primo and combinations with Primo improved traffic tolerance



#### **Conclusions From Trials**

PGR: Primo

When to apply: Before traffic stress

- When to avoid:
  - Fields used heavily throughout the year
  - During the season
  - Spring recovery?

# **Application Intervals**

When do I re-apply?

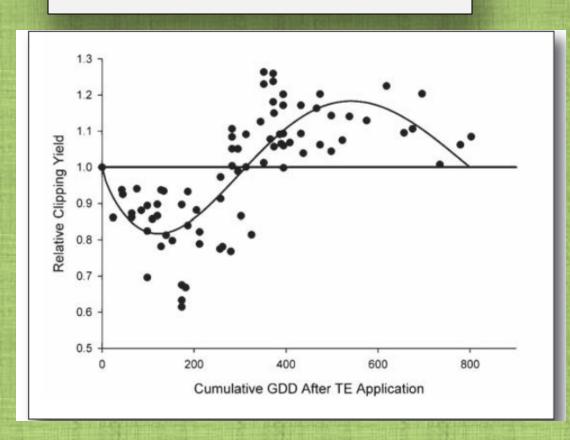
 Duration of growth regulation dependent on temperature

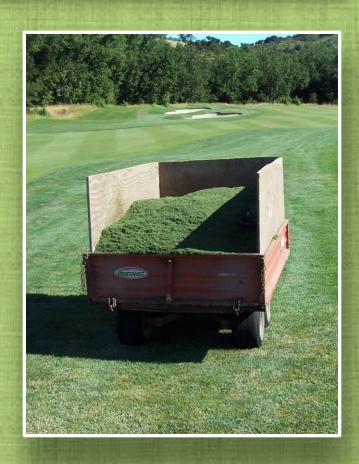
 Calendar based system may not be best



## **PGR Rebound**

 Growth rates up to 160% of normal rate





# When Will Rebound Happen?

 Trinexapac-ethyl metabolism directly related to air temperature (Beasley and Branham, 2005)

- 6.4 day half life at 64° F (18° C)
- 3.2 day half life at 86° F (30° C)

 Breakdown faster at higher temps – can it be predicted?

# **Growing Degree Day Model**

- University of Wisconsin
  - Bill Kreuser (Cornell)

 Daily high and low temps (base of 0° C)

 Goal: Avoid rebound by applying at <u>proper</u> <u>intervals</u>

#### University of Wisconsin-Madison Turfgrass Science



#### Plant Growth Regulator Re-application Intervals

When a plant growth regulator is applied, it blocks hormone synthesis. The normal hormone synthesis will resume after the growth regulator is metabolized, or broken down, by the plant. The speed of growth regulator metabolism is strongly influenced by temperature. Therefore, the calendar based re-application interval is only a crude approximation of how long the growth regulator will work. It may work for only one week in the summer, or six weeks in the fall depending on temperature.

Based on five years of research, we've developed a growing degree day for accurately determining the proper re-application interval for trinexapacethyl and paclobutrazol for creeping bentgrass putting greens. Different plant metabolize growth regulators at different rates, so these models are only valid for creeping bentgrass.

#### Download the scheduling spreadsheet here

Additional info regarding the growing degree day models for plant growth regulators:

# **Growing Degree Day Model**

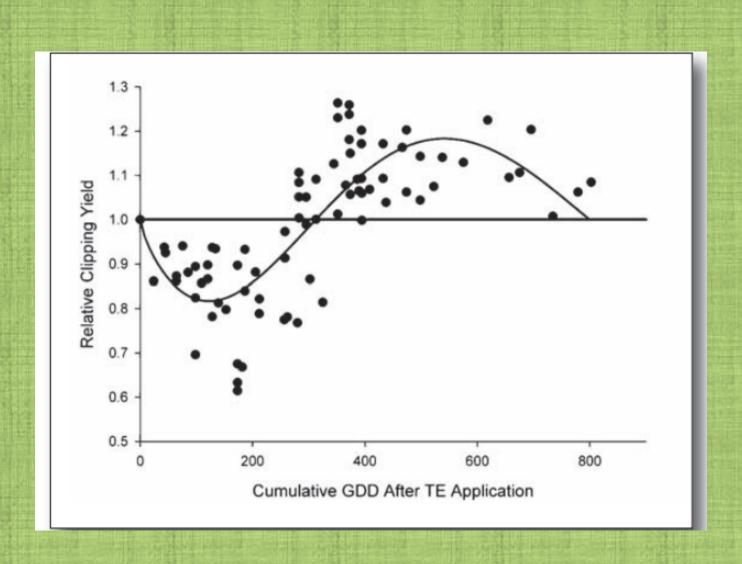
Primo rate: 0.125 oz / 1000 ft²

- Research Findings (creeping bent green):
  - Suppression first 200 GD (rebound if longer)

- May (avg temp 57) = 14 days

- July (avg temp 72) = 9 days

## **Primo Rebound Effect**



# **Growing Degree Days Calculators**



What's New

What is iTunes

What's on iTunes

iTunes Charts

View More By This Developer

low

#### **Growing Degree Days**

By iNet Solutions Group

Open iTunes to buy and download apps.



#### View In iTunes

#### Free

Category: Weather

Updated: Apr 05, 2011
Version: 4.0
Size: 4.5 MB
Language: English
Seller: iNet Solutions Group, Inc.
@ iNet Solutions Group, Inc.
Rated 4+

Requirements: Compatible with iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad.Requires iOS 3.1 or later

#### Customer Ratings

Current Version:

#### Description

The Farm Progress Growing Degree Days application measures the maturity of your crop by viewing current and past growing degree days data for your farm's location. Growing degree days (GDD) are a measure of heat accumulation used in agriculture to predict the date that crops will reach maturity.

iNet Solutions Group Web Site+ Growing Degree Days Support+

...More

#### What's New in Version 4.0

Growing Degree Days can now be viewed either in Map or Text mode.

More detailed weather information added including: current conditions, animated radar, hourly forecast, extended

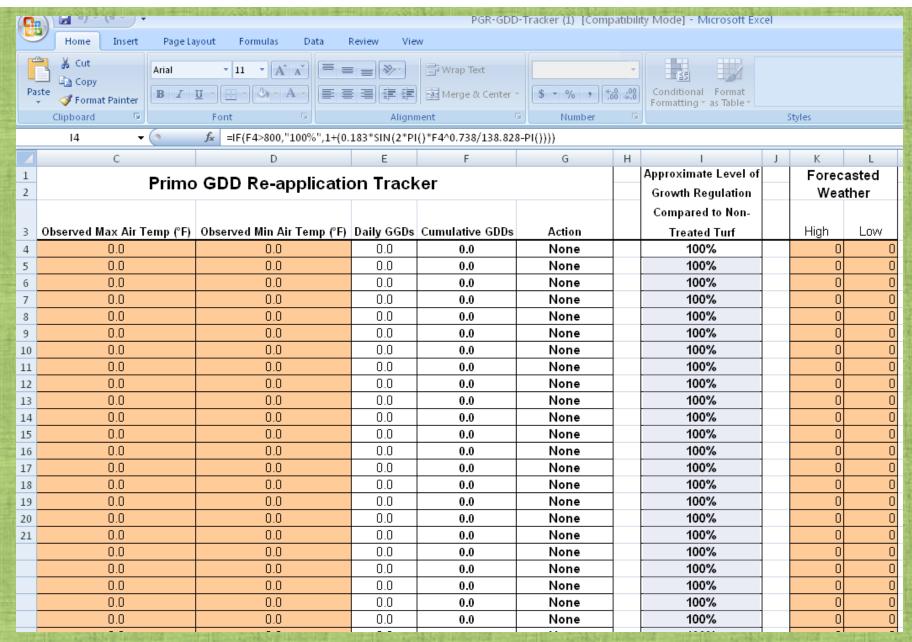
...More

#### iPhone Screenshots



Verizon 3G 2:3	1 PM	_	
<b>Zip:</b> 68154	Su	bmit	
Month	2010	2009	
Total	3348	3025	
Sep	374	471	
Aug	731	647	

#### http://turf.wisc.edu/growing-degree-day-maps/primo-trimmit-re-application-intervals/



# **Example - Spring**

1 2	Primo GDD Re-application Tracker				
3	Observed Max Air Temp (°F)	Observed Min Air Temp (°F)	Daily GGDs	Cumulative GDDs	Action
4	60.0	45.0	11.4	0.0	None
5	57.0	48.0	11.4	11.4	None
6	62.0	48.0	12.8	24.2	None
7	62.0	49.0	13.1	37.2	None
8	59.0	50.0	12.5	49.7	None
9	60.0	48.0	12.2	61.9	None
LO	62.0	50.0	13.3	75.3	None
l1	62.0	52.0	13.9	89.2	None
L2	60.0	52.0	13.3	102.5	None
L3	63.0	52.0	14.2	116.7	None
	0.0	0.0	0.0	440.7	Mana

# **Example - Summer**

		C	D	E	F	G	H
	2	Primo GDD Re-application Tracker					
	3	Observed Max Air Temp (°F)	Observed Min Air Temp (°E)	Daily GGDe	Cumulative CDDs	Action	
	4	88.0	65.0	24.7	0.0	None	-
	5	91.0	63.0	25.0	25.0	None	
	6	86.0	68.0	25.0	50.0	None	
	7	81.0	62.0	21.9	71.9	None	
	8	89.0	70.0	26.4	98.3	None	
	9	90.0	65.0	25.3	123.6	None	
	10	92.0	65.0	25.8	149.4	None	
4	11	88.0	66.0	25.0	174.4	None	
1	12	84.0	68.0	24.4	198.9	None	
	13	82.0	70.0	24.4	223.3	Re-apply Primo	
		0.0	0.0		0000	B . B .	

# **Growing Degree Day Model**

- Rate vs. Application interval
  - 0.125 fl oz and 0.25 fl oz

 0.25 fl oz did not increase level or duration of yield suppression (0.25 rate- higher visual quality)

Designed for putting greens

Paclobutrazol – 300 GDD (bent)

# **Growing Degree Day Model**

Suppression phase – air temp not calendar

 Re-apply Primo every 200 GDD on creeping bentgrass greens

 Rates greater than 0.125 fl oz / 1000 ft² do not increase suppression

# Cost Analysis – 2 Mowings/Week to 1 Mowing/Week

	No Primo	Primo – 3 Apps (May-July)
Primo¹ (\$90/Field/App)	\$0	\$270
Primo Application <sup>2</sup> (\$40/Field/App)	\$0	\$120
Mowing <sup>3</sup>	\$960	\$480
Total	\$960	\$870

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Primo Cost Based on \$400/gallon at rate of 0.5 oz/1000ft<sup>2</sup> (28.8oz/field)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Application Cost includes labor, fuel, maintenance

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Mowing Cost includes labor, fuel, maintenance for 12 weeks of mowing (May 31 – Aug 30) and is based on 2 mowings/week for non Primo and 1 mowing/week for Primo (2002)

# **Applying Primo**

- Foliar Absorbed
  - Must Dry on Leaf (Label Says 1 Hour)

 Expect 50% Growth Reduction (Effects 3-5 Days After Application)

- May Have Some Discoloration After First Application
  - Then Darker Green Color

### **Do Not Apply to Stressed Turf**



Do Not Apply
 Immediately Before or
 After Cultural Practices

(Aerification, Verticutting, etc.)



- May Enhance Fungicide Activity (Primo)
- Longer Recuperation Time From Damage





 Be Ready for Post-Suppression Growth Surge (Rebound Effect)

 Use it to Your Advantage



### **Other Uses**

### **Primo in Turf Marking Paint**



### **Primo in Paint**

Primo Label: 1 oz/Gallon on Paint (Monthly)





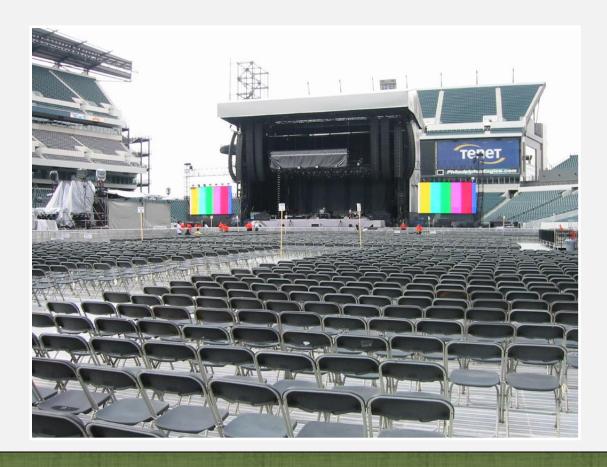


## **Primo in Paint**



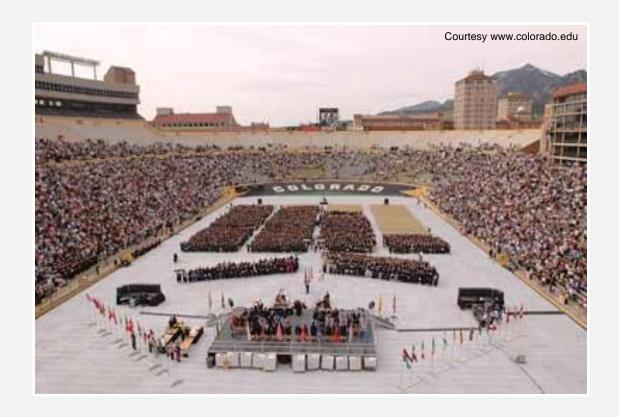
### **Other Uses For Primo**

Preparation for Non-Sports Events



# **Non-Sports Events**

#### Graduations



# **Non-Sports Events**

- Recommendations:
  - Primo Application at Least 2 Months Before
     Event

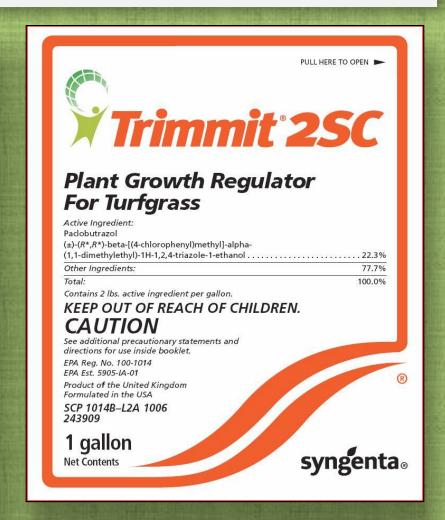
 Primo Application 21 Days Before Field is to be Uncovered

Growth Surge – grow out of damage

Recommendations by Steve LeGros (Sports Field Mgmt, Nov. 2007)



- Trimmit (Paclobutrazol)
  - Root-Absorbed Water in
  - Include Some N to MaskDiscoloration
  - Slows Growth 6 8Weeks



Reduces Population
 Over Time

Discoloration



- Be Careful!
  - Know How Much Poa You Have
  - Can Discoloration Be Tolerated?
  - Can You Establish Turf in its Place?

 During Play – Actively Growing Poa is Better than Injured Poa

Seed Desirable Species (Perennial Ryegrass)

Football Fields: Apply in Spring

Baseball Fields: Apply in Fall

Do Not Apply During Hot Weather

 Label: Do Not Seed Within 6 Weeks Prior or 2 Weeks After Application

### **PGRs on Athletic Fields**

Do Not Apply on Heavily Used Fields

- Primo "Preconditioning" Use During Spring and Summer and then Stop Applications Before Season
  - Increase Tillering
  - Increase Rooting

#### **PGRs on Athletic Fields**

Primo in Paint

Apply Before Non-Sports Events

Poa annua Control?

Be Sure to Read Label

#### Penn State's Center for Sports Surface Research



#### Website: http://ssrc.psu.edu



"Like" Penn State's Center for Sports Surface Research



@ PSUsportsturf