Photo by K. Steinke

Organic matter in bermudagrass greens

The primary limitation of ultradwarf bermudagrass greens is the accumulation of excessive amounts of organic matter. Superintendents say that aeration and topdressing cannot be done often enough to manage organic matter accumulation. The objective of this research is to determine the effectiveness and limitations of venting aerification compared with standard aerification in managing organic matter in high, moderate and low-growth-rate ultradwarf bermudagrass varieties. This field study is located in College Station, Texas, on an established green with Tifdwarf, Tifeagle and Miniverde bermudagrasses. Three frequencies of venting aerification and three frequencies of standard aerification practice will be compared with a non-aerified control. We will collect data on organic matter accumulation, soil moisture, rooting, ball-roll distance, turfgrass quality and pest incidence and severity. This research is part of the GCSAA Chapter Cooperative Research program with funding from the South Texas GCSA and The Environmental Institute for Golf. **— Kurt Steinke, Ph.D. (ksteinke@ag.tamu.edu), Texas A&M University**

Environmental Institute for Golf

2008 GCSAA research grants

GCSAA's Research Task Group approved 11 new research projects to begin in 2008, with total funding of more than $180,000 over the next three years. Eight of the projects are in the Chapter Cooperative Research Program; one is in the National Research Program; one is funded by a Mark Kizziar Research Grant; and one by Aquatrols' Robert A. Moore Endowment Fund. All the new projects focus on applied research that yields results superintendents can put into practice. Over the next four months, all the new research will be profiled in the Cutting Edge. For 2008, GCSAA received 32 proposals requesting more than $560,000 in funding over a three-year period. The Environmental Institute for Golf provides GCSAA's share of funding for the projects. **— Clark Throssell, Ph.D. (cthrossell@gcsaa.org), director of research, GCSAA**

Photo by B. McGraw

Nondestructive sampling of annual bluegrass weevils

The annual bluegrass weevil is a serious pest of closely mowed annual bluegrass turf in the Northeast. Insecticide applications can effectively manage ABW, but determining the proper timing of an insecticide application depends on the number and life stage of ABW present. Current sampling techniques are not practical or reliable. The objective of this research is to determine the potential of vacuum sampling to detect adult ABW on fairways and correlate the presence of adults on fairways with future larval populations. A backpack vacuum will be used to capture adult ABW from plots on fairways. Soil cores will be taken later in the season to correlate larval numbers with adults captured during vacuum sampling. This research is part of the GCSAA Chapter Cooperative Research program with funding from the GCSA of New Jersey, Long Island GCSA, Mountain and Valley GCSA and The Environmental Institute for Golf. **— Albrecht Koppenhöfer, Ph.D. (koppenhofer@aesop.rutgers.edu), Rutgers University**

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Clark Throssell, Ph.D.

Clark Throssell (cthrossell@gcsaa.org) is GCSAA's director of research.