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OLCANNEWS

IT PAYS TO BE GREEN



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

A GRATEFUL EMBRACE – NOVEMBER 5

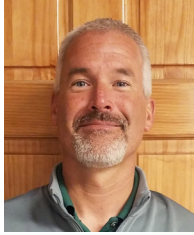
Dayton National Cemetery, Dayton, OH

The Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery, Rittman, OH

We invite all lawn care and landscape professionals to join us on Saturday, November 5 at the Dayton National Cemetery in Dayton and/or Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery in Rittman for “A Grateful Embrace”. Show your support to our soldiers and veterans by giving back to those who gave all.

For more information, visit www.ohiolawncare.org.

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT, Bob Brower, Lawn Plus, LLC



Fall has arrived and the finish line to the 2022 season is nearing! I hope everyone has had a great 2022 season and is finishing the season strong! Every year we face new challenges but one consistent in our industry that we all face every year is weather. I know for us here in the southern Ohio area we are begging for rain. It's always nice being able to get our scheduled services completed in a timely manner but some moisture for the completed fall seedings and fall aerations would be very beneficial right now! I just returned from Colorado where I met with our peer group discussing issues, prices and where we see our industry in 2023. The inflation issues are real and not going away anytime soon. Products for 2023 will continue to rise. Labor costs are going to continue to increase as well. The question all lawn care operators are going to ask is how much more is our customers going to take? I think with the nights getting dark earlier and the temps getting colder this is a good time to sit back and take a deep breath and reflect on how your customers handled the increases this year. What could you have done better? Most importantly what goals are you setting for yourself for next year? I recommend each and every one of you, if you are not in a peer group, find one. You are not in this alone and finding great mentors and fellow lawn care operators to discuss business with is very beneficial. One thing I would love to see all lawn care operators get involved in is the upcoming Grateful Embrace! This is the one event that you can give back to those who gave all! There are 2 locations on November 5 in Dayton and Rittman, Ohio. Please consider giving your time on this one Saturday for this special event! I also look forward to seeing everyone at the OTF Conference and Show, December 5-8. Please stop by our OLCA booth during the tradeshow and introduce yourself! I hope everyone has a great last quarter of the 2022 season and don't forget to set your goals for next year!



FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Mark Bennett, CAE, IOM

We appreciate your continued support of the Ohio Lawn Care Association (OLCA) in 2022. We had a great turnout in August for our Field Day at the OSU Turfgrass Research Center. As the weather begins to cool and your season begins to slow, know that OLCA continues to strive to help you protect and grow your business.

The Grateful Embrace on Saturday, November 5 in both Dayton and Rittman to help winterize the grounds of two veterans' cemeteries celebrating its 29th anniversary. Since 1994, OLCA, through its generous membership, has devoted countless volunteer hours and materials to the task of working on the hallowed grounds these cemeteries. Plan to have your company register for this annual event.

OLCA will hold its annual meeting in conjunction with the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Conference & Show in December in Columbus. Watch for additional information coming soon. This is your opportunity to hear about what your industry's association has done in the past year to help strengthen your lawn care business.

OLCA membership renewals will be mailing soon. Be sure to renew your membership to take advantage of all of the great benefits OLCA has to offer. For just \$165 for the year, your entire company can join OLCA. The average OLCA member saves more than \$1,500 annually on its workers compensation premium. That's more than \$10 return on investment for every dollar you spend on OLCA membership dues! Additionally, OLCA offers its members additional discounts on lead generation, plant/pest diagnostics and soil sample analysis.

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Batchelder Company

Autumn is officially upon us which means golf season is winding down, football season is ramping up and Ohio's lawmakers are hitting the campaign trail ahead of November's midterm elections. All 99 seats in Ohio's House of Representatives are on the ballot this year as well as 16 of Ohio's 33 state Senate seats. All five of the statewide office holders are on the ballot as well. In light of recent polling we do not anticipate any major changes in Ohio's political landscape after this year's election. All five statewide officials are expected to cruise to reelection and the legislature is expected to maintain its two-thirds republican supermajorities in the House and Senate.

Our legislative team has been busy this summer meeting with each member of the House and Senate Agriculture committees. We are grateful for OLCA and OTF's board leadership who made themselves available during their busiest time of year to introduce themselves to these legislators and provide them with background information about the industry. We have also been working on draft language for a fertilizer preemption amendment that would essentially ban local governments from banning commercial and residential use of fertilizer. We have shared this language with the Agriculture committee members in each chamber and have been pleased with the responses we have heard. As of this point, we have received no pushback from any of the majority committee members. Lastly, we also delivered grass seed planters to all 132 legislative members as a way to introduce ourselves and make a positive impression with each member and staff.

Ohio's legislative session will resume the week following the election in November and will meet for approximately five weeks before concluding the 134th General Assembly. These final weeks will be a flurry of legislative activity to pass bills into law before they die at the end of the year. House Speaker, Bob Cupp (R-Lima) is term-limited so a new House Speaker will be selected by the Republican caucus following November's election to begin the new General Assembly in January. Our legislative team will continue to stay involved in the legislative process while looking to pass our fertilizer preemption amendment, and will closely monitor all legislation to avoid any unwanted surprises. We sincerely thank you for all of your support so far in 2022 and look forward to continuing to serve the interests of OLCA and OTF at the Statehouse for the remainder of the year.

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WEED CONTROL UPDATE – 2022

D.S. Gardner, Dept. of Horticulture and Crop Science, The Ohio State University

BROADLEAF WEED CONTROL

There had been a multi-year drought of new products for weed control in turfgrass. However, at long last, some new active ingredients and combination herbicide products are being released. Note that at time of printing, some are still pending registration.

Halauxifen-methyl

The branded name for this new active ingredient from Corteva (Formerly Dow AgroSciences) is Arylex and it is a synthetic auxin herbicide, but in a different chemical class, called Arylpicolinates. This should help with some herbicide resistance issues that have been observed in turf. It mimics plant growth hormones and disrupts the weed's growth process. Arylex is particularly active on plantains but also has good activity on a variety of broadleaf weeds. GameOn is on the market and combines Arylex with 2,4-D choline (a unique formulation of 2,4-D) and fluroxypyr and will be labelled for control of over 100 broadleaf weed species. It is also supposed to have lower volatility and reduced odor. If approved by the EPA, another product called Relzar will combine Arylex with florasulam. Studies have shown good activity on more than 60 broadleaf weeds including dandelion, broadleaf plantain, chickweed, clover, and henbit. Relzar is recommended to be used with a non-ionic surfactant. The product is reported to be rainfast in one hour. A third product, this one from PBI Gordon, called Switchblade is also in the approval process. It will combine Arylex with fluroxypyr and dicamba.

Flumioxazin

This is not a new active ingredient. It has been available for many years marketed as SureGuard or Broadstar for weed control in nurseries, container ornamentals or landscapes. Do not, ever, apply SureGuard or Broadstar to turfgrass (unless it's dormant bermudagrass). Having

said that, researchers at NuFarm have figured out a way to make flumioxazin safe for use in turfgrass and it is in a new formulated herbicide called Sure Power. Along with flumioxazin, Sure Power also contains 2,4-D, triclopyr and fluroxypyr. Sure Power is labelled for the control of 250 weed species. It is very effective, but particularly on a couple of weeds (ground ivy and wild violet) that have been very difficult for turf managers to control. Research studies conducted at The Ohio turfgrass Foundation Research and Education Center show that control of ground ivy after application of this product can exceed 80% within 3 days and be near 100% at 7 days after application. Some issues with injury to turfgrass have been reported. These tend to last about 2-3 weeks and is more likely to occur if used during early spring or early fall. Sure Power is a good option for broadleaf weed control either in summer or in late fall, when the grass is green but not actively growing.

Florasulam

Some additional research has been conducted on florasulam (the active ingredient in Defendor herbicide) since its initial release. Defendor can be used safely on all major turfgrasses and should be applied at typical preemergence crabgrass timing.

To prevent dandelion flowering, application should be made prior to dandelion bloom. Weeds controlled include dandelion, white clover, common and mouse-ear chickweed, mustard, and shepherd's purse. Research conducted at The Ohio State University shows that a single application of Defendor herbicide in spring can give >90% control of both dandelion and clover for 84 days. Additional research has shown Defendor to be very effective when applied in fall, especially during the month of November. Its activity in cool weather and its weed control spectrum make it a good choice if you have problems mainly with dandelions, white clover, and winter annual weeds.

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Chelated iron

Not new, but there is ever increasing interest in “organic” weed control and there are several products, such as Fiesta, Natria, and Iron-X herbicide, that contain a type of chelated iron that, when applied to turf, acts as a selective postemergence herbicide against a wide spectrum of broadleaf weeds. Control is very rapid, with nearly 100% burn down achieved often within 24 hours. It is important to note that this is a contact herbicide. In order to achieve long-term weed control, the total amount of chelated iron applied over a season is at least as important as the schedule of the applications. Best results have been with three applications of a 4% solution applied at 5 gallons per 1000 square feet applied at 21day intervals. This has resulted in excellent control of dandelion, white clover and ground ivy and good control of broadleaf plantain for up to 80 days. This product can also be quite effective on some of our more difficult to control summer and winter annual broadleaf weeds. This product is on the EPA minimum risk pesticide list and is usually legal to use in places where there has been a ban implemented on pesticide use in turf. The product can discolor the turfgrass by turning it dark green or even black if used in hot weather. Because of this, it should be used in cooler weather (50-65°F) to reduce the potential darkening of the turfgrass. Research has been conducted at The Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Research and Education Center in collaboration with several universities around the Midwest to further test chelated iron and other active ingredients on the EPA minimum risk list for control of broadleaf weeds. There is also research being conducted to test combinations of chelated iron herbicides with corn gluten meal for crabgrass control.

Timing of Application of Broadleaf Herbicides

Turfgrass managers typically will apply broadleaf herbicides in the spring for the control of weeds such as dandelion, white clover, and the plantains. Ironically, this can result in large bare patches that are filled in by annual grasses, such as crabgrass, and annual broadleaf weeds, such as spurge. In addition, weed control tends to be less effective with springtime applications. Dandelions, white clover, and several other key lawn weeds are perennials. That is, they persist from year to year via an underground storage structure that may or may not include a taproot.

It is probably not possible or practical to tell a client in April to hold off on dandelion control until November. However, fall always has, and will continue to be, the best time of year to control perennial broadleaf weeds. Fall herbicide applications offer several advantages over

springtime applications. Most annual ornamental plants and vegetables have reached maturity and leaves of trees and shrubs are beginning to turn color and fall off the plant. Therefore, the chance of non-target injury due to drift is greatly reduced. Also, winter annual weeds such as henbit and common chickweed are controlled if the application is done after they germinate. But, the major advantage of fall applications is effectiveness of control.

Perennial weeds typically generate new vegetative growth in the early spring, flowers in late spring or early summer, and then persist into fall. During the spring, when the weed is generating new vegetative growth, it uses carbohydrates stored over winter in the underground storage structures. To bring these materials to the generating leaves, the plant translocates the carbohydrates from below ground upward. In order to get effective control the herbicide must translocate throughout the root system and the underground structures. If you apply herbicides in the spring they must move against this upward translocation stream. Spring applied herbicides are almost never as effective as they could be, because the herbicide can't as effectively reach all of the below ground structures of the weed. During the fall, the weed begins to store carbohydrates for over-winter and for next year's growth. When this occurs, the translocation stream is downward. Herbicides applied when the plant is actively translocating carbohydrates underground are also more effectively moved into the roots and storage structures, resulting in better overall control of below ground structures.

In most situations you will encounter annual and perennial broadleaf weeds in the same turf stand. However, in rare instances in a mature lawn (or if you are seeding a lawn), you may encounter a turf area with annual broadleaf weeds only. If this is the case, then fall application of herbicides are probably not warranted since annual weeds are at the end of their life cycle. The only situation in which you would target annual weeds in the fall is if their cover is so great as to interfere with good growth of the turfgrass. Annual broadleaf weeds and annual grassy weeds are more appropriately controlled using preemergence herbicides applied in the spring.

If, however, you encounter a significant percentage of perennial weeds, then fall is the best time to spray.

BROADLEAF HERBICIDE – PHENOXY AND PYRIDINOXY COMBINATION PRODUCTS

Products	2,4-D	2,4-DP	MCPA	MCPP	Dicamba	Clopyralid	Fluroxypyr	Quinclorac	Triclopyr	Carfentrazone	Sulfentrazone	Pyraflufen	Florasulam	Flumioxazin	Halauxifen
Formula 40, Dymec, Weedone LV4, Weedar 64, LESCO A-4D, Weedestroy AM-40, Opti-Amine, Hardball, Barrage HF	■														
MCPP 4-Amine, Turfgro MCPP 4K, Mecomec 2.5, Mecomec 4				■											
2 Plus 2	■			■											
Banvel, Diablo, Vanquish					■										
Four-Power Plus, Super D Weedone	■				■										
Trimec Classic, Trimec 899, Trimec 992, Trimec LAF-637, Strike 3, Three Way Selective, Trimec Bent, Bent Selective, Triplet WS, Triplet SF, Trexsan, Mec-Amine-D, Mec Amine-BG, Trimec Plus, 3-D	■			■											
Triad	■		■		■										
MCPA 4-Amine			■												
Tri-Power, Trimec Encore			■	■											
Weedone DPC, Turf D-DP	■	■													
Trimec Turf Ester, Super Trimec, Brushmaster	■	■			■										
Three Way Ester, Tri-ester, Tri-amine, Dissolve, Spoiler	■	■		■											
Tri-ester II, Tri-amine II		■	■												
Turfion Ester Ultra, Triclopyr 4								■							
Chaser, Chaser 2, Turflon II amine	■							■							
Cool Power, Horsepower, Three-Way Ester II, Eliminate			■		■			■							
Lontrel					■										
Chaser Ultra			■		■										
Confront, 2-D					■			■							
Momentum	■				■			■							
Battleship			■		■			■							
Millenium Ultra 2, Millenium Ultra Plus	■				■										
Spotlight					■			■							
Chaser Ultra 2		■	■												
Tailspin								■							
Battleship III			■					■							
Change Up			■		■			■							
Last Call (also contains fenoxaprop)					■			■							
Momentum FX, Momentum FX2	■				■			■							
Escalade 2	■				■			■							
Strike Three Ultra 3	■	■						■							
Drive, Drive XLR8, Quinclorac 75 DF, QuinPro, Eject 75DF								■							
Onetime				■	■			■							
Quincept, 2DQ	■				■			■							
Defendor													■		
GameOn	■							■							■
Relzar (Registration Pending)														■	■
Switchblade (Registration Pending)					■		■								■
Sure Power	■							■						■	

Note: Not all products listed are still currently for sale. Mention of trade name is for example only and does not constitute endorsement over other products which may be similar. Products in bold are newer releases.

BROADLEAF HERBICIDE – PROTOX INHIBITOR AND OTHER COMBINATION PRODUCTS

Products	2,4-D	2,4-DP	MCPA	MCPP	Dicamba	Clopyralid	Fluroxypyr	Quinclorac	Triclopyr	Carfentrazone	Sulfentrazone	Pyraflufen	Florasulam	Flumioxazin	Halauexifen
Quicksilver, Quicksilver T & O															
Shutout															
Speedzone															
Powerzone															
Redzone															
Triad SFZ Select															
Dismiss															
Dismiss NXT															
Surge, SureZone															
Q4, Q4 Plus															
Momentum 4-Score															
Octane															
Solitare															
4 Speed, Redzone 2															
4 Speed XT															
T-Zone, Foundation															

Note: Not all products listed are still currently for sale. Mention of trade name is for example only and does not constitute endorsement over other products which may be similar. Products in bold are newer releases.

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The key to maximizing control of perennial broadleaf weeds is to apply the right herbicides at the right time of year. You should also consult the label to determine if the addition of a surfactant is warranted. The best time to apply herbicides is generally around the same time that the last mowing and fertilization of the year occurs (Late October to Mid-November in the Midwest). Air temperatures should be consistently in the 40's and 50's. Many university trials have proven that the best control of perennial broadleaf weeds occurs if they are sprayed at this time.

There are a couple of things remember about late fall herbicide applications. The plant is not metabolizing as quickly, and you will not see the dramatic burn down and twisting, epinasty that you normally see with an application in warmer weather. However, while it may not appear as though the application was effective, if you return to that spot next spring the weed will be dead and not coming back. Also, most broadleaf herbicides come in either amine or ester formulations. This is true of the phenoxy herbicides, including 2,4-D and MCPA, and the pyridinoy herbicides such as triclopyr. The ester formulation tends to penetrate the weed tissue better,

resulting in more complete control. This is especially true as temperatures cool in the fall. Ester formulations should be your choice when spraying in temperatures below 60 degrees. The caveat to esters is that they are very volatile and should be avoided when temperatures are warmer than 65 to 70 degrees. Remember that postemergence herbicides are most effective if applied during sunny weather with no rainfall within 24 hours of application. Another important advantage of fall broadleaf herbicide applications is that you can get good control of germinated winter annual broadleaf weeds.

GRASSY WEED CONTROL

Several new active ingredients for grassy weed control have been released in the past several years. Many of these products offer selectivity of control or effectiveness that was not previously available.

PoaCure Herbicide (Methiozolin)

After a ten-year registration effort, PoaCure is now available to the golf course market. It is registered for control of annual bluegrass (PRE and POST), rough bluegrass (POST) and crabgrass and goosegrass (PRE). It is very safe on cool season turfgrass.

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The main use of this product is for the control of annual bluegrass on creeping bentgrass putting greens. The key to effective use of the product is to know the biotype of annual bluegrass you are trying to control and to avoid programs that are too aggressive because you can remove the annual bluegrass faster than then bentgrass can recover. The PoaCure program on the label is designed for slow removal of Poa. It is important to stay on the program as environmental stress combined with treatment will result in best conversion back to creeping bentgrass. Following use, biostimulants and fertilizers can improve the rate of bentgrass recovery while PGR's may slow the rate. No resistance issues have been reported but it will be important to control escapes.

Xonerate Herbicide (Amicarbazone)

This product is used for control of annual bluegrass and 22 other weeds that are listed on the label. Control of annual bluegrass with any herbicide can be variable, but research has shown up to 90% control is possible with Xonerate. For cool season turfgrasses such as Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass the label includes 2 application schedules but most university research is recommending the lighter and more frequent 1.0 oz rate and to not apply when temperatures are too warm (above 85 degrees). Best control is achieved when applications are started in mid-April. Make sure to refer to the label for specific application instructions.

Pylex Herbicide (Topramezone)

A recent introduction from BASF has a similar mode of action to that of mesotrione, the active ingredient in Tenacity herbicide. Pylex has both pre and postemergence activity and is labelled for the control of 15 grassy and 39 broadleaf weeds, both annual and perennial. It is excellent for the control of goosegrass and dallisgrass. In addition, research has found that it can be very effective for the postemergence control of tillering crabgrass. Pylex also has activity on perennial grassy weeds and is labelled for either suppression or control bermudagrass, dallisgrass and nimblewill. Control of these weeds is achieved with a 2 or 3 application schedule like that of mesotrione. Consult the label for specifics. Like mesotrione, Pylex can be applied on the day of seeding for suppression or control of germinating grassy and broadleaf weeds but is safe to seedlings of tolerant turfgrass species.

Tips for Postemergence Control of Crabgrass and Other Annual Grassy Weeds

The bigger the weed, generally, the more difficult control will be. But control of leaf stage crabgrass in June will often result in more crabgrass germination following herbicide application.

For late stage (>6 tiller) crabgrass, research conducted at The Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Research and Education Center has found that application of a ½ label rate of quinclorac (e.g. Drive) combined with either a ½ label rate of topramezone (e.g. Pylex) or a ½ label rate of mesotrione (e.g. Tenacity). This combination has provided better than 95% control in our trials.

It's also important to properly identify the grassy weeds which are present because in most cases the herbicide recommendations for postemergence control differ. For example, goosegrass is better controlled with fenoxaprop while crabgrass is better controlled with fenoxaprop, quinclorac, or topramezone. Barnyardgrass is better controlled with fenoxaprop while field paspalum is better controlled with topramezone.

SEDGE CONTROL

Be aware that in addition to yellow nutsedge, false green kyllinga is now a commonly seen sedge in Ohio. False green kyllinga is a different species that produces rhizomes. Because of this, it can spread and form mats in the turf, which can cause decline of the turfgrass. Sedges can be difficult to differentiate vegetatively but has easy to recognize flower structures (Figure 1). In almost all cases, the herbicides that are recommended can be used interchangeably for sedge and kyllinga control.

Celero Herbicide (Imazosulfuron)

Celero is labelled for control of yellow and purple nutsedge as well as annual sedges and kyllingas. It is marketed more for kyllinga control in southern turf but does show good tolerance when used on northern turf. Since it is a different class of chemistry it provides a good option for managing weed resistance.

Dismiss NXT Herbicide (sulfentrazone + carfentrazone)

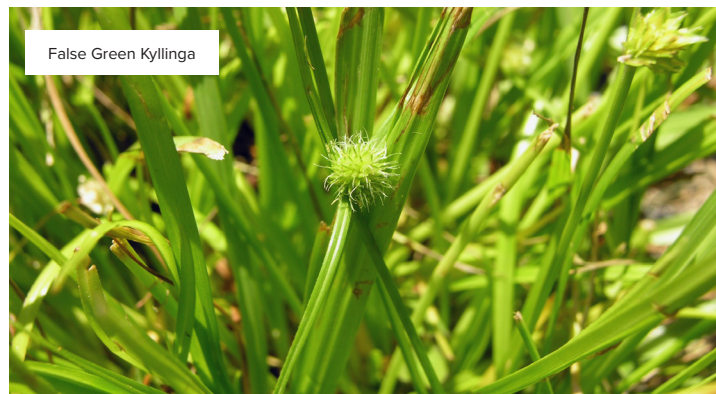
Dismiss NXT contains carfentrazone in addition to sulfentrazone, the active in Dismiss herbicide. This product is effective for control of sedges and summer annual broadleaf weeds.

Vexis Herbicide (Pyrimisulfan)

The branded name for this new active ingredient is Vexis and it has received EPA registration. It is available as a granular formulation for postemergence control of sedges and certain broadleaf weeds. That it is a granular formulation will reduce the chances for off target drift. Vexis will be labelled for use on residential and commercial sites, golf course fairways, tees and roughs and sports fields. Since it is a different class of chemistry it provides a good option for managing weeds with resistance to ALS-inhibiting herbicides.

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SEDGES



Species	Growth Habit	Vernation	Lamina	Inflorescence
Yellow Nutsedge <i>Cyperus esculentus</i>	Erect stems. Strongly rhizomatous. Tubers.	Leaves in 3 vertical rows. Stems are triangular in cross section.	Greenish-yellow color	Spikes. Each flower in the axil of a single bract (the glume).
False Green Kyllinga <i>Kyllinga brevifolia</i>	Strongly rhizomatous. Forms dense mats in turf. No tubers.	Leaves in 3 vertical rows. Stems are triangular in cross section.	Green. Narrower compared to yellow nutsedge.	Globular inflorescence. Each flower in the axil of a single bract.

Figure 1. Proper identification of sedges can be difficult. Kyllinga is more capable of surviving on close mowed turf, such as putting greens and fairways. The inflorescence is the easiest way to tell the species apart.

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We also have a number of short videos from Ohio State’s turf faculty speaking on subjects such as rust disease, effective use of fungicide, fertilizer programs, crabgrass control and more! Visit the website or call the office for additional information on any of these member benefits. Taking advantage of these benefits can significantly boost your company’s bottom line.

OLCA continues to promote the legislative interests of its membership through its lobbying team of Troy Judy, Chad Hawley and Jack Brubaker at The Bachelder Group as well as its active participation in the Ohio Professional Applicators for Responsible Regulation (OPARR) who has a new name – Ohio PLANT (Pesticide, Landscape, Agriculture, Nursery, Turfgrass professionals). OLCA works in conjunction with the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation on the Ohio Turfgrass Political Action Committee. This allows OLCA and OTF members to make donations and amplify the

voice of the turfgrass, lawn care, sports turf and golf course maintenance professionals at the Statehouse. You can give online at <https://ohioturfgrass.org/page/PACDonations> and add your name to the growing list of donors. This ensures your ability to effectively service your customers with the appropriate fertilizers and pesticides. This year, we met with a number of key members of the Ohio House and Senate Agriculture Committees and let them know about the importance and scope of the lawn care industry. It is setting the stage for when there are bills being heard in the legislature which affect the industry.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at 800-510-5296 or by email at mark@bennett-management-llc.com.

OLCA FIELD DAY RETURNS WITH A SENSE OF URGENCY AND NORMALCY

**Ed Nangle OSU CFAES Wooster
Campus and David Gardner OSU CFAES,
Columbus OH**

This year's annual turfgrass research and education field day returned with a bang to the Ohio State Turfgrass Research Farm in Columbus. The impact of the pandemic had nearly brought research activity to a halt for many of the faculty members and that combined with a lack of a turfgrass facility manager meant that the facility needed a reboot. In 2021 we were glad to be back and seeing everyone although numbers indicated that there was a lot of caution about attending events and there were still some limitations on time to put information together. This year however there were a host of changes both in the turfgrass team and in the field day. The arrival of Dr. Doug Karcher as chairman of the Department of Horticulture & Crop Science has reinvigorated the program and he has been instrumental in the hiring process to replace Dr. John Street with a new extension specialist which should be announced in the very near future.

The field day was familiar in format to previous years but with some tweaks. Education on the process of identifying turfgrass species was provided by Pam Sherratt which was well received by all. Dr. Karl Danneberger discussed the impact that the OSU turfgrass certificate program has been having and indicated the new Spanish version is in the pipeline and will be available soon. Dr. David Gardner provided updates on herbicides for high cut turf and talked about management strategies for landscape companies who are working with weed management problems in flower and landscape beds.

Dr. Dominic Petrella, a returning Ohioan and new addition to the team, certainly has provided impetus for research from his spot in Wooster. Dr. Petrella talked about fine fescues in shaded conditions from previous work that had been funded by OTF. This was followed up with content

looking the impact of rolling post fungicide applications on greens height turf – this trial is being run in conjunction with University of Minnesota and the combined data is expected to be published soon. Interestingly the data in Columbus showed that rolling post application of a contact fungicide in the Columbus trial had no negative impact on disease control.

Despite his administrative role Dr. Karcher was able to evaluate timing of wetting agent applications and their efficacy prior to, and during drought conditions. Five commonly used wetting agent products were applied at 7, 6, 4, and 2 weeks prior to Field Day. Dr. Karcher concluded that although wetting agents have been shown to be highly effective in mitigating drought stress in sand-based putting greens, there were minimal effects on the soil-based green used in this experiment. It will be important to construct sand-based, research putting greens in order to conduct future impactful wetting agent research in Ohio. Dr. Ed Nangle had a two-site trial that looked at biostimulant impacts on turf quality during drought conditions. The drought from both the wetting agent and biostimulant trials was implemented through the construction of a rainout shelter and this equipment will be making a regular appearance during research activities and field days going forward. Dr. Nangle's data indicated there were no clear differences between treatments and at times the application of urea at 0.1 lb/N per 1000ft² provided results on par with some of the treatments. Dr. Nangle also introduced the newly purchased Fluorescence camera which has been supported by all the chapters in the state along with funding from OSU. The camera is to our knowledge the only one in the country that can be utilized to collect data in the field indicating stress on turfgrass which are not visible to the naked eye – providing an exciting new tool to evaluate turf responses during environmentally stressful periods as well as responses to applications of various products.

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Dr. David Shetlar while officially retired – never stops! Dr. Shetlar discussed annual bluegrass weevil issues which are increasing across the state as well as offering updates on pesticide regulations and changes in grub control options for the high cut side of the turfgrass industry.

Todd Hicks provided updates on new fungicide products coming to market and had a range of plots focused on dollar spot. Further to that Todd also gave updates on diseases and diagnosis he had been seeing throughout the summer. Finally, Masters student Nicolas Narog discussed his project that was focused on DCD and the impact it has on reducing nitrogen losses particularly in heavy soils and where urea is used as the nitrogen source. This is Nicolas's final year, and we wish him the best as he moves forward with his career.

As you can see, we had a wide range of information provided and with new farm manager Brandon Stith finding his stride the farm was in fantastic shape. As mentioned, previously Dr. Doug Karcher has been incredibly valuable to the program in Columbus but it would be remiss of us to not mention Dr. Kris Boone in Wooster who has been equally important in the revival of the program up there. Excitement within the turf team is building ahead of many changes coming as well as the conference and show in December where we have a broad range of topics and a packed show that you really



shouldn't miss – both to learn and see old friends as we grow and come together again as an industry.

The turf team wants to thank all the attendees and supporters and we hope we have provided useful information. If there are any questions, please reach out to us as we can help with answers, including data or reports if needed. Best wishes for the rest of the season and see you all soon.

ORGANIC VERSUS SYNTHETIC HERBICIDES FOR WEED MANAGEMENT

D.S. Gardner, Dept. of Horticulture and
Crop Science, The Ohio State University

One of the routine maintenance tasks for lawn care operators is the control of weeds. Herbicides, when used according to the label, have been shown to present minimal risk to end users and are typically employed to selectively remove different weeds. However, we are increasingly seeing laws and regulations being passed aimed at reducing exposure to pesticides, including bans of pesticide use on public lands or on school property. At the same time, there is increasing interest in the use of organic alternatives to synthetic herbicides among homeowners. In these areas the use of synthetic herbicides is not permitted, and alternative management strategies need to be used.

In some locations, laws have been written to exclude the application of any product intended for use as a pesticide. In these areas your options to control weeds are to do nothing, pull by hand, or use some type of thermal product to burn the weed or optimize your cultural practices to favor the growth of the desired turf species.

In most areas the laws that ban synthetic pesticide use allow for the use of certain alternative products. Complicating our attempt to determine which products may or may not be used is that, quite frankly, there is no universal consensus on what can be considered an organic herbicide. Technically, in the minds of an organic chemist, an organic molecule is anything that contains carbon. Thus, the herbicide 2,4-D, which is short for 2,4 dichlorophenoxy acetic acid, is technically an organic molecule because there is a 6 carbon ring (a phenyl) with an oxygen attached to it (thus it's a phenoxy) and there are chlorine atoms attached to the number 2 and

number 4 carbon atoms on the ring (that's why the 2, and 4- are part of the name).

Obviously, the typical home gardener, advocate, activist, government official or regulator does not adhere to the technical definition of what an organic molecule is. In the minds of them and most, organic means something more like "natural." Ironically, there are plenty of natural compounds that are quite toxic. We used to use some of them as pesticides (like nicotine). Other terms that used to describe non-synthetic ("organic") pesticides include "non-toxic", "low-impact", or "minimum risk".

The EPA keeps a list of active ingredients that are eligible to be considered minimum risk products, including herbicides. These are exempt from federal registration and thus do not have an EPA registration number. Any active that appears on this list can probably still be used when synthetic herbicide use is not permitted. Commonly seen active ingredients for weed control in turf that appear on this list include corn gluten meal and sodium chloride. The EPA also has a list of approved biopesticides. These are reduced risk products but do not meet the criteria necessary for EPA exemption. Chelated iron is an example of an herbicide in this category.

Unfortunately, there is a lot of confusion regarding some other products that may be being sold or used as low impact or minimum risk herbicides. Examples include not only chelated iron containing herbicides, but also acetic acid, and pelargonic acid. These products may or may not be permitted in areas where synthetic pesticides are banned. The bottom line is that there are too many laws that are too variable to summarize here. So if you are considering the use of organic herbicides because a law was passed in your area that says you have to, you need to check specifically as to what products you are allowed to use. There is, of course, also the chance that you might be considering the use of organic herbicides because either you or the users of the field want you to.

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Thus the goal of this article is to compare some of the expectations, advantages, and disadvantages of organic herbicides compared to their synthetic counterparts.

Organics Compared to Synthetics for Nonselective Weed Control

Traditionally it is recommended that glyphosate be used for nonselective weed control because it has systemic activity. There are a couple of other synthetic herbicides that are non-selective. However, each of these is a contact herbicide. Included in this list is pelargonic acid, which is sometimes sold by vendors of organic herbicides. Pelargonic acid is very fast, with control sometimes achieved within 30 minutes. However, it is a contact herbicide meaning that repeat applications are required in order to get control of perennial weeds. The majority of products that are from the EPA minimum risk list that are marketed for weed control are non-selective, including cinnamon oil and eugenol. Acetic acid is sometimes used as an herbicide but does not appear on the EPA minimum risk list. Again, it is important for you to determine what is and is not allowed if you are in an area where synthetic pesticide use has been banned.

Organics Compared to Synthetics for Preemergence Weed Control

In a typical weed management program, for general preemergence control of grassy and broadleaf weeds, one of several registered herbicides, such as oxadiazon, pendimethalin, proflam, and dithiopyr. All of these are older chemistries and are post-patent so there are several different formulated products. Each of these actives will typically give at least 80% control of crabgrass for about 90-150 days, depending on use rate and weather conditions following application. Control exceeding 95% is possible with the right product and if other cultural management practices are optimized. In addition, these active ingredients are labeled for preemergence control of many annual broadleaf weeds.

The option available if using organic products is

corn gluten meal. It is a by-product of the wet milling process of corn and is used, among other things, as an ingredient in animal feeds. Technically, it is fit for human consumption. It's just not very appetizing. Corn gluten meal was discovered by accident in the late 1980's by Iowa State University Turfgrass Professor Nick Christians. Work conducted in his lab during the 1990's determined that corn gluten meal contains a large amount of bioactive dipeptides that mimic the action of some commercially available synthetic herbicides. Other work determined that corn gluten meal had preemergence activity against a variety of different weeds in turfgrass, such as crabgrass but also dandelions. Remember that some perennial weeds are relatively short lived and rely on new seedlings in order to perpetuate the population. In these cases a preemergence herbicide can, over time, decrease the population of weeds by decreasing newly germinated seedlings. In field studies it was determined that the best strategy for use of corn gluten meal is to make two applications per year. One is in the spring to prevent crabgrass and other spring germinating weeds. The other applications should be made in the fall to provide at least partial control of germinating broadleaf weeds.

Since the application of phosphorus has become controversial, an additional benefit of corn gluten meal is that it is 10% nitrogen by weight and contains no phosphorus or potassium. The recommended application rate of corn gluten meal is 20 pounds per thousand square feet. This application thus provides two pounds of slowly available nitrogen and applying in both fall and spring would therefore provide four pounds of your annual nitrogen fertility requirements.

Corn gluten meal also has preemergence activity on grasses such as perennial ryegrass that we use as athletic turf. So, if you plan to overseed your field it is best to use corn gluten meal in the spring and then switch to a different fertilizer source and overseed in the fall.

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The reported effectiveness of corn gluten meal has been quite variable, with some reporting great results (up to 90% control or better) and others reporting almost no activity against weeds. There is also some evidence that corn gluten meal is more effective in cooler parts of the country and less effective in the transition zone and for southern turf. Results are typically not very good in the first year of use (around 40% control) and then improve significantly in the second and subsequent years, so if trying corn gluten meal you should be prepared to use it for at least two seasons before evaluating its effectiveness on your fields (Figure 1).

If you are considering or are required to switch to an organic weed management program, then corn gluten meal should probably be the foundation of your fertilizer and herbicide management program. It is more expensive and requires significantly more labor to apply compared to synthetic weed and feed products. However, if used correctly as a part of comprehensive field management program, preemergence control of crabgrass and certain other weeds can approach the levels observed when synthetic herbicides are used.

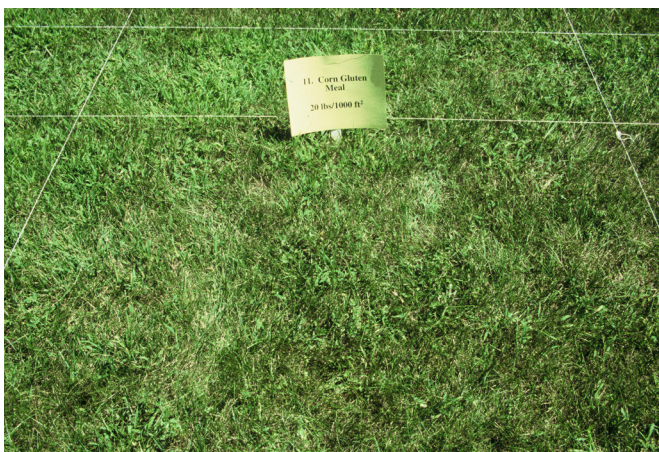


Figure 1. Control of crabgrass 15 weeks after application of 20 pounds corn gluten meal per thousand square feet. Control is variable, with better results reported in cooler parts of the country. Control tends to be marginal in the first year of use (~40%). However, in subsequent years of use control can be 80% or better.

The number of different weed species controlled is similar to that of synthetic herbicides. Duration of control also can equal or exceed that of synthetic herbicides.

Organics Compared to Synthetics for Postemergence Control of Grasses and Sedges

As of this writing, one of the main challenges for organic lawn managers is selective postemergence control of crabgrass, annual bluegrass, other grassy weeds, and sedges. Simply put, while there may be organic products marketed for this purpose, they are either nonselective or have not been tested extensively by university researchers in order to determine their effectiveness.

Organics Compared to Synthetics for Postemergence Control of Broadleaf Weeds

For broadleaf weed control, including weeds such as dandelion, white clover, prostrate knotweed and ground ivy, the typical strategy is to control these weeds postemergence with an application of a combination herbicide in spring and/or fall. Less expensive options include products that contain mainly phenoxy herbicides, like 2,4-D, MCPP and the related compound dicamba.

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Figure 2. Dandelion and white clover control 24 hours after application of chelated iron containing herbicide (Fiesta) compared to untreated control. Weed control with these products can be very rapid but is temporary if the target weed is a perennial.



Figure 3. Ground ivy control with the chelated iron containing herbicide Fiesta (center) versus the conventional herbicide T-Zone (right). The untreated control is on the left. Photos were taken 21 days after application. Since Fiesta is a contact herbicide, additional applications are required in order to achieve long term control of perennial broadleaf weeds.

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These products will typically give 90% control of dandelions and white clover for about 60-80 days. Control of ground ivy and knotweed is possible with these products, but can be less consistent. Other options include the pyridinoxy herbicides triclopyr or fluroxypyr. Many combination herbicides on the market combine phenoxy and pyridinoxy herbicides. Newer, more expensive combination herbicides combine two or three phenoxy or pyridinoxy herbicides with a protox inhibitor such as carfentrazone, sulfentrazone, or pyraflufen ethyl. These products offer the most complete and longest duration of control of weeds, including more difficult to control weeds, that is generally available.

There are two organic products for selective control of broadleaf weeds postemergence. These are sodium chloride (A.D.I.O.S.) and chelated iron (for example,

Fiesta). However, only Fiesta is registered for use in the state of Ohio. Fiesta can potentially give up to 100% control of dandelion within 24 hours of application (Figure 2). It also works rapidly on weeds such as white clover, the plantains and ground ivy (Figure 3). Control is typically in the 75-90% range. So, for speed of control, the best option is actually this herbicide. On the other hand, chelated iron is a contact herbicide. While this might be effective with one application if targeting young annual broadleaf weeds, for perennial broadleaf weeds control is only of the top growth and the weed typically begins to recover within about 3 weeks. We conducted research at the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Research and Education Center showing that you can get up to 100 days of control by making three applications of chelated iron 3 weeks apart.

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However, as with corn gluten meal, chelated iron is more expensive. Three applications to the entire field or multiple fields may or may not be within your budget. You also have the option of spot-spraying. One thing to consider though is that chelated iron will also cause the turfgrass to become a darker green color for a period of time (just like when you apply chelated iron for this purpose). When using chelated iron as a spot spray, you may notice spots of darker turfgrass for a period of time, whereas a blanket application would provide a more uniform darkening of the turf.

In summary, organic weed control in turfgrass has advanced considerably but there are still some management challenges. Speed of control can be just as good or better compared to synthetic herbicides. However, duration of control and completeness of control lags that of synthetic herbicides. Some of these products are very safe to turf, such as corn gluten meal. I was involved in trials where we applied 160 pounds of corn gluten meal per thousand square feet and we saw nothing but nice green grass. On the other hand, there are other organic products that you still have to be careful about non-target injury. Lastly, while prices have come down, organic options tend to be more expensive than their synthetic counterparts.



Join Us!

Grateful Embrace

November 5, 2022

Dayton National Cemetery, Dayton, OH
The Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery,
Rittman, OH

We invite all lawn care and landscape professionals to join us on Saturday, November 5 at the Dayton National Cemetery in Dayton and/or Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery in Rittman for "A Grateful Embrace". Show your support to our soldiers and veterans by giving back to those who gave all.

Here is a brief summary of the day's events:

- Arrival and check in times for each event will be 8:45 am
- Work will begin at 9:00 am
- Most of the materials (fertilizer) will be provided through the generous donations of our industry suppliers.

However, we are asking that those who can donate 5 bags of fertilizer to the cause. You'll need to bring spreaders, blowers and all the manpower you can muster to help us get 160 acres of turf fertilized on that day.

Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to honor those men, women and their families, both living and deceased, who provided the ultimate sacrifice that we might remain a free nation.

If you would prefer to email your registration please print and fill out the registration form, email it to lori@bennett-management-llc.com by November 2.

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*A reduced risk pesticide is defined as one which may reasonably be expected to accomplish one or more of the following: (1) reduces pesticide risks to human health; (2) reduces pesticide risks to non-target organisms; (3) reduces the potential for contamination of valued, environmental resources, or (4) broadens adoption of IPM or makes it more effective. Acelepryn qualifies under one or more of the above criteria.
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Hierarchy of hazard control

One of the keys to a safe workplace is evaluating, identifying, and eliminating hazards. There is a step-by-step process available called the “Hierarchy of Controls”. The hierarchy of controls can be an effective tool to reduce the frequency and or the severity of injuries at your workplace and ultimately help reduce workers’ compensation costs. This 5-step process was created in the 1950’s and is still used today.

The chart identifies the preferred way to control a hazard from the most effective which is elimination. Then the order follows the next preferred method using Substitution, then Engineering Controls, Administrative Controls then the least effective, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

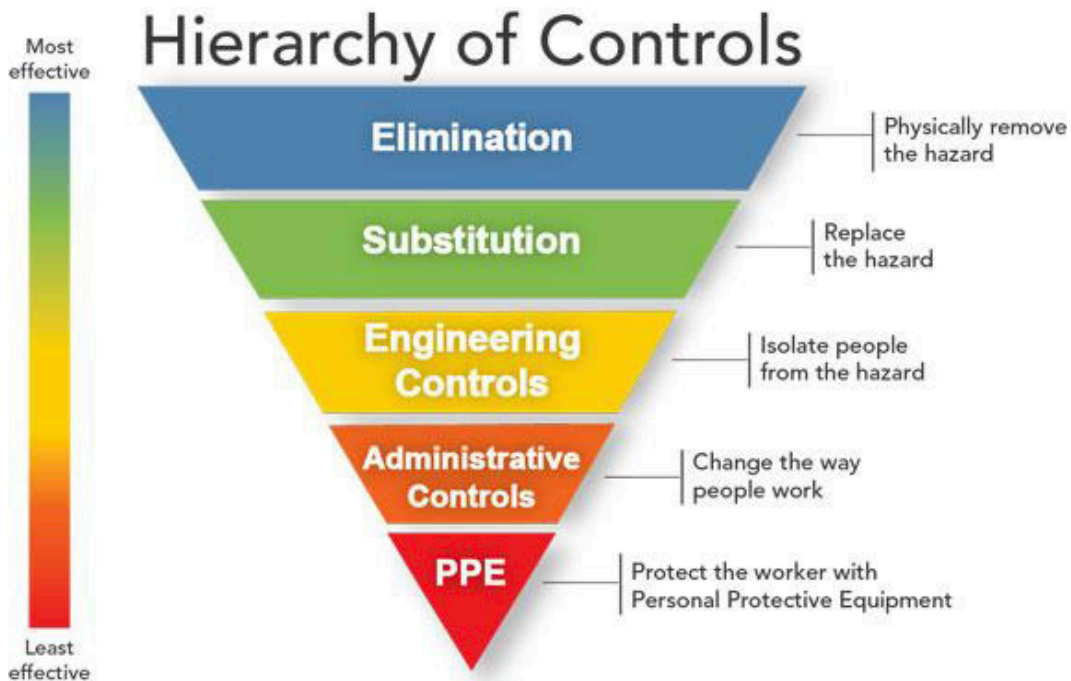
Let’s take a deeper look into each “Hierarchy of Control”.

1. Elimination – This is where the hazard is removed. This can be achieved by either changing the work process like removing a sharp or heavy object. As you

can see this is the preferred control method because it completely removes the hazard from the employee.

2. Substitution – The second preferred method relies on substituting the hazard with a safer alternative. For example, eliminating a chemical by using those made from eco-friendly or plant-based products. If you choose substitution be sure to review and understand the new potential risks of the product, if there are any.
3. Engineering Controls – This option prevents or reduces the hazard from coming into contact with the employee. Some examples of engineering controls are workspace or equipment modification, creating protective barriers or installing ventilation.
4. Administrative Controls – This option for reducing workplace hazards relies on work practices that reduce duration, frequency, or intensity of the job. Examples include work process training, job rotation, adequate rest breaks or adjusting line speeds.

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5. Personal Protective Equipment – The last option which is the least effective is PPE. This is where employees are required to wear items, such as safety glasses, gloves, hearing protection, hard hats, and respirators. Many times, PPE will be used temporarily while other controls are under development.

Before implementing the “Hierarchy of Controls”, you must first identify the hazards. A good way to achieve this is to create a team with areas of expertise (Maintenance, Department Managers/Supervisors, Employees, EHS, etc.). Once the hazards are identified, the team should discuss the “Hierarchy of Controls” and identify the most effective means of dealing with the hazard. Then, work your way down until you find a solution. Remember to periodically re-evaluate the control method as new technology may allow you to implement a more effective control means.

For more information, please contact Sedgwick’s Andy Sawan at 330.819.4728 or andrew.sawan@sedgwick.com.

Estimating payroll for workers’ compensation premium

The Bureau of Workers’ Compensation (BWC) has begun installment billings for Private Employers for the July 1, 2022 rate year. Your premium payments for the rate year are based on the installment schedule that you selected. In July of 2023, you will receive your annual Payroll True Up Report from the BWC, where you will report your actual payroll for the July 1, 2022 rate year. If your actual payroll was lower than the BWC’s estimate of your payroll, you will receive a refund on your premium. If your actual payroll was higher than the BWC’s estimate of your payroll, you will pay additional premium based on your higher payroll.

To determine your estimated payroll for the July 1, 2022 rate year, the BWC is using the payroll that you reported for the July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 period. For many businesses, the July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 payroll is much different than today’s payroll. Due to that, you could see a larger than expected billing when the BWC sends the annual True Up Report in July of 2023.

You have the ability to review the estimated payroll that the BWC is using for your business, and request a change to your estimated payroll, if needed. In doing so, the BWC will adjust future Premium Installment Payments to reflect the new estimated payroll. This could help limit any surprises that may occur when you receive your annual Payroll True Up Report in July of 2023. If you have more than one active policy with the Ohio BWC, you will want to review all estimated payroll amounts for each policy.

To review your payroll, you can log in to your BWC account at www.bwc.ohio.gov or by calling the BWC at 800.644.6292. If you have any questions, contact our Sedgwick program manager, Cordell Walton, at 614.827.0398 or cordell.walton@sedgwick.com.





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