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# PBI/GORDON'S STRONGHOLD™ PLUS BK 800 BROADLEAF WEED CONTROL REDUCES MOWING, AND ELIMINATES GRASS AND WEED SEEDHEADS

Earl Tracy

*PBI/GORDON Corporation, Kansas City, MO*

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### **PBI/GORDON'S STRONGHOLD™ PLUS BK 800 BROADLEAF WEED CONTROL REDUCES MOWING, AND ELIMINATES GRASS AND WEED SEEDHEADS.**

#### **Biography**

Earl Tracy is a Product Manager for PBI/GORDON Corporation based in their home office in Kansas City, Missouri. He is responsible for Agricultural and Vegetation Management Products. Earl has been with PBI/GORDON for 17 years.

PBI/Gordon's Airport Grass Growth Regulator Program is an extension of the primary product line we sell into the Fine Turf Market. Fine Turf includes golf courses, lawn care companies, landscapers, plant nurseries, commercial and industrial turf maintenance, and municipalities. Stronghold™ Grass Growth Regulator and BK 800 Broadleaf Herbicide are part of our vegetation management product line. These are based on fine turf products which have been modified for the tougher requirements of grass and weed management in the roadside and airport environments. When these products are applied, the sequence of control is: formation of grass seedheads is stopped, growth from the crown of the plant is greatly reduced, while the root grows normally. The broadleaf weeds are killed eliminating the seed and growth in the treated area.

We entered the birdstrike arena last year at the Burke Lakefront Airport just prior to the 1998 Bird Strike Committee meeting. Stronghold was applied tank-mixed with Flight Control™ Bird Repellent from Environmental Biocontrol, International, Wilmington, Delaware. The initial test on the airport was not conclusive, but the idea of the combination appealed to Dr. Richard Dolbeer, Project Leader, USDA, National Wildlife Research Center, Sandusky, Ohio. A second trial plot was established on government property at Sandusky, Ohio. The objective being to quantify the value of Stronghold to the bird repellent activity of Flight Control. The results are to be published in Dr. Brad Blackwell's research paper later this year. Grass treated with Flight Control mixed with Stronghold held Flight Control's repelling ability for 22 days—when the trial was terminated. Flight Control applied to grass without Stronghold lasted considerably less time.

Additionally, grass growth regulation fits site modification programs. Stronghold, designed to provide maximum seedhead suppression and growth regulation is formulated from three active ingredients. Stronghold treated grass does not produce a seed head, and normal above ground growth is greatly reduced. Airport grounds managers can plan on not mowing Stronghold treated grass for 6 to 8 weeks. The net effect is a turf cover which does not produce a seedhead and the accompanying stalk growth. No seedheads means no food for foraging rodents and small birds. Mowing alone will not stop grass seed production. Stronghold chemically stops seedhead formation for one year. Reducing normal grass growth in a usually sparse grass population generally opens the door for broadleaf weeds to flourish in the vacuum created by the growth regulated grass. The addition of BK800 to the spray mixture corrects this problem

If you own mowers, have personnel to run them, and never have a weather problem, why pay for chemicals to control the grass and weeds? Using this combination of products, including application cost, will cost you roughly what it costs to mow your runway safety areas or any turf area one time. The effect of these chemicals generally lets you not mow the treated area for up to 8 weeks. If during that 8 weeks you would normally mow 3 times, and now you don't have to -- you save the cost of 1 mowing 3 times. Therefore, if you mow an acre of airside property one time for \$60.00—each time you skip a mowing due to the chemical treatment you save \$60.00. Eliminate 3 mowings and you save \$180.00 per acre!

Not having to mow has several advantages:

1. You have more people to assign to other duties. ("extra" people that don't cost extra).
  2. You extend equipment life.
  3. You avoid having to mow wet grass, you avoid having to mow a soggy turf, you avoid creating ruts in the wet turf. Using Stronghold and BK 800 allows you more flexibility in your schedule
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4. Reduce runway shut-downs, and potential incursions with aircraft.
5. Provide a regulated grass surface for the application of bird repellent. Grass which does not have to be cut for 8 weeks increases the effective life of the bird repellents applied to the grass.
6. You eliminate a wildlife food source.

Golfers see the effect of our turf products every time they play or watch a tournament on television. Our Trimec® family of herbicides keeps golf courses free of broadleaf weeds. Those same courses use our Embark® Plant Growth Regulation product to reduce mowing frequency and eliminate seedhead production. If your airport has a golf course associated with it , the course is probably treated with one of our Trimec® herbicides as well as Embark® Turf and Ornamental grass growth regulator. We also sell a variety of other products for fine turf-- over 40 in all.

Our presentation during the meeting will be part of the habitat management panel discussion on Wednesday, 5/12/99. See us at our display during breaks for additional information on the how and why this product combination works so well for site modification as well as , and enhancing the effect of bird repellent products.

Sincerely,

Earl J. Tracy

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