



Jacklin Seed Welcomes Katie Dodson



Jacklin Seed by Simplot is pleased to announce that Katie Dodson has accepted the position of Senior Turfgrass Scientist in the Research Department at the Post Falls, ID, office. Katie will be responsible for conducting research trials to demonstrate the benefits of Jacklin turf varieties.

Most recently, Katie worked for the University of Guelph as a research assistant while pursuing her doctorate degree in turfgrass ecology and management. Her thesis topic dealt with interseeding of cool-season grasses and the accumulated seed bank stored in sports turf soil.

While studying at the university she also was the primary lecturer for Turf Management II at both Humbler College and the University of Guelph. Before pursuing her PhD, she was the assistant superintendent at Mountain View Golf Club in Whitehorse, Yukon territory – one of the three most northerly grassed courses in North America.

Katie comes from a long line of golf course superintendents. Her love of turfgrass management was instilled at an early age when her parents brought her home from the hospital to live on Mississaugua Golf and Country Club, Ontario, Canada, where her father was the hosting superintendent of the Canadian Open in 1974.

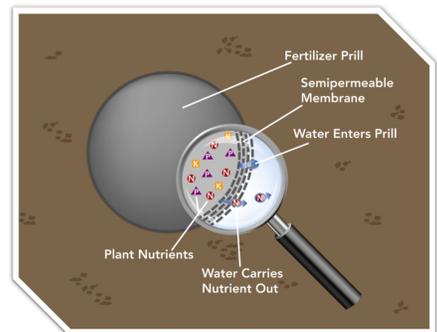
She is part of the fourth generation of the Dodson family to pursue a career in a turf-related field. Her great great uncle Charles (Bill) Bluett mentored her grandfather Art Dodson at Mississaugua Golf and Country Club, and Art raised and mentored his 3 sons and daughter at Maple Downs Golf and Country Club. Currently six of her family members are working as golf course superintendents or assistant superintendents in both Canada and the US. Her father Paul Dodson is working at Silver Springs Golf and Country Club in Calgary, Alberta, her uncle Bruce Dodson is the superintendent at Heritage Hills Golf Club

Continued p. 2

Simplot Developing Hi-Tech Slow-Release Fertilizer

by Doug Brede, Ph.D.

Simplot's fertilizer plant in Lathrop, CA, is undergoing a makeover, converting to a new slow release fertilizer technology called **Gal-Xe ONE™** (pronounced "Galaxy-One").



The Lathrop conversion involves installation of state-of-the-art Continental Mark IX coating drums and production lines. In addition, Simplot has brought together a dedicated R&D unit and staff to continue to develop improvements and enhancements to the technology. When completed, this will be the largest slow-release coating plant in the West.

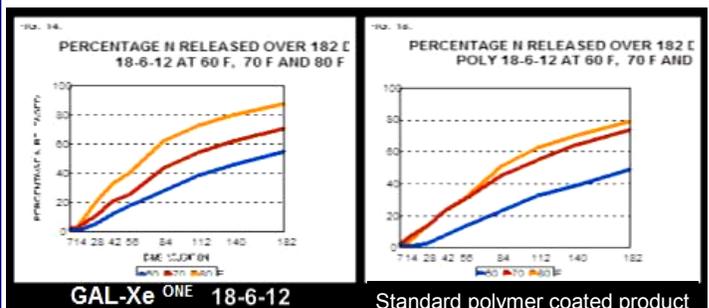
Gal-Xe ONE™ is a new slow-release fertilizer platform that can be applied to a number of granular products, releasing reliable and predictable quantities of fertilizer to the turf over time.

As shown in the diagram above, the fertilizer coating acts as a semi-permeable membrane that releases nutrients to the plants slowly over time. The rate of release is determined by the thickness of the coating. Moisture creates osmotic pressure to begin the release.

Gal-Xe ONE™ utilizes the newest polyurethane next-generation polymers developed at NASA. From a technical geek's perspective, the coolest

Continued p. 2

NPK release trial conducted at the University of Florida, comparing Gal-Xe ONE™ with polymer coated 18-6-12. Lines on the graph show percentage of N released over 182 days at 60F, 70F, 80F.



Dodson, continued

in Shanty Bay, Ontario, her uncle Scott Dodson is grounds superintendent at the Park Country Club of Buffalo, NY, her brother Matt Dodson is the superintendent at Orchard Beach Golf Course, Keswick, Ontario, and her step-sister Diana Hudon is the assistant superintendent at Cottonwood Golf & Country Club, DeWinton, Alberta and she is married to Jon Hudon the superintendent at River's Edge Golf Club, Okotoks, Alberta. So simply put it wasn't too far of a stretch for Katie to pursue a career in the turfgrass industry.

She is no stranger to the Pacific Northwest, as she studied for her master's degree at Washington State University, on a project dealing with Kentucky bluegrass field burning, seed production, and turf quality.

Katie is looking forward to the upcoming field season and working alongside everyone at Jacklin Seed by Simplot and hopes that she can provide you with valuable research information. You can contact Katie at Katie.dodson@simplot.com or 208-777-6102. 📧



Jon Schnore roguing perennial ryegrass breeder plants in the company's nursery in early May. Roguing involves spraying out inferior plants to allow the superior plants to cross pollinate and form a new cultivar.

Schnore Passes Master's Exam

Jacklin assistant breeder, Jon Schnore, has successfully passed his thesis defense for a Master of Science degree at Washington State University in plant breeding. Jon works with cool-season grasses under the tutelage of Susan Samudio. He has contributed to the recent releases of **Summer** tall fescue and **Light-house** slender creeping red fescue.

Jon's thesis, entitled *Heritability of Rhizomes in Rhizomatous Tall Fescue Cultivar JT-783*, was an

analysis of the rhizome characteristic in tall fescue within a seed production setting. Jon's major advisor at WSU was Dr. Arron Carter, assistant professor of winter wheat breeding in the Department of Crop and Soil Science. Jon's bachelor's degree was earned at WSU in biology, with an emphasis in botany.

Jon pursued master's degree requirements while working full-time as a breeder at Jacklin Seed. His coursework was funded in part by a grant from Simplot. Jacklin now has more PhD and MSc scientists on staff than any other turf seed company. 📧

New NPK, continued

aspect of this new polymer and process is the ability to coat around corners. Earlier slow-release coatings were only able to coat round pelleted products like urea. The beauty of Gal-Xe ONE™ is that it can coat square or angular fertilizer ingredients, opening the door to new products that were not able to be slow-release before. These will include:

- Homogenous NPKs- 21-7-14, 15-15-15, 21-0-21
- Nitrogen - Urea, Ammonium Sulfate
- Potassium - SOP, PN, KCL(MOP), SPM (K-Mag)
- Phosphate - DAP, MAP, TSP
- Micronutrients - MgSO₄, FeSO₄, CaNO₃, Chelated Fe, FAS, Boron etc.

The Gal-Xe ONE™ R&D team is also investigating coating with pre-emergence herbicides and other pesticides, as well as a "green" biodegradable coating. 📧

Advantages of GAL-Xe ONE over prior-generation coated products

- GAL-Xe ONE uses next-gen cross-linked polymers recommended by NASA. Cross-linking creates more flexibility in coating characteristics.
- GAL-Xe ONE utilizes a proprietary oil and kaolin combination to condition materials to affect release. Earlier products used wax.
- No wax coating on GAL-Xe ONE means that the product will not clump and does not need a separating agent in bulk storage.
- Prior generation product was slow to start with sealant on prills. GAL-Xe ONE initiates release immediately.
- GAL-Xe ONE tends to start faster but produces a more linear flat curve over time.
- GAL-Xe ONE has potential for dozens of coated substrates, longevities, and release types.
- GAL-Xe ONE is new. Past generation products are 20+ years old and off patent. Non-reputable companies can produce.

Two US Utility Patents Awarded for Gly-Rye™

The US Patent & Trademark office recently gave full approval for two patents on Jacklin Seed's new glyphosate-tolerant ryegrass cultivars. Gly-Ryes, as they are called, possess a natural mutation in the EPSPS gene that allows for a measurable quantity of glyphosate tolerance for control of weeds like *Poa annua*. Glyphosate is the active ingredient in Roundup herbicide.

The advantage of Gly-Rye is that the genetic change is natural and not inserted by biotechnology. Over 4 million pounds of Gly-Rye seed were produced and planted into the market last year. 📧