A MAJOR ADVANCE IN TURF DISEASE CONTROL

by N B Thain, Brand Manager, Pan Britannica Industries Ltd

Groundsmen, like everybody else, will always welcome innovations which make life easier for them. One way of easing their lot is to help them maintain a disease-free turf as easily

as possible.

Three major fungal diseases commonly cause turf diseases in the UK—Fusarium Patch, Corticium (Red Thread) and Dollar Spot. In the past, the groundsman has had few satisfactory methods of controlling these problems. Products available either discoloured the turf or, as in the case of mercurial compounds, they were associated with some degree of risk. Recently, however, a product has become available which has been hailed by groundsmen as a major

step forward in disease control—a broad-spectrum fungicide which not only controls Fusarium, Corticium and Dollar Spot in one go, but does so safely and economically into the bargain. This product—Benlate—is the world's first broad-spectrum systemic fungicide, and extensive trial work over the last few years at the Sports Turf Research Institute has proved its efficacy time and again.

For complete control of the three diseases mentioned, it is recommended that Benlate be applied as soon as disease symptoms appear. Application should be as an overall treatment and not as a spot application. The dose should be repeated at 3-4 week intervals as necessary. The spray is applied at 2 gallons per 1,000 sq. ft. at the following doses: Fusarium—6 oz/1,000 sq. ft. (approx 18 lb/acre); Red Thread and Dollar Spot—4 oz/1,000 sq. ft. (approx 12 lb/acre).

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