Country Club in Lexington, Ky., superintendents started calling Scott reporting dead spots in their greens. The spots were elongated and ran downhill—some two or three inches in size and others "as big as a spatula" at one course.

Hodgin, who lost 1,500 square feet of bentgrass on 18 of 20 greens at Idle Hour, said the cause of his dead spots was puzzling until two colleagues and University of Kentucky Professor A.J. Powell recognized it as an old nemesis. Three years ago a similar contamination had occurred in a Lesco, Inc. product containing atrazine, Hodgin said. But until that discovery, the problem went from bad to worse.

Scott Laboratories verified the cause after three weeks of tests. Results showed FF-II spread on Idle Hour greens had four times the amount of atrazine needed to kill bentgrass. Hodgin said 4,000 plugs were to be removed and replaced with bentgrass. They're all fine now," he said. "We financed the repairs."

Scott Vice President of Sales Jerry O'Donnell said different courses required different solutions.

"We did several things, depending on the number of spots," O'Donnell said. "Where the spots were few and far apart, we removed the soil plugs and replaced them with sand and overseeded with bentgrass. Meanwhile, Scott has taken steps to improve its quality control and prevent future contaminations. First, according to Vice President and General Manager Richard B. Stahl, all products containing atrazine will be dyed a bright color so they can be easily recognized.

Second, quality assurance personnel will increase checks on production runs of golf course greens products. Third, bioassay tests will be conducted using sensitive turfgrasses to provide an additional check on product quality. (See letter on this page.)

Correction

In the June issue's story Coeur d'Alene golf course story we misidentified the name of John Barlow, administrative vice president of the Hagadone Corp., which is developing the course.

Scotts ProTurf or ProGrow products.

1. All products containing atrazine will be dyed a bright color so that they can be easily recognized.

2. Quality assurance personnel will make increased checks on production runs of golf course greens products.

3. Bioassay tests will be conducted using sensitive turfgrasses to provide an additional check on product quality.

We regret this incident and apologize for the inconvenience and confusion it may have caused. Again, product quality is the top priority at O.M. Scott, and we stand behind all of our products. As outlined above, you can be certain this incident is not being taken lightly. Please be assured that the Scott products you have bought and will order in the future, will be safe for use.

If you have any questions about this situation, please feel free to contact Scott directly at 1-800-543-0006. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Richard B. Stahl
vp and general manager

Letters to the editor are welcomed. Just write to Golf Course News, P.O. Box 997, Yarmouth, Maine 04096.

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