Supers give N.Y. diagnosis program seal of approval

By MARK LESLIE

It is a program whose time has come for golf courses: Monroe County Extension Officer's integrated pest management turfgrass scouting and diagnostic program.

Numbered among its satisfied clients are the high-profile likes of Oak Hill and Locust Hill country clubs and the Country Club of Rochester (N.Y.).

Donors embracing it are the state of New York, Cornell University, and a baker's dozen golf courses.

It is new enough to have no official name, but successful enough that it has attracted covert interest from other counties in New York and from northern New Jersey and Nova Scotia, Canada.

Superintendents using the Extension service attribute it with quicker diagnosis of turfgrass diseases, reduced pesticide use and budget savings.

Simply, the program consists of either weekly, biweekly or monthly visits to participating golf courses by a plant pathologist "scout," and diagnostic laboratory work done at the Extension's nearby Rochester headquarters.

"The biggest successes of the program," said Oak Hill superintendent Joe Hahn, "are positive identification of the pests before you spray, spraying only when needed, and a definite savings in buying pesticides."

"Instead of a superintendent writing a preventive program and going out every nine or 14 days and spraying, with scouting they can prolong the time between sprayings," Hahn said that in 1992 he saved about $8,000 — or 10 percent — on his pesticide budget.

Country Club of Rochester Bob Wilsontuberculosis, 200 Corporate Blvd., NW, Boca Raton, Fla. 33431; 800-272-7737.

LANDSCAPE RESTORATION GUIDE

A comprehensive guide that demonstrates how to use naturalization as an alternative to more intensive management of landscape has been published by the United States Golf Association and New York Audubon Society. Landscape Restoration Handbook shows how to improve water quality, reduce erosion, lower maintenance and reduce chemical applications, protect the ecosystem and ecology, and promote diverse plant and animal species. The handbook is organized by regions. The 650-page, four-color book will be published in March and is available from Lewis Publishers, 2000 Corporate Blvd., NW, Boca Raton, Fla. 33431; 800-272-7737.

RUTGERS STUDENTS GET SCHOLARSHIPS

BOUND BROOK, N.J. — For 10 years, turfgrass students at Rutgers University have received scholarships from the Peter Selmer Loft Memorial Scholarship Fund. This year, 12 students each received $1,000 awards.

The fund, set up in 1983 in memory of Peter S. Loft, is subsidized by royalty contributions from Lofts Seed, royalties from the sale of Tribute tall fescue and through private and corporate gifts. This year's recipients are Karen Plumeley, Mirta Guglielmoni, Tracey Bunting, James Clark III, Dirk Smith, David Grande, Pedro Perdomo, Randall Prostak, Suichang Sun and Chan-Seok Oh.

READ SAND DONATING FUNDS

Joe Farina of Read Sand & Gravel has organized a fund-raising program in which Read will donate 25 cents per cubic yard of any material it delivers to any golf course or driving range from last September to next September. Funding will be decided by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England's Turf Research Committee, which allocates the financing to the universities in New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

BLUE VALLEY ENTERS GOLF

MISSION, Kansas — Blue Valley Laboratories has expanded its services into golf course maintenance. The 20-year-old firm is concerned with all phases of water management, according to water specialist and horticulturist Joe Setter. Blue Valley performs water-quality testing for lakes, source water and potable water as well as aquatic plant management, and limnology studies for existing and planned golf courses.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Tips to match Tour conditions

By TERRY BUHREN, CGCS

The most important aspect of any tournament, be it the club championship or a weekly tour event, is the condition of the golf course. The amateur or professional player can best display his or her skills as the condition of the golf course improves.

"Good playing surfaces tend to reward good play, and thus help produce a good winner. Excellent playing surfaces, properly maintained, are likely to attract strong fields of players," said Allan MacCurrach, senior agronomist for the PGA Tour.

I had the pleasure of working for the PGA Tour as an agronomist and advancement, and it was the greatest experience of my golf career. Working with golf course superintendents on tournament-caliber conditioned courses was a tremendous learning experience. The following set of guidelines that MacCurrach, Dennis Leger and Jeff Haley work with each week on the PGA Tour are designed to help produce a good winner.

1. Typically, we start with a positive identification of the pests before you spray, spraying only when needed, and a definite savings in buying pesticides. This is because a superintendent writing a preventive program and going out every nine or 14 days and spraying, with scouting they can prolong the time between sprayings.

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Bayberry Hills tests add another feather to golf's environmental cap

Continued from page 1

Six underdrains, plastic pipe just two feet below the surface with collection ports for testing, were installed under three greens and fairways. The shallow-depth tests would represent a worst-case scenario, Nash said.

The State Pesticide Board had monitored the wells and underdrains four times a year — at an average annual cost to the course of $16,000 — since Bayberry Hill first opened in 1988.

The results?

"Excellent," Nash replied. "They've found nothing of any toxicological significance. And nitrate levels have been very acceptable. The results have been so good, we're going to cut back on testing." Added Cohen, "From what I've seen, Ed would be justified in requesting cutbacks on monitoring.

Nash said the original Cape Cod study researchers recommended forbidding use of many chemicals at Bayberry Hills, including Daconil and Dyrene, because of the Cape's unique hydrological characteristics. Twelve chemicals were ultimately approved for use.

"The [town] board of health has been very complimentary," Nash said. "The members said they knew they made it hard on us originally and are happy we've done such a good job.

Interestingly, gas chromatography tests at Bayberry Hills revealed traces of 2,4-D, even though Nash had never used the chemical, Cohen said. The same thing happened to superintendent Bruce Cadenneli at Caves Valley Golf Club in Bethesda, Md., he added.

We're aware that labs can falsely report 2,4-D. Another chemical coelutes (gives similar readings) with 2,4-D in gas chromatography tests. Therefore, unless the presence of 2,4-D is confirmed by mass spectrometry, you can't be assured 2,4-D is present.

"Poly-S has met and exceeded our expectations with its 12 week residual." Dave Gilfoil, Superintendent, HAYDEN LAKE COUNTRY CLUB, Hayden Lake, ID

"Poly-S works great. We've eliminated our weekly application with it and plan on using it in the fall after a spring overseeding." John Hoofnagle, Superintendent, VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB, Aurora, CO

"A quality granular. Great spreadability." Rob Stambaugh, Superintendent, GLENVIEW GOLF COURSE, Cincinnati, OH

"The membership at the club was complaining about tight lies in the fairway and wanted us to change the cutting height. The improvement in turf quality after applying Poly-S led many to believe we had raised the height of the cut." Kevin West, Superintendent, OLYMPIA FIELDS COUNTRY CLUB, Olympia Fields, IL

"The best fertilizer we've ever seen on this place. Fairways look incredible!" Joe Ford, Superintendent, ARTHUR PACK GOLF COURSE, Tucson, AZ

"We've been very impressed with the product's spreadability and uniformity." Scott Boley, Superintendent, COUNTRY CLUB AT ALISAL, Solvang, CA

"I really like the color Poly-S gives my fairways and the even greening." Randy Scutturone, Superintendent, RIVERSIDE COUNTRY CLUB, Chehalis, WA

"We have been very satisfied with Poly-S. It's given us consistently good performance with good, even color." Pat Holt, Superintendent, HUNT VALLEY GOLF COURSE, Hunt Valley, MD

"Excellent response and longevity. We're very pleased with Poly-S." Thomas Schlick, Superintendent, MARriott's GOLF COURSE AT WINDWATCH, Hauppauge, NY

"The results with Poly-S have been tremendous. I've never seen grass respond this well to anything else. The increase in density and color retention has been just amazing." Scott Venable, Superintendent, TAM O'SHANTER GOLF COURSE, Canton, OH

"It's working even better than we expected. With applications in late January and May, we're seeing a 65 to 75-day residual." Jeff Kidder, Superintendent, MARriott's CAMELBACK GOLF CLUB, Scottsdale, AZ

"The new Poly-S fertilizers are more economical and have a higher nutrient availability." William Twig, Superintendent, THE WITCH, Myrtle Beach, SC

"Poly-S is a good product. It spreads real nice and holds color real well. The residual lasted three months for us." Scott Fischer, Superintendent, JUPITER ISLAND COUNTRY CLUB, Hobe Sound, FL

"Poly-S spread so easily that our application rates required downsizing" Brian Conklin, Superintendent, GRAYLING COUNTRY CLUB, Grayling, MI

"I really like Poly-S. It gives you slow, lengthy release and good greening. The spreadability is great. No dust, no odor problem. It performs well with the extreme temperatures we get here in the desert." Bill Rohret, Superintendent, SUNRISE COUNTRY CLUB, Las Vegas, NV

After only one year, over 4,400 turf managers have switched to Poly-S technology, making it one of the fastest growing fertilizer lines in history.

The best thing about Poly-S is that it performs as promised. Its unique, patented multiple coating system ensures higher nutrient efficiency (no unreleased nitrogen) and consistent, extended residual for better greening without surge growth. And because Poly-S offers the capability for selecting specific release rates, it has proven its effectiveness under a variety of agronomic conditions in every region of the country.

Poly-S is making a difference on courses nationwide, but the only proof that really matters is on your own turf. For more information about Poly-S fertilizers, contact your Scott Tech Rep today. Or call 1-800-543-0006.