Bayer's Revolver takes aim at ryegrass and Poa

By ANDREW OVERBECK

ATLANTA — Bayer Environmental Science's Chiptco Professional Products division unveiled Revolver, a herbicide formulated specifically for use on warm-season turf, here at the GCSAA Conference and Show. It is the first of many new products that are expected to emerge from the newly combined Bayer and Aventis CropScience.

Work on the product began in 1998 under Agevo, and received approval from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Feb. 6. Revolver is a post-emergent sulfonylurea herbicide that is squarely aimed at Griffin LLC's TranXit, which contains similar chemistry and came on the market last year. Its primary use will be in aiding the transition between ryegrass and bermudagrass on courses that overseeded. It can also be used to control Poa annua.

IQLink gives courses full control over golf cars

By DEREK RICE

AUSTIN, Texas — UpLink Corp. and Club Car Inc. have teamed to introduce IQLink, an enhanced global positioning system (GPS)-based technology that integrates Club Car's IQ System golf car with UpLink's wireless communication system.

The result of this collaboration is a system that not only tracks where golf cars are on the course, but can also control speed and restrict usage on out-of-play areas.

The product will be labeled for use on bermuda (except for ultradwarfs) and zoysia turfgrasses and can be used on the entire course, including greens. It will not be labeled for use on St. Augustine or paspalum varieties. Bayer is currently conducting studies to determine whether the product can eventually be safely applied on ultradwarf bermudagrasses such as Mini-Verde, MS-Supreme and Champion.

"Revolver removes cool-season grass from warm-season grass," said Don Myers, product development manager for Bayer ES. "It will aid in the transition from overseeding, get rid of the clumpy ryegrass that has gotten into roughs and it is useful for the removal of Poa annua. This will truly be a Southern herbicide.

Proper application timing is critical to the effectiveness of the new herbicide. "Revolver is a very flexible product," said Myers. "But it must be applied in warmer weather for maximum effect. It

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Syngenta close with two

ATLANTA — Syngenta will be busy this year with two new products currently going through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s review process. The chemical maker is still working on gaining approval for its thiamethoxam insecticide Meridian, however it does not expect registration in 2003. Meridian offers lower uses rates, broad-spectrum control on multiple grubs and species and increased late season activity.

Syngenta’s Monument herbicide, however, is closer to registration. Monument’s active ingredient is trifloxysulfuron and it will offer activity similar to Griffin LLC’s TamXit herbicide and Bayer Environmental Science’s new Revolver herbicide. Monument has been formulated for post-emergence weed control in bermudagrass and zoysia grass turf. It will provide control of major weeds including purple and yellow nutsedge, kyllinga, oxalis and Poa annua. It will also suppress growth of bahiagrass, dallisgrass, torpedograss and crabgrass.

Syngenta expects EPA registration on Monument as soon as the third quarter of 2003 and anticipates a full rollout in 2004. According to Dr. Joe DiPaola, golf market manager for Syngenta Professional Products, the firm will have one to three new products a year.

“We have to convince the superintendent that there is value in a chemical transition,” he said. “A chemical transition helps build a better base of bermudagrass and it means less problems with volunteer ryegrass that happens during a natural transition process. Those clumps of ryegrass are hard to control.”

Down the road, Myers said Bayer ES is also looking at the possibilities of tank-mixing the low-risk, reduced-rate herbicide with other broad-spectrum herbicides like Sencor and MSMA. Testing is also underway to determine whether Revolver is effective in the control of dallisgrass.

EcoGuard biofungicide controls dollar spot

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had the best results when used in concert with traditional fungicides in either a tank mix or by alternating applications. Under low to moderate disease pressure, both said EcoGuard offered more than 90 percent control. Novozymes recommends rotating to a standard chemical fungicide under high disease pressure. “I have not had much success with biocontrols in the past,” said Dr. Clarke. “But this allows [users] to reduce reliance on synthetic fungicides and still get control.”

Through the synthesis of powerful anti-fungal compounds, EcoGuard provides contact control of dollar spot and helps inhibit future fungal growth that leads to disease. According to Jeff Howard, product manager for Novozymes Biologicals, when integrated with conventional turf management practices, superintendents will see a significant and often dramatic improvement in the health and vitality of their turf.

Briggs & Stratton

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and 50 amps at 3600 RPM.

* The PowerLink system is a new option on premium Vanguard engines, which provides commercial power equipment and utility vehicles with up to 1,500 watts of available 120V AC power.

Briggs & Stratton also introduced two new engines at the show. The new air-cooled, Vanguard 31-hp engine is the largest two-cylinder engine the company has ever produced. The unit features an all-new block design that allows for a large, 895 cc displacement. On the lower end of the horsepower spectrum, the company released a new 2.4-hp Vanguard OHV to provide lighter and smoother performance for smaller commercial applications.