What Is Basamid® and How Does It Work?

So you've decided to fumigate areas on your golf course to rid it of disease, insects and weeds in preparation for reseeding. And as an environmentally aware superintendent, you don't want to use liquid or gas fumigants, such as methyl bromide, to sterilize the soil. Besides, they require expensive injection equipment to apply liquid or gas fumigants.

Basamid®, a granular soil fumigant, manufactured by BASF Corp., may be the answer to your fumigation needs. Basamid's common name is dazomet, and it's from the thiadiazine family. Dazomet is not a restricted-use product.

"That's the benefit it has over other products on the market," explains Willie Pennington, BASF's Basamid specialist. "When applying Basamid, you don't have to suit up in protective clothing — as you do with restrictive products. It stays inert until you activate it in the soil with water."

Basamid, which is a microgranule, is used to renovate fairways, greens and tees. It is simply applied using a drop spreader. The product comes in 50-pound bags. It's a convenient alternative to using 2-ton cylinders that are often used in fumigation.

"Basamid will give you a clean seed bed to plant turf, and it will provide you with enough starter fertilizer to get turf off to a healthy start," says Pennington, noting that the breakdown ingredients in Basamid are considered as plant nutrients.

Basamid is not a new product, but BASF has developed a new protocol for its use in turf renovation.

"Basamid has been used for 10 years, but few end users or superintendents were given a step-by-step program on how to use the product effectively," Pennington says, explaining that turf scientists at Michigan State University conducted studies in the early 1990s and discovered that Basamid could be successfully used for golf course renovation.

Ed Braunsky, CGCS at Geneva GC in Geneva, Ill., was the first superintendent to use the "new" Basamid on a large scale. Braunsky successfully treated 12 acres of his
course to prepare it for reseeding in August 1999.

"To look at what we accomplished with $24,000 when any other approach would have cost a minimum of twice that... that's pretty amazing," Braunsky says.

Joe Boe, superintendent of Coral Oaks GC in Cape Coral, Fla., plans to use Basamid® in the spring to renovate tee boxes. Boe, who has used methyl bromide in the past, is aware that he's going to have to find an alternative fumigant, and he has heard good things about Basamid. "My friend used it on tee areas and had success with it," Boe says.

**Fairways and soils**

Basamid applications vary according to soil type and turf variety. Fairways consisting of clay, silt or silty sand soils require different management than sandy loam, loamy sand and sandy soils.

Soil preparation work, including verticutting and aeration, should be completed before the Basamid application. Cores need to be removed. Turf surfaces with clay, silt or silty sand soils should be scratched with dethatching-type equipment before applying Basamid. Sandy loam, loamy sand and sandy soils should be scratched with dethatching-type equipment before applying Basamid.

**PROPER PREPARATION**

Basamid applications on fairways vary according to turf. Follow these instructions:

- Clay, silt and silty sand soils: Lightly irrigate two or more times at least two days prior to applying Basamid.
- Sandy loam, loamy sand and sandy soils: Do not need to be irrigated prior to Basamid application unless they are too dry.
- Bentgrass: Mow to 1/4 inch or less prior to application.
- Bluegrass, fescue-type turf: Mow to 1/2 inch or less prior to Basamid application.
- Sands, loamy sand and sandy soils: Do not need to be irrigated prior to Basamid application unless they are too dry.

Sand and sandy soils should be scratched with dethatching-type equipment before applying Basamid. Consult your local BASF rep or USGA agronomist for further instruction.

Basamid should be applied with a drop spreader at 4.5 pounds per thousand square feet (196 pounds per acre) to 5.25 per thousand square feet (229 pounds per acre) with a 50% overlapping pattern in the same direction. The rate may change depending on the pest to be controlled. It should only be applied to dry turf, not wet due to rainfall, irrigation or dew.

Proper irrigation applications are vital for all soils, but vary according to soil types. Clay, silt or silty sand soil fairways should be irrigated with 1/4 inch of water or less, but not to the point of runoff. Sandy loam, loamy sand and sandy soil fairways should be irrigated with 1/2 inch of water after application.

Irrigation practices for the two soil-type classes are differ-