Although we are heading into the heat of summer is it also a time to think about this falls snow mold management program. This last winter was mild with little snow cover early in the winter which resulted in low levels of Typhula gray snow mold throughout much of the state. However, late spring snowfall lead to scattered epidemics of Microdochium pink snow mold. University of Minnesota snow mold management field trials for the fall/winter of 2001/2002 were conducted at two locations in Minnesota. Studies were conducted in north-eastern Minnesota at Northland C.C., Duluth, MN and at Giants Ridge G.C., Biwabik, MN on creeping bentgrass nurseries.

Field studies were set up in a randomized complete block design with four replications per location. Spray treatments were applied at a pressure of 30 psi to deliver 2 gallons water per 1000 ft2. Treatments that were applied twice were first applied on October 22, 2002. All treatments were applied on November 12, 2002. Disease ratings were taken on April 17, 2003 as percent of plot infected, this rating date was within 1 week of snow melt. There was a limited amount of disease at the Northland site, however, the Giants Ridge site exhibited even disease pressure of ~45% gray snow mold.

The primary pathogen at Giants Ridge was Typhula ishikariensis, although a low level of Microdochium nivale (pink snow mold) was present. As the data represents, most of the treatments were effective in providing significant levels of snow mold management. It is important to note that although the PCNB products provided complete disease management alone, it is still recommended that fungicide combinations be used to assure snow mold management. These results highlight the availability of effective products available and being developed for the management of snow molds.