

2008-2009 Snow Mold Control Evaluation Sentryworld Golf Course –Stevens Point, Wisconsin

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OBJECTIVE

To evaluate fungicides for the control of Typhula blight (caused by *Typhula ishikariensis* and *T. incarnata*) and *Microdochium* patch (caused by *Microdochium nivale*).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This evaluation was conducted at Sentryworld Golf Course in Stevens Point, WI on a 'Penneagle' creeping bentgrass (*Agrostis stolonifera*) fairway nursery maintained at a 0.5-inch cutting height. Individual plots measured 3 ft x 10 ft (30 ft²), and were arranged in a randomized complete block design with four replications. Individual treatments were applied at a nozzle pressure of 40 p.s.i using a CO₂ pressurized boom sprayer equipped with two XR Teejet 8004 VS nozzles. All fungicides were agitated by hand and applied in the equivalent of 2 gallons of water per 1000 ft². Early applications were

applied on October 21st, 2008 and late applications were applied on November 25th, 2008. The experimental plot area was not inoculated. There was continuous snow cover on the plots from December 1st until mid-March of 2009, a total of approximately 100 days. Disease severity and color were recorded on March 26th, 2008. Data obtained was subjected to an analysis of variance to determine significant differences between treatments. The mean disease severity and mean color rating for each individual treatment are located in the table below.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Disease pressure was high at this site this year with untreated controls averaging 76.3% disease. Although all three major snow mold diseases were observed, the dominant pathogens causing damage were *Typhula ishikariensis* and *Typhula incarnata*. All treatments with the excep-

tion of 11 and 52 provided a significant reduction in disease severity compared to the untreated control. Due to the high pressure, many treatments did not provide acceptable protection (<5% disease) against *T. ishikariensis*. Treatments 17, 22-32, 34-36, 44, 47-48, and 54-63 provided complete protection, and many others provided acceptable protection. Differences in plot color were also observed, with treatments 27-32 having a statistically significant greener color compared to untreated areas. All six of these treatments contained Bayer's StressGuard® technology in addition to the active ingredient. Treatments containing PCNB caused discoloration, but the discoloration was minimal and recovered quickly.

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(Editor's Note: More studies, and graphs can be found at www.mgcsa.org.)



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