

PEER-TO-PEER: BETTER TURF THROUGH NETWORKING

MGCSA Superintendents were asked:

Considering the oddities of winter, what were your spring observations and will you change your program this winter?

One observation: After having had damage from nuisance Voles the past few winters, I sprayed "Liquid Fence" on our par 3, #6 fairway which was always the worst Vole damaged fairway and I had absolutely no Vole damage on that fairway but considerable damage in other areas. So it appears that this material could work in areas where you have heavy Vole damage. I merely added it to the PCNB in the spray tank. - *Dan Hanson, St. Cloud CC*

Although the turf on fairways and tees showed only a few signs of snow mold early this year, more showed up as the weather warmed up. We didn't spray it because we thought it to be superficial. Won't make that mistake next time. That superficial stuff turned out to be super problematic and took until August to fully recover. - *Roger Stewart CGCS, TPC - Twin Cities*

We used the Regreen paint last fall on our greens and will do it again. We sprayed it like an indicator dye (2oz/1,000) in our split snow mold applications. The greens looked great in the fall and golfers didn't realize that they were painted-just nice and green. In the spring the greens came out of winter green and broke dormancy early from the darker painted surface. I was surprised because we used 1/3 the recommended rate (4oz compared to 12oz). We also experimented with the dark green Civitas in a couple of fairways. We used the light rate that provided some protection (25% better than check) from snow mold. I am not sure if the color masked the amount of snow mold or just that the treated area looked better and definitely greened up earlier. I only have two permeable covers that I used on greens and these were the only greens that I had any damage. I will not install these this winter and wait until spring to use them-if weather dictates it. I will definitely use the two covers in the spring on my driving range tee. I will rotate these weekly from side to side to increase the speed the turf comes out of dormancy and speed the germination rate of the divot mix. This worked great last spring and used through May. The paint worked well last year; however, I am concerned about an early snow melt and greens breaking dormancy in a warm weather February/March. The paint speeds up the process of greens breaking dormancy and I would much rather have the greens remain dormant until April. - *Brian Brown, Chisago Lakes GC*

We won't change anything, but I will continue to do our fall/winter heavy greens topdressing with black dyed topdressing sand. I believe that the darker color sped up the growth of our turf in the spring. This would especially help if we have a cooler spring than the last. - *Eric Counselman, Somerby GC*

For so many years it seemed the ground froze in the fall, we got snow cover, and then it melted in the spring. The unknown was how much snow mold you might have. Now, the variable is the winter weather - not if you can control snow mold. We will be using our snowmold control program that normally works - PCNB, Chlorothalonil, and Iprodione. Last year we used the Greenjacket with the foam on one of our greens and had a great deal of snow mold when we removed the cover. According to the TDL in Madison, the spores probably remained alive in the moist environment of the foam when rolled up. We will try and figure something out for drying the foam completely before we put it down. - *Tom Johnson, New Richmond GC*

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