

keep the sod from drying out and the underlying soil moist but not saturated. This is usually 1/8-1/4 inch of water daily but can vary with weather and soil conditions. Laying sod on a 1:1 topsoil-subsoil mixture or on topsoil resulted in increased root production compared to a clay subsoil. Proper soil preparation and fertilization is as important for sodding as for seeding. Greater root organic matter production occurred when sod was harvested at a standard (3/4") rather than at a thin (3/8") depth. Sod grown on organic soil produced more root organic matter than sod grown on mineral soil.

### STOP 3

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Systemic Fungicide Evaluation. Dollar spot (Sclerotinia homecarpa) is a very common problem on bentgrass greens and other areas where bentgrass is grown. It occurs throughout the growing season in Michigan but is most prevalent during the cool weather of the spring and fall.

Brown patch (Rhizoctonia solani) is a less common disease in most of Michigan with the exception of the southern portion of the lower peninsula. This disease occurs during the hot humid weather of summer. It was quite extensive in the Lansing area this summer but unfortunately it did not develop on the experimental plots.

This experiment is an attempt to control these two diseases with some of the systemic fungicides. The systemics differ from the ordinary contact fungicides in that they are taken up by the plant where they can (a) prohibit the further spread of a disease which may be present, or (b) prevent any new infection from taking place. Because of the systemic properties of these chemicals, it is hoped that they will be long lasting and reduce the number of applications normally required to control these diseases. This should help reduce the high labor costs involved in more frequent applications. The results after two applications are given in Table 3.

Table 3. Dollar Spot Control on Toronto Creeping Bentgrass.

East Lansing, Michigan

Chemical	Rate (oz/1000 sq. ft.)	Spots on 7/22 before spraying	Spots on 8/12 after 1 or 2 sprayings
TBZ	1	143	4
TBZ	2	246	35
TBZ	1 1/mo.	268	157*
TBZ	2 1/mo.	248	97*
MF 443	1	286	26
MF 443	2	171	79
MF 443	4	214	4
MF 443	1 1/mo.	225	220*
MF 443	2 1/mo.	237	115*
MF 443	4 1/mo.	148	30*
MF 444	1	186	4
Phenmad	1	( )	( )
Thirmad	2 1/2	299	191
Check	---	285	414

\*Sprayed once on 7/22

All others sprayed twice on 7/22 and 8/5.