

**DOLLAR SPOT AND YELLOW TUFT FUNGICIDE TRIALS - 1989**

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Dollar Spot Fungicide Study

The 1989 dollar spot (Moellerodiscus sp., Lanzia sp.) fungicide trials are being conducted on a moderately fertilized (1/2 lb N/month), irrigated Emerald creeping bentgrass green mowed at 1/4" height of cut.

Treatments were initiated curatively on August 1, 1989 with subsequent applications being made at 14, 21 and 28 day intervals as indicated on the plot signs. All liquid applications were made with a CO<sub>2</sub> small-plot sprayer at 30 PSI and 48 gal/A spray volume. The granular products were pre-weighed and applied by hand.

The dollar spot strains we are working with in this study are highly benzimidazole-resistant, as they are on many Michigan golf courses. Therefore, the Tersan 1991 treatment did not control the disease. Fungo 50, another benzimidazole fungicide, would have also failed to control this disease if it had not been tank-mixed with Vorlan.

As this study shows, many of the standard fungicides (Chipco 26019, Banner, Rubigan, Daconil 2787) are very effective against this disease. Many experimental (numbered) compounds also look quite promising for dollar spot control. Hopefully, a few of these compounds will be available for turf disease control in the future.

Yellow Tuft Study

Yellow tuft (Sclerophthora macrospora) is an unsightly, occasionally destructive disease of turfgrass which generally occurs during periods of cool, moist weather. It is especially troublesome on putting greens and tees where the individually yellowed, chlorotic plants are quite obvious against the darker green background of healthy plants. In severe infestations, some of these plants will actually die, causing a thinning of the turf. The fungus causes the infected plants to grow abnormally, so putting quality can be reduced even on greens with relatively mild infestations. Infected plants are also prone to "winter kill" which may open the turf up to annual bluegrass invasion in the spring.

The disease is best controlled chemically with preventive applications of Subdue, Banol, Aliette and similar compounds, especially in areas where it recurs annually.