Stop 7. Golf Course Fairway Rolling Programs to Decrease Pesticide Inputs and Enhance Playing Quality

Thomas Green, Dr. John Rogers, III, Dr. Joe Vargas, Jr., Dr. James Crum, Dr. Thomas Nikolai, and Nancy Dykema

The cost of chemical pesticides continues to escalate, and the eminent banishment of chemical pesticides causes turfgrass managers to clamor for effective, environmentally safe means for controlling turfgrass diseases. Dollar spot (*Sclerotinia homoeocarpa*) is a foliar disease of turfgrass that causes significant injury annually. This disease is particularly severe on Michigan golf course fairways, mainly due to environmental conditions and turfgrass cultural regimes that favor disease outbreak. However, the most commonly used fungicide in the turf industry (Chlorothalonil) has been under scrutiny from the EPA, and its banishment from the market place is likely to occur. An alternative method for dollar spot control should be identified to replace Chlorothalonil and the like. Possible alternatives involves lightweight rolling and sand topdressing of golf course fairways; two cultural practices that have proven to enhance turfgrass health and vigor on putting greens. Therefore, these methods have the potential to improve fairway turfgrass quality despite fungicide reductions. The objectives are to evaluate three methods by which to reduce dollar spot and improve turf quality: lightweight rolling frequency, different initiation timings for lightweight rolling regimes, and the effect lightweight rolling frequency has upon increasing pesticide application intervals.

Stop 8. Summer Stress on a *Poa/Bent* Fairway and Foliar Anthracnose on a *Poa annua* fairway

Paul Giordano, Nancy Dykema, and Dr. Joe Vargas, Jr.

Summer Stress Syndrome has been associated with thinning and dying of turf during the warm summer months when turf goes under stress. It is especially problematic on low cut turf growing in poor environments. This includes greens growing in shaded areas or where there is limited air movement. Fungicides applied alone and in combination with other products on a preventive basis have been shown to prevent this decline from occurring. These products not only manage disease problems, but also create a more dense turfgrass appearance and better turf color.