

# THRU THE GREEN

in treated plots several months (Thirteen to be exact) following treatment, as well as Gray Snow Mold activity twelve months after treatment. All this, in light of the fact that the half life of this product is reported to be only one to four weeks! This will be an interesting product to watch as more research is reported.

## Biologicals

A great amount of work continues to be put forth on biologicals. The greatest barrier appears to be a dependable system that can deliver live organisms to the field consistently. This was a great point of discussion at the University of Maryland Field Days and was also looked into quite closely in the St. Louis area.

Aside from delivery equipment, water quality appears to be a huge factor in the success or failure of these systems. Potable and well water work best while effluent, river and stream water appear to defeat the system. Great strides are being made in this area with many discoveries related to why the control agents look promising in the laboratory but, often fail in the field. Unfortunately, the solution to these problems appears to be a difficult one. However, with a better understanding of the big picture, success may eventually be achieved. Dr. Eric Nelson also voiced an opinion at the Rhode Island Turf Conference that there may be good reason not to use sugars to feed turfgrasses. Dr. Nelson feels you can actually be the process of feeding turf pathogens ("Fueling the fire," so to speak!)

One final thought on biological agents — if a plant pathogen can mutate and develop resistance to the overuse of a man-made chemical control agent, why then wouldn't the same thing happen from a daily application of a biological? Will biological varieties need to be rotated much like chemical controls? I don't have these answers but feel it is good food for thought.

Hope everything is growing well for you all, and don't forget our upcoming regional conference. ✍

## Quick Quotes

"Strangely enough, this is the past that somebody in the future is longing to go back to"

— Ashleigh Brilliant

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