USE OF SPREADING & STICKING AGENTS ON PUTTING GREENS

Most fungicides on the market today include spreading and sticking agents in sufficient amounts to provide uniform distribution of spray materials on the leaves of most plants. However, some fruits, vegetables, and grasses are covered by a smooth waxy covering or have a hairy surface which makes their leaves difficult to wet, causing much of the spray material to run off. As a consequence the spray materials are unevenly dispersed on the leaf surfaces and poor disease protection is obtained. On these plants the use of additional spreadersticker brings about a more uniform distribution of fungicide and increases the attraction between the waxy leaf surface and the spray materials. Naturally this brings about increased disease protection. Good commercial spreading and sticking agents are compatible with the majority of insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, and other spray materials. The directions for their use are given on the label and should be followed explicitly.

Most disease control recommendations for blue grass include the addition of some type of wetting and sticking agent. I know of no recommendations for the use of these materials on bent grass putting greens, and the information in this letter is not a recommendation for the use of spreading and sticking agents on bent grass greens. If you are interested in trying a spreading and sticking agent to determine whether better disease protection can be obtained, I suggest that you do so on an experimental basis only. Also, contact your fungicide dealer for futher information on materials that are available and for information on compatibility with the spray materials you are going to use. Caution should be used on bent grasses, spreader stickers should never be used when fertilizers are included in the spray mixtures or burning may occure.

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