

Letter to Mr. Art Benson from Roscoe Randell, Extension Specialist in Entomology, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (College of Agriculture)

"Enclosed are two reports from Harry Niemczyk at Wooster, Ohio on the control of **Ataenius spretulus** grubs. I still think diazinon and Dylox or Proxol are still the most effective and labeled chemicals.

Maybe we will not have any grubs this summer. See you in a month or two."

AN UPDATE ON THE ATAENIUS BEETLE-GRUB PROBLEM

By Dr. Harry D. Niemczyk, Department of Entomology, Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, Wooster, Ohio 44691.

As of September 12, 1975, I have received calls reporting damage by **Ataenius** grubs to **Poa**-bentgrass fairways from the following locations: Toronto, Canada; Michigan (Detroit, Gull Lake); Illinois (Chicago, Belleville); Indiana (Indianapolis); Kentucky; West Virginia (Parkersburg) Ohiocincinnati, Dayton, Cleveland, Elyria, Toledo, Columbus; New Jersey (Managuan); New Hampshire; New York (Poughkeepsie, Long Island, Manhasset); Connecticut (New Haven, Watertown); Washington D.C; and Maryland.

In Cincinnati, one course experienced severe damage to fairways of primarily bentgrass, from larvae of the second generation. Grub populations on this course averaged 300 per square foot. Fortunately, this is the only course that reported severe damage from the second generation.

In a recent telephone conversation, Dr. Dennis Dunbar, entomologist at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, told me of one golf course in Connecticut that lost 16 greens from damage by **Ataenius** grubs. The symptoms looked similar to dollar spot but examination of the soil under the damaged areas revealed large numbers of **Ataenius** grubs. I have had no reports of severe damage to greens in Ohio. However, keep a watchful eye out for spots that wilt in spite of irrigation. If seen, cut into the green to check for the small grubs. Call me if you have any questions.

Chemical control experiments were conducted at various golf courses in Cincinnati this spring. Results from these experiments will be reported later this year. The primary problem is that restricting the movement of the insecticide to the grubs. Also

resistance to the cyclodiene insecticides (aldrin, dieldrin, heptachlor, chlordane) has been confirmed by lab-tests at O.A.R.D.C. Most beetles are resistant, so don't expect the above insecticides to control the pest.

Weekly observations on the life history of the insect are being made at Cincinnati and Cleveland. Another more extensive research program is being planned for both of these areas in 1976.

FAIRWAY APPLICATION OF DYLOX AND DASANIT FOR CONTROL OF FIRST GENERATION ATAENIUS GRUB RESISTANT TO CYCLODIENE INSECTICIDES - 1975.

By Dr. Harry D. Niemczyk, Professor of Entomology, Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, Wooster, Ohio 44691

METHODS

The insecticides diazinon, fensulfothion (Dasanit) and trichlorfon (Dylox or Proxol) were applied to the golf course fairways of 2 country clubs in Cincinnati to control damaging populations of **Ataenius spretulus** (Hald.) grubs. The treatments were applied by the golf course superintendent using a mist blower sprayer (June 17-19, Western Hills Country Club), or boom sprayer (June 20-22, Hyde Park Country Club), for the liquids and a Gandy drop-spreader for the granules. The fairways were irrigated before and after treatment at Hyde Park Country Club and only after at Western Hills Country Club.

One or two days prior to treatment, the larval population on selected test fairway was measured by taking samples 4.25 inches in diameter from infested sections. Similar samples were taken 10-14 days after treatment.

RESULTS

As shown in Table 1, results with Dasanit were consistently excellent. Some kill of robins was noted at Western Hills Country Club.

Diazinon gave generally fair control, and Dylox variable results - i.e. 90-27% reduction. The reasons for such variable results are now being investigated.

- 1) The paper reports the results of research only. Mention of a pesticide does not constitute or imply a recommendation by the OARDC or the author.

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