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Dear Ray:

This letter is to inform you that Ohio has obtained a state registration for the use of Diazinon AG500 4EC to control ataenius beetle adults before they can lay eggs.

Enclosed is a copy of the label information and the press release relative to it. You are free to publish the press release if you so wish.

In 1978 we plan to test this program in Missouri, Colorado and Minnesota in an effort to obtain national labeling. This testing program is being sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendent's Association of America.

Sincerely Yours for Greener Turf,
Harry D. Niemczyk, Ph. D.
Professor of Turfgrass Entomology

CONTROL FOR ATAENIUS BEETLE CLEARED FOR OHIO TURFGRASS

Wooster, Ohio--Research by Ohio entomologists has resulted in the granting of a state special use label permitting Ohio golf course managers to use diazinon to control the adult stage of the ataenius beetle, a pest causing serious damage to turfgrass in many areas.

Dr. H.D. Niemczyk, turfgrass entomologist at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, began working with *Ataenius spretulus* (Hald.) in 1973. That was when he first identified the small black beetle as the insect responsible for severe turfgrass damage on a southern Ohio golf course. His efforts led to the Ohio Department of Agriculture granting a special use label for diazinon, which Niemczyk showed to be effective against the beetle adults.

The ataenius beetle is not a new insect. However, only isolated reports of damage by the larval stage of the insect had been reported prior to 1973. After Niemczyk tied the insect to golf course damage in the Cincinnati area in July 1973, turf managers and scientists began checking more closely. More area golf courses were damaged the following year by ataenius grubs and the problem has become more widespread each year since.

Today, ataenius beetle damage to turfgrass has been confirmed in areas of Canada and from 20 states in the U.S.

Niemczyk says the beetle larvae are what cause the damage. The tiny grubs feed on turf roots in mid-June in Ohio. Turf in fairways begins to wilt, even when it is irrigated. Under continued stress and summer heat, the turf begins to die in irregular patches. Fairways of annual bluegrass, Kentucky bluegrass, and bentgrass are damaged.

Soon after identification of the pest, graduate research associate Gerald Wegner began studying the insect's life cycle while Niemczyk evaluated methods of control. He found ataenius beetle grubs from Ohio and a number of other states were resistant to the cyclodiene insecticides (aldrin, dieldrin, heptachlor, and chlordane). A number of insecticides, including several experimentals, were tested against ataenius beetle larvae.

The Ohio scientist also began checking the possibility of controlling the insect by spraying golf course fairways in April and May to kill adult beetles before they could lay eggs. The method proved effective in tests in 1976 and 1977 using diazinon. On the basis of these results, the application was filed for the special use label for diazinon, an insecticide already approved for use against certain other grub species.

Niemczyk says that a single application of diazinon 4 EC applied to fairways at the rate of 6 pounds of active ingredient per acre gave excellent control. Treatment for second generation adults was not necessary in the Ohio tests.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture officially approved the state label March 20, 1978. It calls for application of diazinon 4 EC in late April to early May when atenius beetles begin laying eggs in the turf. Specific treatment should begin when black locust trees are in full bloom. Label instructions say to "apply 6 quarts per acre (4.4 fluid ounces per 1,000 square feet) in sufficient water for good distribution. Water grass lightly (for about 5 minutes) immediately after application."

News from Ohio Agricultural Research & Dev. Cntr.

Dear Dave:

Your outfit does things up right. My 1978 Class F Membership certificate is beautifully done and it is appreciated. Thank you for it and for the wallet card. Since I don't get your way to attend meetings the best I can do is submit something to **The Bull Sheet** now and then. Don't hold your breath but I'll certainly work on it.

Sincerely yours for better turf,
Fred V. Grau, President

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