

Dear Ray,

I hate to be facetious or sound flippant about the red leaf spot problem in the Chicago area, but you have invited suggestions, and I have the answer to the problem.

For the benefit of the younger superintendents who don't know me as you do, I have the credentials to address the subject. I have been fighting diseases on the golf courses since 1946 when I came up with the discovery of PMAS.

It didn't take more than three or four years in the business to learn that although PMAS was, and still is, the best broad spectrum fungicide ever developed, it could not do the job by itself.

In the early fifties, I was advocating mixing of fungicides to get better control. The problem facing the educated superintendent is the fact that he takes the data of the plant pathologist too literally. He will use a specific fungicide for a specific disease and nothing else in the spray tank. He is where I was in the late forties, trying to control disease with a single fungicide. You talk to him about developing resistant strains and he will vindicate himself by telling you that, although he will not mix fungicides, he will alternate them occasionally which is another trap I fell into.

In 1972, I devised a fool-proof system for the superintendent. It's a set of guidelines that he can follow which allows him to mix pesticides, not only fungicides, and spray them together without incurring phytotoxicity and still get such a broad spectrum control that no disease can survive these barriers.

The number of mixes that he can use is boundless.

My first recommendation is a mixture of Cleary chemicals, but when I run across a superintendent who is in trouble and does not have Cleary chemicals, I usually end up with a mix of 5 or 6 chemicals that he has in his barn which will get him out of trouble. Then, and only then, does he become a believer.

I have a number of disciples in the Chicago area that have followed my advice over the years and are doing quite well. Some of them have the C-15 strain, and did not develop the so-called red leaf spot.

There are no new strains of diseases. The strains have always been there. But because the superintendent has become so specific in his treatment of disease, he probably created his own resistant strain. This would not have happened had he had the good sense to tank mix his chemicals.

We have 18 greens on our property to experiment with. One green is on a base of clay. That's my prize green! If I can hold bent and poa on that green, I can surely recommend formula mixes for anybody. One green is 95% sand. That is also a challenge. The other greens are variations of sand and Jersey Clay mixtures. The point I'm making is that good cultural practices are more than half the battle, but ruling out a catastrophe, **any disease is controllable** despite poor soils and less than optimum cultural practices.

P.S. I can come up with at least a dozen formulas for controlling red leaf spot depending upon what the superintendent has in his chemical inventory.

Paul Sartoretto  
W. A. Cleary Corp.



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