

GLEN OAK COUNTRY CLUB COMPARISON TESTING OF FUNGICIDES

In the spring of 1983, my assistant Joe Purpur* and I decided to try some comparison testing of other fungicides besides what we had been using to see the kind of control we would have on our fairways. Looking back on all of this now it certainly was the year to test various fungicides on our fairways.

The weather was unreal this past year as we all know. We had a cold, miserable spring. It rained every weekend in May. It set an all time record low on May 26th of 34 degrees and some low areas had frost. It set records of the wettest spring with 17.51 inches of rain from March thru May. Then of course this wet spring followed a winter that was one of the mildest in the record books and a winter where we had no frost in the ground. All of the compaction from 1982 was still with us when we started the golf season in 1983. Who can say just how much trouble this had on our year with all of the other problems piled on top? I feel that without the ground being frozen to loosen up the soil, we paid dearly in lost turf due to this compaction during the stress periods during the summer.

Now summer comes roaring in with record highs and extended lengths of high temperatures, 42 days in the 90's which made it the second hottest on record! We never had spring, it went from wet and miserable to hot and unbearable. We ended up with nine days of 90 degrees or more in June, 14 days in July with one stretch of 9 consecutive days of 90 degrees plus, 13 days in August and 6 days in September.

Well, that is the weather for the past year and now we'll get on with the fungicide trials with our fairways. These trials were carried out for the summer diseases, mainly looking at the control of Dollar Spot, Brown Patch and Pythium.

Our fairway spray program in the past has usually been with Acti-Dione TGF. The chemicals we picked to test were Bayleton 25WP, Vorlan, and Daconil 2787 (flowable). Our 1st fairway we had Vorlan and Bayleton; and 2nd fairway we had Vorlan and Acti-Dione TGF; 3rd fairway was Bayleton and Acti-Dione TGF; 4th fairway was Daconil 2787 and Acti-Dione TGF; and the 5th fairway was again a comparison of Vorlan & Bayleton. All of the tests ran the length of the fairway from tee to green. Our test spraying dates were: June 6th, July 5th, August 2nd, and August 15th. We did continue our regular program of spraying with Acti-Dione TGF on the above dates plus on June 19th, July 15th, August 1st, August 29th, and the final application September 17th.

Our application rates and quantities were:

Bayleton - No. 11/300 gals water per 4 acres equals 1 oz/M

Vorlan - No. 22/300 gals water per 4 acres equals 2 oz/M

Daconil 2787 - 22 oz/25 gals water per 11M equals 2 oz/M (1st two applications)

Daconil 2787 - 16.5 oz/25 gals water per 11M equals 1 1/2 oz/M (Thereafter)

Acti-Dione TGF - 1 case/300 gals water per 4 acres equals 1 oz/M

Observations:

July 5th, Vorlan had the best performance of the test fungicides. It showed excellent control over a four week period with little or no disease symptoms. Bayleton was second best showing small amounts of disease in scattered areas. Bayleton did show to be best in stress situations in the dry periods where the turf did not show signs of wilt as quickly. Daconil 2787 showed less control with heavy disease in the fourth week. Acti-

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(Comparison Testing cont'd.)

Dione TGF showed the worst control with disease symptoms scattered in the third week. Remember now that all of the test fairways went four weeks with no additional fungicide treatments.

July 19th, no disease noticed on the Vorlan and Bayleton treated fairways. The Daconil 2787 and Acti-Dione TGF test fairways did show Dollar Spot on its way in.

August 2nd, Vorlan and Bayleton showed excellent results in checking Dollar Spot. Bayleton side of the fairways had healthier looking turf during the stress periods. Vorlan showed a slight tip burn the days following the last application. Pythium was more severe on the Bayleton side of the fairways compared to the Vorlan side, but the Bayleton sides looked better due to less stress than the Vorlan treated areas. Daconil 2787 and Acti-Dione TGF both showed alot of Dollar Spot. On the fairways where Bayleton and Vorlan were used side by side the overlap area in the center of the fairway was picture perfect with no disease or stress the entire length of fairway. Yet on the Vorlan side the Pythium was controlled, but it showed stress. The Bayleton side had Pythium but showed little stress and as stated before the center of the fairway was beautiful.

August 15th, Vorlan treated areas the Poa annua is extremely stressed and turf loss is experienced. Bayleton treated areas showed excellent control of disease for Dollar Spot plus healthier looking turf. The Bayleton areas were always the last to show wilt on the golf course. Acti-Dione TGF and Daconil 2787 treated areas showed considerable Dollar Spot starting and wilting.

August 29th, Bayleton treated areas showed better quality and less disease than the other fungicides. Vorlan treated fairways were second best in turf quality.

Our overall observation on the past testing would be that Bayleton and Vorlan both showed excellent results in the control of Dollar Spot. Vorlan treated areas had less Pythium than the other chemicals. Bayleton showed excellent results in helping during the stress periods. Acti-Dione TGF and Daconil 2787 could control Dollar Spot if applied every 10-14 days if the stress wasn't too great.

*Joe Purpur is now Superintendent at Bartlett Hills Golf Course.
Fred D. Opperman, CGCS



Dudley Smith & Walter Fuchs, Sr. enjoying a cool one on the equipment show floor at Vegas.



Albie Staudt, Bob Breen, Bob Johnson in background, Vickie and Julius Albaugh relaxing in the Midwest room.