

Dollarspot Problems at Ridgemoor C.C.

by Peter J. Hahn, Supt.

I have always been interested in turfgrass diseases. Since my days at Rolling Green with Dennis Straus, turf diseases have been very interesting and devastating. Hopefully, I don't step on too many toes here, but I believe in calling a spade a spade.

When Bayleton became available in 1981 it worked extremely well. We used Bayleton in tank mixes with contact fungicides until 1987 when Rubigan became available. We began using Banner in 1988. From 1981 to 1987 no problems with dollarspot on our fairways. In 1988 our troubles began when we used Rubigan and Banner. We used label rates and the length of control was very minimal. Instead of the 21 to 30 day control as was the case from 1987 to 1987, we are now forced to spray 10 to 14 days getting little or no control of dollarspot.

I can give examples of chemicals that don't work. On August 30th, 1991 we sprayed Rubigan at 1.22 oz./1,000 and Thiram at 3 oz./1,000 and Iron at .5 oz./1,000. The next few days were like we fertilized for dollarspot. Dollarspot was very active, mycelium all over our fairways. On July 1st, 1988 we sprayed Banner at 1.57 oz./1,000 and Thiram at 3.9 oz./1,000 and .15 lbs.N/1,000 and .5 oz.Fe/1,000 and 8 oz. sticker. As noted by my assistant, Henry Michna, the application was "ineffective ... had dollarspot within one week."

Ciba-Geigy has had test plots here at Ridgemoor for 2 years now. The plots showed that dollarspot cannot be controlled with

certain chemicals. I say chemicals because the Sterol Inhibitors are not true fungicides, rather they are fungistatic. The fungistatics alter the infection process of the fungus.

The following is part of a report done by Charles Pearson, Ph.D. from CIBY-GEIGY on the testing he did here at the club.

"Preliminary data on insolate sensitivity have been collected for this site. Fungal strains were evaluated on agar amended with SI fungicides at several concentrations. This technique is a "quick and dirty" way to evaluate isolate sensitivity. As you know, caution must be taken when using this technique with SI fungicides because this class of chemistry is usually fungistatic rather than fungitoxic. SI fungicides may alter the infection process-something we would not detect using the agar assay. A more reliable method requires *in vivo* analysis of putatively tolerant *Sclerotinia*. CIBA-GEIGY is currently developing the methodology for such as assay for dollarspot. Unfortunately, data using this technique are not yet available.

The enclosed data were generated from a single experiment. The trial was initiated as a preventative program. Experimental units were 1 meter sq. and each treatment was replicated 3 times in a randomized complete block design. The spray interval was 17 days.

Figure 1 shows the results of adding nitrogen to Banner. The addition of 0.25N/1,000 ft. as urea or Coron (a slow release nitrogen formulation) delayed disease development more than 1 oz./1,000 ft. of Banner alone. (cont'd. page 20)

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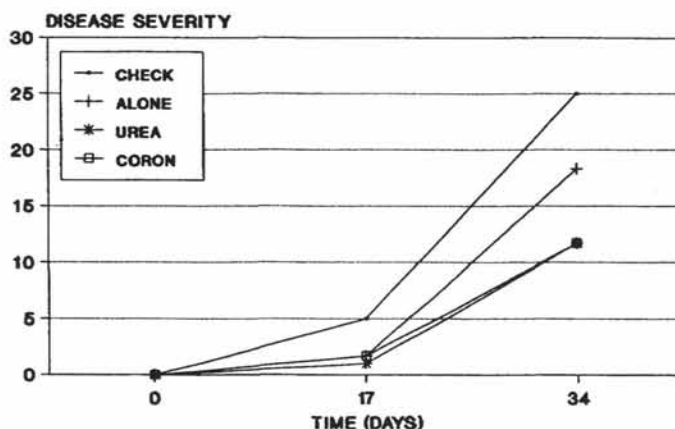
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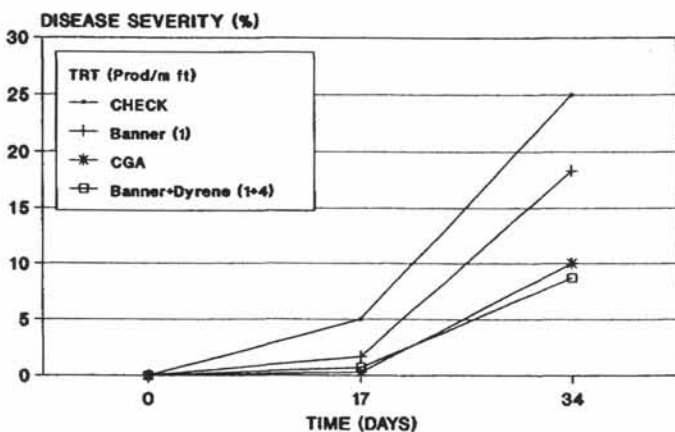
**BANNER/DOLLARSPOT
Ridgemoor**



1 oz/m ft, 17 Day Interval

Figure 2 shows disease control with Banner + Dyrene, and an experimental (CGA), relative to Banner alone or no treatment. At this potentially tolerant site, a tank mix with Dyrene provided better control than Banner alone. The experimental, with a different mode of action, also worked well.

**DOLLARSPOT
Ridgemoor**



17 DAY INTERVAL

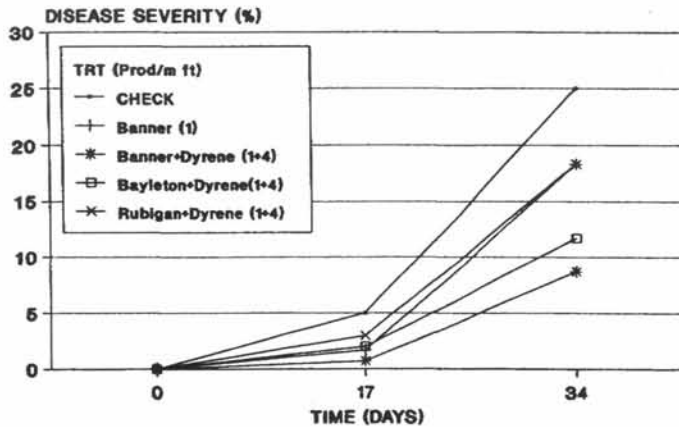
Figure 3 shows dollarspot control with various SIs when tank mixed with Dyrene. The highest level of control was observed with Banner + Dyrene followed by Bayleton + Dyrene and then Rubigan + Dyrene. (shown top of page 23)

In summary, control of dollarspot at the Ridgemoor Country Club has been a challenge. Although sterol inhibiting fungicides once provided a high level of disease control for an extended period of time, the length of control with these materials has eroded. Preliminary laboratory results with *Sclerotinia* isolated from this site, and our field observations, suggest the fungal population may have shifted towards tolerance. Additional laboratory (*in planta*) data are required to confirm this.

It should be stressed that the number of sites with putative tolerance is limited and that the use of Banner tank mixtures can provide dollarspot control. (cont'd. page 23)

(Dollarspot continued)

DOLLARSPOT RIDGEMOOR



In those areas where SI fungicides are not providing adequate dollarspot control, other modes of action should be used. A program approach would be best: i.e., use a SI + contact for summerpatch in the spring, followed by late summer or fall applications of fungicides with other modes of action for dollarspot.

In areas where the SI fungicides are providing excellent dollarspot control, alternation of modes of action and/or the use of tank mixtures are sound methods for limiting the development of tolerance."

To date only a contact such as Daconil 2787 at 4-8 oz./1,000 stops this dollarspot. Also, a new product Touche at 1.22 oz./1,000 with Dyrene at 4 oz./1,000 gives us 21 to 30 day control on our fairways. I would like to say thanks to Ciba-Geigys' Don Speir, Dr. Marcus Juby, and Dr. Charles Pearson. Also, a special thanks to CDGA's Dr. Randy Kane for his help in the dollarspot problem. Hopefully, fellow superintendents never see this disease. But using the fungicides mentioned as controls should help, as they have helped here at Ridgemoor. Finally, an Agri-diagnostic test was taken 3 times here by the people from Ciba-Geigy. Not one test showed even a minor disease problem of dollarspot as we know it. I firmly believe a new strain of dollarspot has emerged.

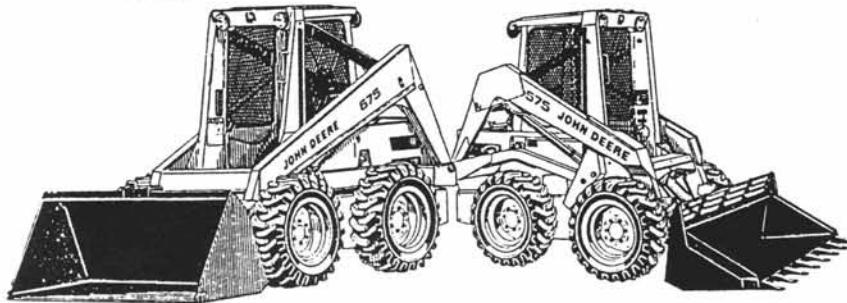
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