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Wasting Dollars on **Dollar Spot?**

by Peter J. Hahn, Supt. Ridgemoor C.C.

We had over 30 fungicides and combinations tested here in 1992. This study or trial has been paid for by the various chemical companies whose products we use. Dr. Randy Kane and Dr. Hank Wilkinson were the people responsible for this study.

The study proved that Urea is a very good fertilizer that can be used to prevent and aid in recovery of Ridgemoor's dollar spot. The study also proved without a doubt Ridgemoor's dollar spot is not controlled with many fungicides labeled for control of dollar spot. This finding I've known for years already. What really bothers me is all the money wasted on useless fungicides labeled for dollar spot control. I applaud Ciba-Geigy for their honesty and their continued interest in this problem. I challenge chemical companies, chemical suppliers, and pathologists, in making this information available to everyone. We must identify the cause, then explain the chemicals or fungicides effects on turfgrasses.

We as superintendents really have to change chemical fungicide classes if we want to avoid problems with resistance. Fungicide classes:

- 1. DMI systemics: Rubigan, Bayleton, Banner, Cutless, and Scotts TGR.
- 2. Benzimidazoles systemics: Tersan 1991, Fungo, and Cleary's 3336.
- 3. Dicarboximides systemics: Chipco 26019, Vorlan, Curalan, and Touche.
- 4. Contacts: Daconil, Dyrene, Fore, Koban, Terramec SP and others.
- 5. Phenylamides systemics: Subdue.
- Carbamates systemics: Banol.
- 7. Organo-phosphates: Aliette.

Also, superintendents need to understand that certain growth regulators are also in the same fungicide class as the DMI fungicides. This may compound an already bad situation.

Our fairways this year were much improved. We used Urea, (Vorlan, DF, Touche), Daconil WDG, and Dyrene in mixes or alone. We got between 17 and 21 day control throughout the summer. Also, we raised our total nitrogen on fairways from 1.50 lbs. N to 3 lbs. N/1,000 sq. ft.

I understand several more golf courses were hit with this type of dollar spot in 1992. This dollar spot is not controlled with many fungicides. In fact I honestly believe we have created a super strain of dollar spot by our continued use of certain fungicides. This results in wasting dollars on dollar spot control.

The question is not always where we stand, but in which direction we are going.