



Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*

New Fungicides for Use

Dr. Rick Latin



The March Meeting at Midwest Golf House covered many topics.

The March MAGCS meeting was held at the Midwest Golf House in Lemont. Dr. Rick Latin from Purdue University made his presentation, “New Fungicides for Turf Disease Control: 2014 Performance and Limitations.”

Dr. Latin started out reviewing the history of fungicides for the control of turf diseases. He discussed the loss of mercury and cadmium products and the introduction of chlorothalonil to the market. Contact and systemic fungicides were reviewed as to their phytomobility, or how they actually move on and in the plant. Diagrams explained the movement of the fungicides through the stoma on the leaf surface to the interior vascular system and then with certain fungicides down to the roots.

Secure (fluzinam) is a new contact fungicide that has been recently introduced. It is expected to take some of the pressure off the chlorothalonil restrictions. Like all contact fungicides it works on the outside of the leaf and is subject to weathering and microbial degradation.

Fungicides are categorized by how they work within or out of the plant. One form that works inside the plant is called an acropetal penetrant. This type of fungicide follows the xylem up and out through the plant. These usually have longer disease control because it suppresses the pathogen inside the plant. The pathogen usually takes a longer to recover and begin reproducing again. Another form of fungicide that works inside the plant is called a local penetrant. Local penetrants stay within the plant and do not follow the xylem up and out. A systemic penetrant actually does move up and down within the plant. This would be considered a “true systemic.” Fotsyl- aluminum is an example of this type of fungicide.

Fungicides are characterized further by their general mode of action. This will be either as a multi-site or site specific product. Most fungicides fall under the category of site specific.

Fungicide resistance is still a major concern in the industry. This can occur with certain combinations of pathogens and compounds. Dr. Latin discussed this in more detail. His recommendations include:

- Use cultural tactics to grow healthy grass
- Use preventative applications at lower rates to keep pathogen populations low
- Minimize site specific products
- Rotate chemistry

Lately, there has been a big increase by the manufacturers in the release of combination products. They have been taking their cue from Superintendents who have been tank mixing fungicides for years.

Dr. Latin’s final thoughts were about the importance of keeping pathogen populations low. An increase in disease pressure will require higher rates and more frequent applications. He recommended checking out the Purdue’s Turfgrass Website for their dollar spot disease model.

Dr. Latin had a good day. Not only was his presentation well done, but later in the morning he became a Grandfather. Congratulations!

After the morning break, the next educational session featured a panel discussion. The panel, moderated by MAGCS Board Member Kris Kvelland of Ridge Country Club consisted of Andy Dauksas from Glen Oak Country Club, Dr. Ed Nangle from the CDGA, Jeff Hoste from The Village Greens of Woodridge and



Brian Bossert, CGCS from Bryn Mawr Country Club.

The panel opened up with a discussion of their use and experience with some of the new fungicides discussed earlier in the day. Some used the new products out of curiosity, some got demos to try, and others liked the pre-mix aspects.

The winter ice and snow cover of this year were discussed. Tactics to cope with any problems included increasing communications with Club, pulling plugs to check for life, what to do or not to do about low pockets of ice coverage and melting or removing snow or ice. There were different opinions on what should/needs to be done. Courses that had more *Poa annua* had higher concerns.

The panel discussed how the winter was going to affect opening dates. Everyone agreed it looked like it was going to be later than normal. Panel discussions are always interesting as it creates a back and forth discussion. The panel took questions from the grandstands. There was only minor heckling.

The last speaker of the day was Dan Moore of Moore Golf. Dan's background is in research, consulting and documentation. He serves on the USGA Museum Archival Committee. Dan presented "Golf History and Photography of Golf in Chicago." Dan presented a historical perspective of Scotland's "gift" of the game of golf to Chicago. He showed some early drawings and photographs of some of the first courses built in Chicago. He reviewed the different architect's influences on the game and how that affected the original course architecture in Chicago. H.J. Tweedie, Allison Colt, Tom Bendelow, C.B. Macdonald and Donald Ross were some of the featured "pioneers" of golf in Chicago. It was very interesting and informative. @

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