

"Buyological" Alternatives (continued from bage 10)

(continued from page 10) included in initial applications but it became necessary to make routine fungicide applications to the tees. One of the factors contributing to this was the amount of dollar spot in the Crenshaw. Experience has taught us that this is not the ideal bentgrass for the climatic conditions that are typical of central Illinois. Once it became obvious that the tees were not going to hold up, we dropped them out of the trial and focused on the greens. One of the concerns was the effect of fungicide applications on the microbial population, perhaps a factor to evaluate next season by more closely examining biomass in the profile.

It is recommended that some of these biorationals be applied in the evening to avoid photodecomposition from UV rays. Last season, we made our applications in the evening, but this year all of our applications have been pre-

We were able to make it until late July before greens needed to be treated with a conventional fungicide. The 10 acres of tees were included in initial applications but it became necessary to make routine fungicide applications to the tees. One of the factors contributing to this was the amount of dollar spot in the Crenshaw.

dawn and have been lightly syringed in. We have seen better results this season than we did last, and hope that our efficacy continues to increase next season.

We do not generally utilize pgr's as part of our maintenance regime. However, during early July we had several events and local tournaments, including a site visit by Mr. Palmer for a round of golf. Our normal maintenance routine is to topdress very lightly every Monday, double cut Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, and cut and roll Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, with an occasional p.m. cut to further increase green speed. We are a public course with undulating greens so our goal is to have them roll consistently around 10. We felt it was necessary to try and get our greens to tournament speed so we made an application of a pgr at 0.10 ounce/1,000 ft². About four days later, we had brown patch (continued on page 14)



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"Buyological" Alternatives

(continued from page 12)

symptoms. It was not severe, but rather what has become affectionately known in this part of the country as subliminal brown patch (Dan Dinelli, CGCS, North Shore C.C.). Environmental conditions changed shortly after the symptoms appeared and the greens remained healthy and growth was for the vigorous. However, remainder of the month we were subjected to several days, 15, with daytime highs near 95 degrees and overnight lows above 70 degrees accompanied by high humidity. This type of weather used to be unseasonable but unfortunately it is becoming more typical in this area of the country.

On July 26, the greens at The Den were treated with Spotrete Thiram to control brown patch that had finally exceeded acceptable threshold levels. This application was made towards the end of the extended heat wave. On this same date, we treated the greens at Prairie Vista with a combination of

The ideal interval rate seems to be in the seven-to-ten-day range. On two occasions at Prairie Vista, we allowed 13 days between applications and each time we began to see some disease symptoms.

Heritage and a chlorothalonil product to control brownpatch, anthracnose and some dollar spot that started to appear. To date, these greens have received no additional fungicide applications.

The ideal interval rate seems to be in the seven-to-ten-day range. On two occasions at Prairie Vista, we allowed 13 days between applications and each time we began to see some disease symptoms. Each time we saw a little dollar spot, it was on the perimeters of the green or on the fringe, where we believed that coverage may have been the problem. It also appears necessary to include some type of nitrogen source with the biological. It may be doing nothing more than assisting the plant to grow out of the symptoms, but when an N source was not included, the material was less effective.

It is unrealistic to expect to sustain quality turfgrass without the use of conventional pesticides. I would like to be able (continued on page 16)







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"Buyological" Alternatives

(continued from page 14)

to write that we have completely eliminated them from our management program, but that has not yet occurred. As the season winds down, we will evaluate our application schedule and materials used and make the changes we feel are necessary to continue our quest to eliminate conventional fungicides. One of the goals for next season is to determine why the program was ineffective on the tees. The difference in cultivars was one contributing factor, but the Penncross greens were almost disease-free for the entire season, while dollar spot continued to be a problem on the Penncross tees. This will be the greatest area of focus for next season's program.

I would close by saying that this type of program may not I would like to be able to write that we have completely eliminated conventional pesticides from our management program, but that has not yet occurred.

work for everyone. Both of these courses are fairly rural and immature, and air movement and greens drainage are more than adequate. The program fits well with our other IPM and cultural practices, factors that will certainly vary at every golf course. Even though we are upscale public facilities, green speed is not a major concern. There are times we skip mowings, bump up heights of cut, back off on the frequency of mowings, all elements that contribute to the overall health and vigor of the turf. These are also practices that may be unacceptable at many facilities.

¹Nelson, Eric B. *Field Evaluation* of *Microbial Inoculants*. Cornell University, Department of Plant Pathology, Ithaca, N.Y. 1998.

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hy not take some time now to check on your financial condition? Here are 10 great ideas to help keep you fiscally fit.

- 1) Make a video. Use a video camera to make a film record of all your significant valuables, both inside your home and out. Then, in the event of fire, theft or natural disaster, you can easily prove a claim to the insurance adjuster. Store the tape at work or in a safety deposit box.
- 2) Refinance your mortgage. As mortgage rates dip to all-time lows, consider refinancing. You can do it with little or no outof-pocket costs if the lender lets you include charges in your new mortgage. Also, consider a nopoint mortgage that can help you trim upfront costs (but at a slightly higher interest rate).
- **3) Get a low-cost credit card.** Some credit card lenders charge interest rates of 18% or more. Switch to a card with a lower rate. Or, if you pay your bill in full each month, get a card with no annual fee and an interest grace period.
- 4) Raise your insurance deductibles. If you can afford to pay more in the event of a mishap, consider raising the deductibles on your car and homeowner's insurance to save money. Increasing your deductible from \$50 to \$500 on a homeowner's policy, for example, could slash your premium by up to 40%.

- 5) Check your Social Security benefits for accuracy. It's free. Just contact the Social Security Administration for the form to request a detailed statement of your Social Security wages, the number of quarters worked and how much you have contributed. Review this information carefully to avoid future problems.
- 6) Check your credit report. To get a copy of your credit report, contact one of these three industry leaders:
 * Trans Union National Consumer Relations Center, P.O. Box 7000, North Olmsted, OH, 44070. Cost: \$8.
 * Equifax. Call 1-800-685-1111. Cost: \$8 in most states.

* TRW. Call 1-800-392-1122. Cost: One free report per year.

- 7) Open a home equity line. If you need to borrow, your home equity is a great source of cheap loans, with a typical rate of about 2% above the prime rate. And the interest may be deductible. Shop around for a bank that will set up a line for free or for a nominal fee. No interest is due until you tap it. (Note: Since an unpaid loan puts your home at risk, this option is not wise if you have trouble managing credit.)
- 8) Rethink your life insurance. Your life insurance should be reviewed periodically to be sure that your coverage has kept pace with inflation and (continued on page 26)



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At the PGA Championship, held in August at Medinah C.C., Tour players had barely "stepped out of their courtesy Cadillacs" when they began maligning course conditions.

John Gurke, CGCS Aurora C.C.(?)

ohn Philp is my new hero. For those not familiar with the name, he's the greenkeeper Carnoustie-you at know, where the British Open was held? The one chastised by Tour professionals for being "an out-of-control" greenkeeper because the rough was...rough? Why, then, with all those big names in the world of professional golf kicking this guy around, is he my new hero? He answered them. He actually had the nerve to call it like he saw it. It is obvious that this is a man who thinks of his golf course as his baby, and someone called his baby ugly, so he punched 'em in the mouth. Good for him!

The comments by many players during television coverage of the British Open are what started my blood to boil. Granted, players have been critiquing and criticizing Tour stops for years, but lately it seems to have become personal; the superintendent is now responsible for the design of the course as well as its condition in the small minds of pampered Tour pros. Did John Philp make the fairways as narrow as 11 yards? Did he install the recently renamed "Jean and Justin Burn?" It doesn't end here, though. Once bored with "super-bashing," these poor young lads turn to the governing bodies—in this case, the Royal & Ancient—to ventilate a bit more built-up gas. Did the R & A actually TAKE the driver out of Tiger's hands? I can picture it now—an oak-walled boardroom filled with cigarchomping men in crested R & A jackets saying (in their best *(continued on page 22)*

