



FOR BROWN PATCH, "A PROGRAM CENTERED ON DACONIL 2787® ... HAS NEVER FAILED ME."



*Mark Hoban,
Superintendent,
The Standard Club,
Duluth, Georgia*

This summer, Mark Hoban, certified golf course superintendent at The Standard Club in the Atlanta suburb of Duluth, will return to what he knows is his most dependable approach to Brown patch control: a preventive schedule of Daconil 2787® Flowable Fungicide from ISK Biotech Corporation. That's because, last year, he learned a valuable lesson. When temperatures soared to 100° and humidity hovered in the 90% range, he suffered severe yellowing on several of his bentgrass greens. This he blames on a combination of liquid fertilizers and systemic fungicides.

The Standard Club's course offers golfers a dramatic look through all four seasons. Making extensive use of native grasses like bluestem, broomsedge and indiagrass, it incorporates a variety of turfgrasses, too. There's bermudagrass in the fairways, tall fescue and bluegrass in the roughs, zoysiagrass bunker faces, and of course, bentgrass on the greens.

The challenge of bentgrass.

Maintaining bentgrass greens through Georgia summers can be a challenge. "Our critical time is mid-June through September," Mark says. "During the heat stress of summer, we pay particular attention to Pythium and Brown patch on the greens."

After the problems he had last summer, Mark will avoid mixing nutrients and systemic fungicides and return to Daconil 2787 as the cornerstone of a preventive program he's used successfully before. "My intention is to go with Daconil 2787 on a preventive basis," he says. "When I spray every seven days, even using the light label rates, I never have Brown patch. And then I'll rotate a systemic into the program once in a while."

Daconil 2787 for algae prevention too!

Besides the Brown patch control he gets, Mark likes Daconil 2787 because it also prevents algae. Even though algal scum was only just added to the label, he recalls that courses using a regular schedule of Daconil 2787 for Brown patch "had little or no algae."

The Atlanta superintendent sums it up candidly. "I've been in this business since 1971, and a superintendent since '76," he says. "I feel I learned a lot last year, and I'm excited about 1994 and returning to a program centered on Daconil 2787, which has never failed me."

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Number 16, Pine Barrens

bordered by a meandering brook. When you're standing on that tee you could imagine that you were in North Carolina or upstate New York.

Rolling Oaks traverses piney woods and its namesake oak hammock environments. It also occupies portions of old pasture land at its northern limits. The transitional areas between these topographies are the wiregrass areas that support the native tortoise populations mentioned earlier.

Superintendent Steve Hritsko and his crew have earned high praise from the Florida Fish and Game Commission for their management practices to maintain these habitats.

Because of the oak hammock environment and soil conditions, management practices are different on Rolling Oaks. Steve and his staff must contend with denser shady areas and clay and limestone deposits as they manage and groom the turf. One of Steve's projects is trying to maintain a stand of overseeded tall fescue year-round in some shady rough areas. He is trying different rates and application dates to carry the grass through the dog days of summer.

Last year, Mike Mackey, one of Steve's operators, also got creative with the overseeding. He designed and executed an intricate diamond shaped mowing pattern on the 11th hole that became a con-

versation piece among the golfers. Steve says that it attracted so many comments that he will probably have Mike do it again this fall.

The Dynamic Duo

No, I'm not talking about Batman and Robin! I'm referring to the World Woods superintendents, Bob Wagner and Steve Hritsko. The common bond between the two is their friendship. The common trait that each one possesses that makes the operation strong is their professionalism.

Bob and Steve are quick to give high praise to the three assistant superintendents: Bob Roessing, Pine Barrens; Ryan Weaver, Rolling Oaks; and especially John

Hoffman on the Practice Facility who has to deal with their different management styles. He reports to Bob for the nine-hole and three-hole courses, and to Steve for the two ranges and putting green. Bob and Steve also take advantage of the three-hole practice course by collaborating on testing equipment, products, and procedures under normal maintenance conditions.

Bob and Steve also rely heavily on the daily contributions of Brian Scull, equipment manager, and Mark Tooker, irrigation manager, to keep this sprawling layout well groomed and well watered.

Beyond those similarities, meet Mr. Night and Mr. Day! Bob is from Brooklyn, New York and Steve is from Ripon, Wisconsin (population 8,000 when Ripon College is in session). Bob is highly competitive operating somewhere around warp speed, while Steve is more laid back taking the A-train to get there.

Both gentlemen were tested and found

"To be really successful in this profession, this can't just be a job or a paycheck. I feel you have to take it personally."

deserving at the Bardmoor proving grounds in Largo, Florida under the guidance of John Luper, Frank Cook, and Tim Sever, whom they both give extensive credit for their professional growth and development.

Bob's view of the profession includes his philosophy of "taking the job personally" which he admitted he borrowed from a friend. "To be really successful in this profession, this can't just be a job or a paycheck. I feel you have to take it personally. There are times when management thinks the course is great, but you know you have problem areas that aren't right.

Solving those problems, whether they are noticed or not, results from getting personal with the job, and that is satisfying to your head."

Steve offers his own formula for success to would-be superintendents. "First get a job on a golf course. Work at it at least a year. During that time, ask lots of questions and really study what is required of the superintendent and his assistant. If after a year you still have the interest, enroll in a turf management program.

"There is a trend in the industry leaning more and more towards graduates with a four-year degree. I would investi-

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Number 8, Rolling Oaks

gate this option first. If that does not fit your needs, find a good two-year program. After graduation, be prepared to make sacrifices and pay your dues. Nobody gets something for nothing in this business.”

Bob and Steve became good friends while working at Bardmoor. They know each other’s personalities, strengths, and weaknesses, and they respect each other’s management styles. It is a unique personal and working relationship that has been most beneficial for World Woods.


Besides this grand facility on the cutting edge of golf operations, World Woods has established itself as a concerned and committed member of the golf industry. The ownership and management have do-

nated the facility for the past two years as the site of the Envirotron Classic Golf Tournament. By waiving the customary fees and charges, World Woods has helped the Seven Rivers Golf Course Superintendents Association and the Florida Turfgrass Association raise nearly \$52,000 to equip the Envirotron turf research center at the University of Florida.

Few people realize that the combined turf industries in Florida constitute a \$6 billion-a-year business employing around 35,000 people in hands-on and related professions. World Woods has earned a place of honor by its leadership and participation in helping to fund turf research. They have set an example that all golf

clubs in the state, and even in the nation, should follow.

The war chests of the anti-green, anti-golf, anti-agriculture movements that operate under the guise of environmentalism are filled with millions of dollars annually from philanthropic foundations. Their money buys hype, hysteria, and headlines and does little to really help man live in productive harmony with nature.

Balance that against the thousands of dollars our associations struggle to raise every year to find real factual answers to better and safer ways to grow crops and manage turf, and you can see why we are so proud of the contributions made by clubs like World Woods. 

Mole cricket control

The final frontier

BY TOM BENEFIELD, CGCS

Well, maybe controlling mole crickets is not quite like the Star Trek Enterprise mission, but then again it is a never-ending story.

Every year millions of dollars are spent on keeping the mischievous mole cricket in check on golf courses here in our beloved state...well at least I love it.

Matter of fact I am the epitome of the 1968 redneck bumper sticker with the American flag on it and the words "love it or leave it." Well anyhow where was I now, (I think maybe I've been watching too many John Wayne movies lately), oh yeah Mister Mole Cricket.

This tiny creature which God hath created, (and I suspect for good reason) has become one of the most cursed biological enigmas in the golf community. I mean not only does it do tremendous damage to our sacred greens, tees and fairways but it is one bodaciously ugly rascal. And you and I have got to look at this dude all summer long.

About the only people working in the golf industry who actually like these critters are the chemical salesmen. And for good reason, I might add. But then again it's not like these salesmen are running around the state distributing mole crickets. Rather the opposite — they provide us with the tools to hammer the ugly fools with a menagerie of weapons and keep an acceptable level of playing conditions for our members and guests.

So it is with great fanfare that we have as our editorial focus for the summer issue another look at the life, truth and fantasies of mole cricket control. Yes it is true, that you the members asked to have another look at this ugliest of subjects, and yes it is



Severe damage is evident in these untreated areas.

true that we the committee have agreed to your demands.

And in that same line of thinking, we have reached out to some of the great thinkers and tinkerers in the golf community to get their perspective on this age old problem.

As a matter of fact, we have even asked the manufacturers to send us their best mole cricket recipes and best management practices in order to inform you the masters of the greens, the marvels of the tees and the snippers of the roughs of all the available options.

So sit back, grab a Coke and light up a smoke... well I don't know if lighting up a smoke is such a good idea. I mean the FGCSA Board of Directors (whom you elected) unanimously passed a resolution banning smoking at all future board meetings. This was quite a bold move on their part since no one present could even remember the last time someone lit up in the board room. But then again you can never tell when a band of hooligans might get

on the board, anyway just to be safe, don't light up while you are reading this article, and if you have one lit now then put it out.

Seriously the members have responded by sending in some excellent programs and advice. When you see one of them at the next local meeting give them a big pat on the back for a job well done.

A different story

I have a different story to tell. Typically we think of Florida as "Mole Cricket Heaven." My association with mole crickets at two separate country clubs in Palm Beach County over the past 15 years has been intense. Both Boca Greens and the Falls Country Club are geographically located within the bulls-eye of agricultural land, whereby mole cricket activity is tremendous.

Upon my employment at Boca Rio Golf Club three years ago, I discussed with the previous superintendent the apparent success of mole cricket control. I asked what



He is still the ugliest of vermin to attack our sacred greens and fairways.

was his secret formula?

He acknowledged that he was not spraying anything unique or special. With that reply one would assume that he simply did not want to reveal his secret. I really knew he was being honest with me, but it still seemed difficult to believe.

The course went through a major construction with a complete re-grassing. The entire course was fumigated with methyl bromide — including the fairways and rough. This is obviously one effective way to control mole cricket activity. Therefore, my first growing season yielded virtually no mole cricket activity.

The amazing thing occurred during the second growing season. Again, virtually no mole cricket activity occurred.

As this inactivity continued, I kept recalling the comments of the previous su-

perintendent of not spraying anything special. I pondered the success of this program where nothing special is being applied to control the mole crickets yet above-average results continue to appear. This made me realize that there must be other reasons for the reduced mole cricket activity.

Even though most entomologists claim that mole crickets do not communicate or colonize, I find this difficult to accept because typically we find mole cricket infestation intense within concentrated, pocketed areas.

In the past I have seen mole crickets literally devour a 1,000-square-foot area within a fairway, rough, tee or green slope and yet, just a few hundred feet away, absolutely no activity occurs. I have witnessed infestation in areas of intense insect-

icidal application, yet those areas just a short distance away, with virtually no activity, have received absolutely no chemicals!

As colonies become more established in just a few areas such as the higher, sandy mounds of green and tee slopes and various fairway bunker areas, yes chemical control is required. With our typical program of control for nematodes with NemaCur, control for grubs with Oftanol, and also general sod web worm control with Pageant, the chemical residual has somewhat retarded the mole cricket activity.

However, I must admit that in this current month of June as I write this article, I am witnessing the first rather severe infestation that will require a more intense control program as compared to that of

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the past three years.

I really am not surprised or alarmed at the amount of mole cricket activity that is finally occurring because I have been fortunate to date and it was inevitable that a more intense program would have to be implemented.

Boca Rio is unique as compared to the typical developer-type project because there are absolutely no houses surrounding the property. Instead, our deep forest-type wood surroundings are not as conducive to mole cricket populations.

Couple this with the lack of nearby farmland and wide expanses of divided highways (Palmetto Park Road to the north and the Florida Turnpike to the east) which provide a somewhat beneficial buffer zone to prevent nearby fly-ins.

The third contributing factor is the uniqueness of the Boca Rio soil. The property was actually excavated as a rock pit in the 1960s. There is less than a foot of adequate topsoil throughout the entire



Damaged areas can look like miniature battlefields tilled by hundreds of tiny mortars.

property, hence very little soil for mole crickets to adequately tunnel through and feed on the bermudagrass root system.

Couple this with a poorer type of drainage where field capacity or super saturated

soil profiles even lessen the root system, thereby further preventing any tunneling opportunities for the mole crickets.

Some of the most severe activity now occurs in the bunker floors. We generally

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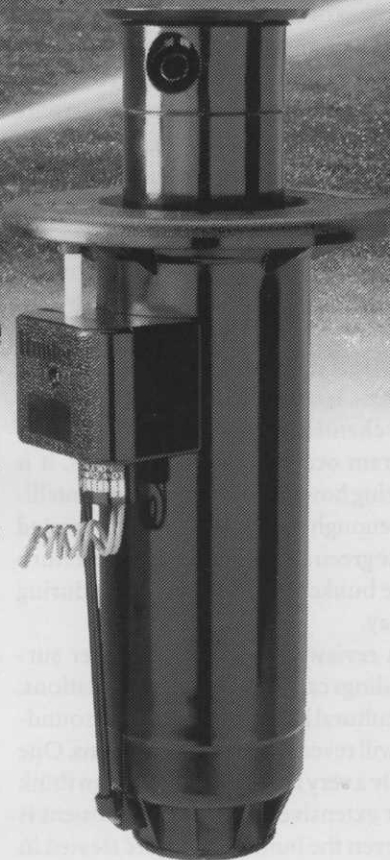
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Then I began listening to fellow superintendents talking about mapping heavy areas with the idea of getting a jump on them next year (a strategy that I was already using for preemergent weed control for the same reasons mentioned above).

rake all one hundred bunkers daily in the season from October through April which smoothes over any tunneling activity that may occur and renders it invisible.

As the playing season tapered down and bunker raking was reduced to just once or twice a week, tunneling has become intense. I see a need to chemically treat the sand immediately because this is a prime location for mole crickets to harbor.

At my last two places of employment, each course had an island green with bunkers. I recall a mediocre chemical control on the turf yet tunneling was active in the bunkers. It was not until the actual floors were chemically treated did a successful program occur on the islands. Yes, it is amazing how the mole crickets are intelligent enough to perceive the areas treated on the green and collar surfaces yet return to the bunkers for safe harboring during the day.

In review, I feel that perimeter surroundings can influence the populations. Agricultural land versus urban surroundings will reveal different infestations. One of only a very few benefits that I can think of for extensive wall to wall treatment is that even the bunker floors are treated in order to be effective. And, if you still do not have any luck, remember you can always methyl bromide the fairways! But, remember to get your new sprigs ready.

Mike Bailey
Boca Rio GC, Palm Beach Chapter

When in doubt, change courses

Mocap at 75 lbs. of product per acre sliced into the turf did not prove to be as effective for mole cricket control during

the 1993 season in North Florida at the Oakbridge Club. Re-treatment of areas with baits and Orthene was still in order.

The effectiveness of Mocap as compared with the previous year (even after increasing the subsurface rate by 25 lbs. of products per acre) still seemed to wane. Why? I have no plausible explanation. Three strikes and you're out!

On to South Florida and the Broken Sound West course. Change of region, try a different school of thought.

Nematodes/biological control for crickets. Nematodes applied during the third week of March, 30 acres of fairways. Goal was to dispose of egg-laying adult females thereby reducing population potential.

At this time, some beds are beginning to appear but tunneling activity and demise of turf normally exhibited is not occurring.

The jury is still out and we have a long way to go. Again!

Eddie Snipes
Broken Sound Club,
Palm Beach Chapter

Consultant can help

Approximately five years ago we contracted the services of A. Leon Stacey, Ph.D. from St. Simons Island, Ga. to assist us in our efforts to control the mole cricket. We felt that we could reduce our pesticide expenditure and better target our applications to help satisfy environmental concerns. As a result of this work we have developed the following program.

March

Overwintered adults are becoming very active. In the greens and collars we inject Dursban (Pageant DF) in individual tun-

nel areas with a shallow root feeder.

In the more active areas of the roughs and fairways, we apply Mocap 10G at 100#/acre with a granular slit applicator, (Canaan TG-40).

This procedure does an excellent job of controlling the spring adults. It also gives us the added benefit of nematode suppression which is very important in the spring to establish roots on the older varieties of bermuda that are coming out of dormancy.

June

The nymph hatch is in full swing and we respond with an application over the entire property with granular insecticides with the slit applicator. Over the past few years we have used Mocap 10G. This year we plan to use Turcam 2.5G and Crusade 5G in addition to with Mocap 10G. The Mocap will be used in the areas with a history of nematode problems. On the greens and collars we apply Triumph 4E and Orthene.

July/August

Any mole crickets that we missed are active as juveniles. We have found that 1% Dursban bait is very effective and easy to apply. We also apply Orthene mixed with Black Strap Molasses (1 gallon/100 gallons spray volume). Based on information from recent research trials, Coax (a feeding stimulant) will replace molasses in this year's applications, which may allow us to reduce Orthene rates as much as 40%.

September/October

Any mole cricket that we have missed in previous applications are adults now and very difficult to control. We will spot treat areas with Orthene or granular insecticide with the slit applicator to heal any stressed areas before the overseeding operations in late October.

Paul Salmon, CGCS
Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, North
Florida Chapter

Planning is cheaper

As a small public golf course, our approach to mole cricket control had always been on of reaction. Limited budget, limited manpower, and heavy summer plays seemed to dictate this policy. It seemed that I was always waiting and hoping that each year we would have less of a problem. By the time the first nymphs began to hatch,