

FF-II problems wider-spread than thought

BY PETER BLAIS

Twice as many courses as originally thought suffered turf damage from a tainted fungicide, but manufacturer O.M. Scott & Sons expects few additional courses will report problems.

"A number of other courses contacted us after the original publicity," said Scott sales manager Jerry O'Donnell, referring to the 10 courses initially reported suffering from an atrazine-tainted batch of FF-II in July. "I'd say we're up to 20 to 30."

"We've done the same thing we did at the original courses, testing and follow-up. Some have been confirmed to have atrazine. Any course where that has been confirmed, Scott will support 100 percent in correcting the problem."

"It's not likely we'll run into any more problems, but it is possible."

Superintendents began reporting elongated dead spots on their

greens last spring. The problem was traced to FF-II Lot #092889 (plus three letters). The contaminated batch of fertilizer-based fungicide mistakenly contained atrazine, the active ingredient in Scott's Bonus S herbicide.

Scott reported earlier this summer that 10 courses in Michigan, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Kentucky were affected. Some required little repair. Others, like Idle Hour Country Club in Lexington, Ky., lost 18 of 20 greens at a cost of thousands of dollars. Boyne Mountain Golf Club in Boyne Falls, Mich. suffered damage to two 10,000-square-foot greens and nine execu-

tive course greens at a cost of \$50,000.

As word spread, other courses noted similar symptoms.

"The effects were difficult to recognize," O'Donnell said. "In some cases they were significant. In others they were insignificant."

"All confirmed cases were traced to the original lot number. And they were scattered throughout the country, from the Northeast to Arizona. The product is shipped on a national basis."

Chuck Welch, superintendent at Sable Oaks Country Club in South Portland, Maine, contacted Scott after reading reports similar to the

long, narrow dead spots he suffered on 12 of his 18 greens.

"Scott's Midwest regional manager was here recently," Welch said. "They're moving on the problem. They've taken samples and photos. Their lab still hasn't found atrazine. That may be because we used charcoal (to treat the symptoms) and that helped the recovery last spring."

"But we're still working with them. One way or the other we'll figure out what it is. Scott has said if it's their problem, they'll take care of it."

O'Donnell said he is pleased with the cooperation he's received from



superintendents and the efforts of Scott employees to rectify the situation.

"Considering the magnitude of the problem, we're happy with the way it's worked out," the Scott employee said.

"I'm happy with the way everyone has responded. It's taken a lot of time to resolve the issue, plus the direct expenditures. The superintendents have reacted quite favorably. We're working with them to get things corrected."

Soldiers enter fray with Mohawks in Canada

Canadian soldiers became involved late last month in the sometimes violent impasse between Mohawk Indians and the government over a proposed expansion of Oka Golf Club in suburban Montreal.

The army placed razor wire around a drug and rehabilitation center where 50 Indians had holed up while negotiations over who owned the contested 76 acres continued, according to reporters at the Canadian golf magazine "Score."

Only essential items, like food, were being allowed through to the 20 warriors and 30 women and children inside the rehab center. A dozen journalists were also inside. But the army was intercepting all phone calls. The only communication allowed was on a hotline between the army and Indians.

The government hoped the action would force the Indians to leave the facility and bring about a settlement to the conflict, which began this spring when the Indians erected barricades leading to what they claimed was tribal land. The situation turned violent when a policeman was killed in a July gun battle.

But the Indians refused to leave the center until the government legally turned the land over to the Kahnnesetake Indian Reservation and promised those occupying the rehab center access to advisers and family if they were jailed.

The federal government purchased the land from the owners (the town of Oka and a French businessman) for \$2.78 million in mid-September, but gave no indication it was willing to meet the Indians' demands.

Canadian architect Graham Cooke had done the preliminary design for the new nine holes. But the federal government's purchase of the land effectively killed the project.

Your most valuable assets aren't always liquid.

For many weed control problems, the answer is not a solution. It's granular Team™ preemergence herbicide.

Team puts your weed control where it does the most good—the weed germination zone. There, it turns into a vapor and delivers a zone of protection that's very solid. So solid, it keeps out crabgrass, goosegrass and many other problem weeds all season long.

That keeps your reputation solid, too. With Team, your golf or lawn care customers will see fewer weeds—and more beautiful turfgrass.

But it's not just Team's tough weed control that keeps customers happy. Many of them also prefer its gentle activity to turfgrass. Plus its easy, precise application. Team granules stay where you put them and won't leach out, even in heavy rainfall. And you can either apply Team by itself or on fertilizer available from leading formulators.

Find out why your most valuable asset could be granular Team. Call your nearest DowElanco distributor or for technical assistance, call toll-free: **1-800-352-6776.**



DowElanco
4040 Vincennes Circle—Suite 400
Indianapolis, IN 46268 U.S.A.

Team™—(bifenox+trifluralin, DowElanco)
Refer to the Team label for complete directions.