

Curbing dollar spot blight a battle of changing weapons

Left unattended, the disease can wipe out a green or fairway quickly

DOLLAR SPOT SYMPTOMS

- Light areas may progress to hourglass lesions
- Leaves may be girdled
- Dispersed bleached areas
- "Dollar-sized" straw colored spots
- Depressed areas
- White fungal masses on leaves
- Roots may degenerate

By PETER BLAIS

As late-summer days warm up and nights cool down, superintendents' dreams of lush, green fairways turn to nightmare visions of foliar yellow lesions that attack healthy stands of grass and turn them into round, sunken patches joining like some sickly Olympic symbol of blighted turf.

No silver medals are awarded to superintendents finishing second to dollar spot, just pink slips.

"It's a real problem up here as we get into the warm, damp days and cool nights of August and September," said Jim Diorio, superintendent at Purpoodock Club in Cape Elizabeth, Maine.

"It starts out about the size of a silver dollar. But it can wipe out an entire green or fairway pretty quickly if left untreated."

Cool-season, bentgrass courses are more likely to treat for dollar spot, the most persistent of all

fungus diseases in managed turf, according to Rhone-Poulenc Technological Development Manager Tom Vrabel.

Warm-season and transition-zone Bermudagrass courses can also suffer from the fungus, although brown patch and red thread are usually bigger problems.

Fortunately, fungicides that control brown patch also curb dollar spot. In fact, one of the saving graces about dollar spot is that most fungicides will tame it, temporarily.

"If caught in time, dollar spot is relatively easy to control," Vrabel said. "The problem is that it can become resistant to a certain fungicide fairly quickly."

"Dollar spot and pythium show the greatest tendency to become resistant to a certain class of fungicides. And once it becomes resistant it often stays that way, even if you come back with the same chemical 10 years later."

The biggest advance in dollar spot research in the past few years is the understanding that it cannot be controlled by a single product, Vrabel said. The best technique is to rotate the fungicide class by the treatment, month, or season.

Some application specialists even recommend mixing fungicides with two different modes of action in the same tank treatment, he added.

"Look for the rotation that best fits your area," Vrabel recommended. "Contact a local turfgrass specialist and find out the best program for your region. It's an evolving science."

A fungicide's effectiveness can be prolonged by using as little as possible as infrequently as possible, Vrabel added. Although preventive applications to stop dollar spot are frequently made, the fact it can be effectively beaten back after symptoms appear helps limit fungicide use.

Preventive applications for diseases like pythium or brown patch must be applied continually. Once the symptoms for those diseases appear, the turf is often lost, Vrabel said.

But the superintendent walks a fine line with dollar spot.

Wait too long to treat an infected area and poa annua, which germinates in late summer, can get a foothold in the diseased turf, Vrabel warned.

"Before you know it, you're well on your way to a green that's 50 percent or more annual bluegrass," he said.

Cultural controls that can help control dollar spot include deep, frequent irrigation; avoiding watering in late afternoon or evening; improving air flow across turf; minimizing thatch; and maintaining adequate nitrogen and potassium levels during summer.

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Action:
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Systemic (S)
Local systemic (LS)

Company	Product	Active ingredients	Formulation	App. rate (oz/1,000 sq ft)	Application interval (days)	Cost/1,000 sq ft application	Action	Toxicity (LD-50)	States not registered in	Market area
Ciba-Geigy P.O. Box 18300 Greensboro, NC 27419 L. Douglas Houseworth 919-547-1152 Circle #201	Banner	Propiconazole	EC	0.5-2	7-28	N/A	S	Oral >1,310, Dermal >5,010	Calif.	Nat'l
Cleary Chemical 178 Rt. 522, Ste. A Dayton, N.J. 08810 Bron Zienkiewicz 800-524-1662 Circle #202	Cleary's 3336 Spotrete	Thiophanate Methyl Thiram	F & WP F & G	1-2 2.5-5	7-28 7-10	N/A N/A	S C	Oral 6,640, Dermal >10,000 Oral 780, Dermal NA	Calif. Calif.	Nat'l Nat'l
Grace-Sierra 1001 Yosemite Drive Milpitas, Calif. 95035 Mark Broxon 800-492-8255 Circle #203	Duosan Vorlan	Thiophamate methyl & mancozeb Vinclozolin	WP D & LF	3 1-2	10-14 28	\$2.30 \$1.50-3.00	C/S C/S	N/A N/A	None Calif.	Int'l Nat'l
ISK Biotech 5966 Heisley Rd. Mentor, Ohio 44060 Richard Garrett 216-255-5645 Circle #204	Daconil 2787 Flowable Daconil 2787 WDG	Chlorothalonil Chlorothalonil	L WDG	3-11 1.75-6.5	7-14 7-14	\$0.77-\$2.85 \$0.81-\$3.02	C C	Dermal >20,000 Dermal >10,000	None None	Int'l Int'l
Lebanon Turf Products 1600 E. Cumberland St. Lebanon, Pa. 17042 Amy Eisenhauer 717-273-1685 Circle #205	Turf Fungicide w/Bayleton Turf Fungicide w/Daconil 2787	Bayleton Daconil (Chlorothalonil)	G G	1.5-4 4	30 7-14	N/A N/A	S C	N/A N/A	None None	Nat'l Nat'l
LESCO 20005 Lake Rd. Rocky River, Ohio Steve Jedrzejek 216-333-9250 Circle #206	Touche Flowable Twosome Flowable	Vinclozolin Chlorothalonil & fenarimol	L L	1-2 3-4.5	14-28 14-21	\$1.63-3.26 \$0.85-1.71	C/LS C/S	Oral >5,000, Dermal >4,000 Oral 4,670, Dermal >2,020	Calif. Calif.	Nat'l Nat'l
Miles Inc. 8400 Hawthorn Rd. Kansas City, Mo Steve Chaney 816-242-2332 Circle #207	Bayleton 25 Ornamental Fung.	Triadimefon	DF	1-2	30	N/A	S	Oral 2,828, Dermal >5,000, Inhalation >10.8	None	Int'l
O.M. Scott & Sons 14111 Scottslawn Rd. Marysville, Ohio 43041 Joe Bell 513-644-0011 Circle #208	Proturf Fluid Proturf Fungicide VII	Thiophanate-methyl & iprodione Triadimefon	L G	1.1 21.22	10-14 14	N/A N/A	C/S S	Oral >5,000, Dermal >2,000 Oral >5,000, Dermal >2,000	None None	Nat'l Nat'l
Parkway Research 13802 Chrisman Rd. Houston, Texas 77039 Cathy Bussa 713-442-9821 Circle #209	Consan Triple Action 20	Quaternary Amine	L	3-4	10-14	\$1.75	C	Oral >850	Calif.	Nat'l
Regal Chemical Co. 600 Branch Drive Alpharetta, Ga. 30201 Will King 800-621-5208 Circle #210	ConSyst Fungicide Systec 1998	Chlorothalonil & Thiophanate Thiophanate	WDG L & G	3 1	7-30 10-30	\$2.18 1.12	C/S S	Dermal Dermal >10,000 Dermal >7,500	Calif. Calif.	Nat'l Nat'l
Rhone-Poulenc 2 TW Alexander Dr. Research Triangle Park, NC 800-334-9745 Circle #211	Chipco 26019 Chipco 26019 Flo	Iprodione Iprodione	WP L	1-2 2-4	14-28 14-28	N/A N/A	LS LS	Oral >5,000, Dermal >2000 Oral >5,000, Dermal 2,000	None None	Int'l Int'l

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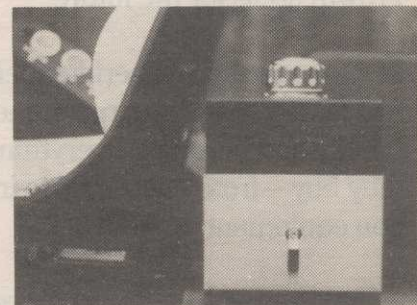
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