How to make pre-emergents more effective

By MARK LESLIE

Superintendents can save cost, equipment and manhours through innovative use of pre-emergent herbicides. Yet there are some warning signs - beyond the need to adhere to their labels.

• Some pre-emergents stunt root growth. Compensate by adding phosphorous. Also, remember the best root growth is during the spring, so that warm weather in itself will help. • Do not use a pre-emergent in a sprigging

situation, says Jeff Cook of Sandoz Agro, Inc. • In places with an historical problem with winter kill, an application would make it difficult to reseed or resprig in that area.

problem, an application can be timed to control some of the winter annuals, including poa annua and chickweed

· Superintendents who conduct fall overseeding of their greens, but not their fairways, can edge their greens with the herbicide so golfers don't track seed off.

· Similarly, they can spray wasteland bunkers or sand traps, so people don't carry weed seed into the traps.

· On courses where fairways, but not roughs, are overseeded they can spray the first 20 or 30 feet of the roughs.

• Combine pre-emergent products that have • In areas where winter kill is typically not a different characteristics to get the best of both.

Pre-emergents open whole new world of time

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"The biggest news about Barricade in the turf market is, we gained complete clearance for all turf and ornamental usage for up to 2.3 pounds annually," said Jeff Cook, Sandoz Agro's business manager for Barricade. "Where we had rate restrictions, we now have full clearance one time. For turf and ornamentals, this will allow the user to get



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control for an entire season, particularly in the South. This opens a whole new market."

· So-o-o effective geographically.

"I think you will see increased activity across the nation with Dimension," said Gordon. "New split-application labels are available everywhere but in California

"Those labels will improve the efficacy of the product.'

Rohm & Haas Turf and Ornamental Product Manager Janet Giesselman pointed to new registration for Dimension in California and New York, except for Nassau and Suffolk counties.

Barricade is for cool- and warm-season turf. "It is flexible enough in its rates of application that you can use it from the Gulf of Mexico to the Canadian border," said Yoder.

· So-o-o insoluble.

Insolubility means that even with very moist surface turf, the new pre-emergent herbicides will stay where they are applied. In the past, superintendents might have had to wait weeks for the right conditions to apply the products."[Barricade] does not move," said Cook. "You can get phenomenal control. In fact, we have had to be precise about the rates because the tendency for products with two to five pounds is, you can't just make it 1.5 instead of 1.25. You will get precisely what you put down.

"It's very controllable. It controls, then stops on a dime."

· So-o-o versatile.

Dimension is particularly effective, for instance, against crabgrass because it delivers postemergent as well pre-emergent control. "And the early post-control on crabgrass is a significant opportunity," Gordon said.

"Also, because of its postemergent activity, we recommend you put it down a little later. You will take care of crabgrass that's up. And since the product gives you 150 days of control, you've moved that 150 days further out into the growing season.

"The Andersons, Howard Johnson's Enterprises and Lebanon are buying Dimension and coating fertilizer with it," said Giesselman.

"The smaller the particle size of the fertilizer, the better the dispersion; the better the dispersion, the better the efficacy."

So-o-o safe.

The new products are bringing with them a much lower environmental loading," Yoder said.

Referring to the Environmental Protection Agency's rating of materials for their ability to induce tumors, Giesselman noted that Dimension ranked Category E - the safest toxicologically.

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