

USGA directors comment on new chemistry

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developed by Bayer (formerly Miles) has shown promise, according to Stan Zontek of the Mid-Atlantic region. "We've known for years that nicotine can control insects," he added. "The use rates are small, something like 6 ounces [6.4 according to company literature] per acre. It's extraordinarily safe. Fish can swim in it, birds can eat it. Grass clippings recycle the material into the thatch layer where it continues to control insects. It can even get into trees where it can control boring insects."

Zontek is also intrigued by trichoderma, a naturally occurring bacteria that suppresses certain turf diseases. Zontek said many other biological controls have proven susceptible to fungicides. But trichoderma seems to be resistant to most fungicides. It has been marketed primarily on the West Coast, but is being tested at two Baltimore courses, according to Mid-Atlantic agronomist Keith Happ.

Zeneca Professional Products is developing a new, broad-spectrum, post-emergent fungicide with extremely low usage rates, Zontek added. Heritage is being tested in the Eastern and Central U.S., but is probably a year away from receiving Environmental Protection Agency registration and two years from hitting the commercial market, he said.

Larry Gilhully, director of the Western region, also mentioned the potential of Heritage, which could replace mercury-based pesticides for treatment of snow mold and many other diseases.

Biological controls have been much discussed in recent years, but still seem to have limited applications. One that has proven effective is *Bacillus thuringiensis*. "BT has worked very well on army worms in Hawaii," Gilhully said. "I'd like to see it used as much as possible."

Biologicals, specifically parasitic nematodes, have also worked well against mole crickets on Southern courses. According to Florida Region Director John Foy, two products have proven popular with golf course superintendents — ProAct (distributed by Liquid Ag Co.) and Vector (distributed by LESCO).

Jim Moore, director of the Mid-Continent region, mentioned a relatively new Monsanto herbicide called Manage. Manage has proven very effective against purple and yellow nutsedge, a major weed problem on most Southern and Central U.S. courses. It works on both warm- and cool-season

turf, Moore said.

"Superintendents who have been fortunate enough to get experimental-use permits to use it are screaming for more," Moore said. "Unfortunately, there doesn't seem to be enough on the market, for some reason."

Monsanto Communications Manager Dan Holman said Manage is commercially available but acknowledged the supply shortage.

"It's like any new product: Initially there isn't enough to meet the demand," the Monsanto spokesman said.

Jansen weighs in with updates on new formulations

Joe Jansen, a sales representative with Louisville, Ky.-based golf course chemical distributor George W. Hill & Co., annually updates customers on new products, formulations and application information for the Midwest market.

This year's written review includes Ultrex from ISK Biosciences; Merit from Bayer; a new formulation of Banner from Ciba; Mavrik from Sandoz; a new application recommendation for Dimension, recently acquired by Rohm & Haas; and Manage from Monsanto. Following are excerpts:

- Ultrex — A new formulation of Daconil. ISK's test results show it outperforming the competition in speed of mixing and consistent coverage. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency favors it because of its dry formulation.

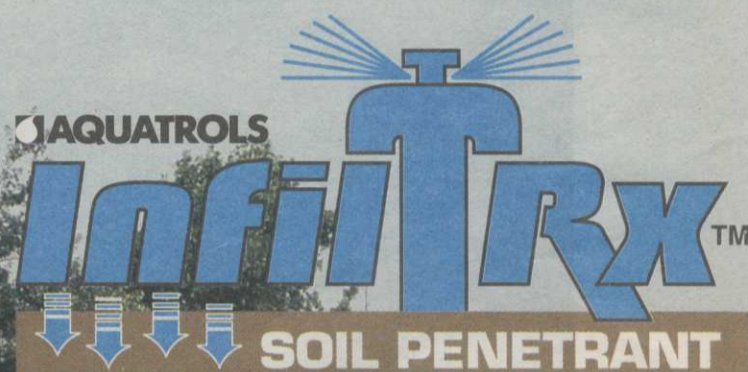
- Banner GL — Provides the same features as Banner EC, but in a gelatin formulation in water-soluble bags. One advantage of the new formulation is that it can be mixed with emulsified concentrates without chemical turf burn.

- Mavrik — It controls a broad range of hungry surface feeders and nuisance pests, and is a safer alternative to Dursban.

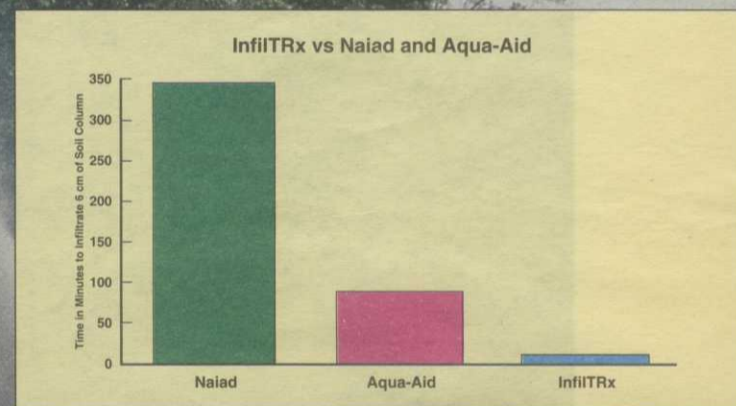
- Dimension — Has increased the amount of turf herbicide that can be applied annually from 2 quarts per acre to 1-1/2 gallons per acre, making it suitable for controlling crabgrass, goosegrass, henbit and *poa annua*.

- Manage — A new post-emergent herbicide providing outstanding control of yellow nutsedge in cool- and warm-season grasses.

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