

"DMIs are a nice, broad systemic fungicide you can use in nonstressful times," he says. "But most people are cautionary. It's going to be 103 and 105 degrees this week, and I don't know anybody using DMIs right now."

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Like Husting, Andy Fries has been burned

before – to the point where he lost a job.

"I had used DMIs with no regard as far as unwanted growth regulation, says Fries, CGCS, at Brownson Country Club in Huntington, Conn. "Years ago, I got into trouble on a golf course and was let go. Banner Maxx at a high rate was my style, but that was four years ago. A sales guy and message boards have helped, so I've tried

to avoid DMIs. I don't have a check plot. I'm just going off others' experiences."

Fries, in his second season at Brownson (last year he was an assistant) manages bent/*Poa* greens, rye/bent/*Poa* tees and fairways and rye/blue/fescue rough with a maintenance budget of \$570,000 and a chemical budget of \$82,000. The top two diseases Fries battles are anthra-

DMI fungicide use on creeping bentgrass during heat stress

By Lane Tredway

Superintendents must use extreme caution when applying DMI fungicides (Banner, Bayleton, Eagle, Rubigan, Tourney, Trinity and Triton) to creeping bentgrass putting greens. These products can cause severe phytotoxicity, thinning and even death of creeping bentgrass if the turf is severely stressed from heat, drought or other factors. The potential for injury is much greater when high label rates are used and when high temperatures are consistently above 90 F.

There are differences among the DMIs in their potential to cause injury – some are safer than others – but none of the currently available DMIs can be classified as safe on bentgrass during 90-plus degree weather.

Additionally, there are few situations in which DMI applications are necessary or beneficial during the summer because safer chemistries are

available for control of most summer diseases. The DMIs are most useful during the fall and spring to prevent diseases such as dollar spot, summer patch, take-all patch, fairy ring, snow mold, yellow patch, etc.

Anthracnose is the only disease that warrants DMI applications during the summer, but this is only a concern for superintendents managing older bentgrass varieties such as Pennncross, Pennlinks, Dominant, Dominant Plus, L-93 and Crenshaw.

If a DMI application is necessary to control anthracnose during the summer, use low label rates and tank-mix with chlorothalonil to prevent algae infestations. The Penn A and G series bentgrasses are essentially immune to anthracnose in North Carolina, so this disease is not a concern for superintendents managing these grasses.

Tredway is an associate professor and extension specialist in the turfgrass pathology department at N.C. State University. He contributes to a blog about turf diseases at turf-diseases.blogspot.com.

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