

Fine By Them

SUPERINTENDENTS SAY GRANULAR FUNGICIDES ARE
CONVENIENT, RELIABLE AND EFFECTIVE

Out of convenience and necessity, certified superintendent Wayne Perkins began using granular fungicides about 15 years ago. At that time, granular fungicides were perceived to be less effective than sprayable fungicides for disease treatment.

But Perkins, who oversees golf course maintenance for the two courses comprising the Colonial Country Club in Jackson, Miss., has found that granular fungicides work just fine, thank you. Perkins uses products from Anderson's Golf Products, which include FFII®, Daconil® 5G and Golden Eagle™.

"They have taken care of the turf diseases," Perkins says. "I have not had any problems with the products."

Perkins, who has been at Colonial for 21 years, began using granular fungicides because weather conditions in Jackson dictated it. "Most of our problems are in the winter

when it's extremely wet," Perkins says. "We have one course with old clay-based soils.

Once the

greens get wet, they stay wet, and it's difficult to put a spray rig on them."

Besides, Perkins would rather use a spreader for fungicide application because it's more environmentally friendly.

Perkins explains that granular fungicides are easy to apply because they don't have to be tank mixed in a sprayer and applied when weather conditions are right. A worker can just load up a spreader, and the granular fungicides are ready for application.

"We take a curative approach, not a preventive one," Perkins says. "So when you have a problem, you have to take care of it no matter what the weather conditions."

Perkins admits he may get better foliar coverage with sprayable fungicides, but he doesn't view that as a drawback for granular fungicides. "If a product does its job, it doesn't matter what kind of coverage it gets," he adds.

Bob Miller, superintendent of En-Joie Golf Club in Endicott, N.Y., has used granular fungicides since 1975 and says they perform as well as sprayable fungicides. "We've stopped diseases as fast as we would have if we had sprayed them," he says.

Miller also says golfers perceive granular fungicides as safer products since they're applied with spreaders. Some golfers become alarmed when they see a maintenance worker dressed in a protective suit, gloves and a white mask while driving a spray truck on a golf course. The golfers wonder if what the maintenance worker is spraying is dangerous, Miller says.

"But if they see a worker applying fungicides with a spreader, the golfers don't even think about it," Miller adds. "Golfers are more comfortable when you use granular products. That's one of the reasons we use them." ■

"We've stopped diseases as fast as we would have if we had sprayed them," superintendent Bob Miller says of using granular fungicides.

