

**Don't Let Bunker Maintenance
Become a Trap...**

Master It!

**TRAP
MASTER™**

It's a constant battle: erosion, sand loss, contamination from dirt and debris, clogged drains. Keeping your bunkers playable and attractive costs you money and wastes your valuable time! But it doesn't have to!

Dramatically reduce your bunker maintenance costs when you install TrapMaster™

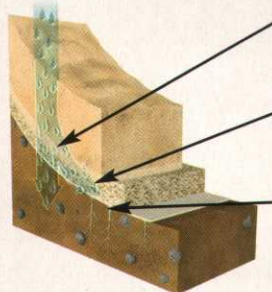
TrapMaster™ erosion control fabric solves your toughest problems.

It's 2 layers – a thick, non-woven polyester “blanket” that absorbs and holds sand in place AND an innovative polyester spunbond fabric that adds durability.

Together, the patent-pending TrapMaster™ 2-layer design:

- Holds sand on steep bunker faces - up to 60°
- Prevents erosion and washout
- Keeps water draining and sand from clogging drains
- Functions as a weed block
- Greatly minimizes bunker maintenance costs!

With TrapMaster™, you'll save yourself and your crew time, money, and a lot of work!



• Upper blanket layer allows water to penetrate and drain evenly – drastically reducing the incidence of erosion.

• Sand fills the blanket layer, keeping it in place – even on slopes with up to 60° angles!

• Spunbond underlayer is porous enough to let water pass through but dense enough to keep troublesome weeds and debris out.

For more information,

Call TOLL-FREE 1-866-273-9280

OR Mail This Coupon

and we'll send you an information packet along with the full **TrapMaster™** story!

Your Name _____

Course Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

of bunkers you'd consider testing _____

Average size of each bunker _____

Mail to: **TrapMaster™**, 16224 Surfview, Wildwood, MO 63040

GOL0503

A Product that Demonstrates

'Merit'

**Hallmark insecticide is 10 years old
and going strong**

By Larry Aylward, Editor

It was 1996, the year that Cantigny Golf and Tennis Club in Wheaton, Ill., was hosting the prestigious Illinois Amateur Championship. In preparation for the event, certified superintendent Scott Witte decided it was time to integrate Merit insecticide into his turf maintenance program.

At the time, Witte had heard about the benefits of Merit, manufactured by Bayer Environmental Science, which had been on the market for two years. His peers were impressed with Merit's long residual control at low applications rates.

"When you have a big tournament like that, the last thing you want to think about is having black turfgrass atenius and other grubs infest your fairways or high-profile rough areas," Witte says.

Eight years later, superintendents remain equally impressed with Merit, which celebrated its 10th anniversary in March. They're still talking about the product's significant staying power. Michael Whitehead, superintendent of Pawtucket Country Club in Seekonk, Mass., says he still regards the product as "revolutionary" to the industry.

"When it came out, there was definitely a lot of excitement about the product — especially after people saw its results," Whitehead says.

"The science of Merit is sound," Witte adds. "It's an intelligent approach to controlling grubs."

Bayer discovered Merit in 1988. The product was granted an accelerated registration because its active ingredient, imidacloprid, provided a reduced-risk alternative to organophosphates and carbamates, according to Bayer. Imidacloprid, in the chloronicotinyl chemical class, interferes with the normal nerve impulse transmissions of many insects. Merit is regarded as a more environmentally friendly product because it provides long residual control at low applications rates.

In the early '90s, there was a smorgasbord of insecticides, but none had the residual control of Merit, says Mike Ruizzo, marketing manager of Merit. At the time, with environmental regulations increasing, the golf industry needed an insecticide that didn't have to be applied several times a season.

"There were some good active ingredients, but they didn't offer season-long control," says Ruizzo, who has been with Bayer for 15

Continued from page 84

Continued from page 82

years. "That was a real issue. [Merit] filled a gap and a need."

Before Merit arrived, Whitehead says superintendents couldn't do a lot preventatively to control grubs. "You pretty much tried to knock them back once you scouted out a problem," he adds.

Merit also controls mole crickets, billbugs, lace bugs, aphids, adelgids, soft scales and others pests. "It provides a proven solution to many different insect pests in many different climates," Ruizzo says.

Witte says Merit has reduced his stress level when it comes to worrying about grubs and other pests, not to mention the skunks and raccoons that have dug up turf to feed on the insects. Witte knows that as long as he applies Merit correctly and at the right time — usually in late June — he doesn't have to worry about insect or animal damage to his fairways and roughs for the season. Merit's low use rates impress Whitehead and Witte.

"Consider that 1.6 ounces will treat 8,000 square feet to 11,000 square feet," Witte says. "It's astounding that it works so well at such a light rate."

Superintendents also like Merit because it's flexible. Each formulation — wettable powder (75WP), flowable (Merit 2), water-soluble packets (75WSP) and granular (.5G and 2.5G) — has a large application window and can be drenched, injected or sprayed as a liquid, or spread in measured amounts as a granular. "From an applicator standpoint, it's a pleasure to work with," Whitehead says.

Ruizzo remembers researching Merit back in the early '90s. He says Bayer's research, as well as university research, revealed that the product worked exceptionally on grubs. He knew Bayer had something good on its hands. "It has more than 90 percent efficacy on the major grubs species," Ruizzo says.

Merit has exceeded Bayer's expectations,



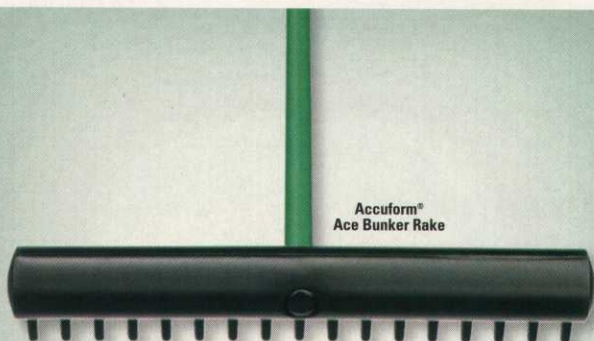
Ruizzo adds. "You don't expect a product that's 10 years out to be growing at the pace that Merit is growing," he says.

And that growth has come with few complaints, Ruizzo notes. "Our complaints averaged less than 1 percent for every year in the 10-year period."

Bayer is using Merit's 10th anniversary as a promotional tool with various promotions and giveaways. "We don't do that for every product," Ruizzo says.

Bayer and Merit will be facing some challenges, though. Merit's patent expires in 2006, meaning that post-patent or generic products featuring Merit's characteristics will be available.

Ruizzo, who's in charge of Merit in the post-patent era, says Bayer is already planning for the day. There will probably be new formulations and new uses and applications for Merit, although Ruizzo couldn't be specific because he says the information is confidential. ■

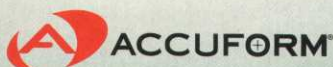


**SMOOTHES OVER A BUNKER
LIKE ROSES SMOOTH OVER A
MISSED ANNIVERSARY.**

Short tines for raking and a special surface for smoothing make this the preferred rake among top superintendents. To learn more call 1-888-893-2433 or visit www.paraide.com



WHEREVER GOLF IS PLAYED.



**THE HOME (PAGE)
OF GOLF.**



www.golfcourse1.com

PRESENTED BY THE
AMERICAN SOCIETY
OF GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTS

