

# Off The Fringe

Continued from page 14  
Wave also features 18-inch heads to follow contours better, improving seed-to-soil contact.

This is not the first time that Turfco and the Minneapolis Golf Club have teamed to devise a new product. The course's first superintendent, Herb Cohrs, and his brother, Arthur, had the idea for the first mechanized topdresser in the early 1960s. The brothers brought their idea to Turfco, known as Sodmaster then, to help them devise the topdresser. John Kinkead, Scott's father, worked with them to create it.

At the time, golf course maintenance workers used shovels to spread topdressing sand on greens. The first topdresser, developed by the Cohrs brothers in conjunction with Sodmaster, featured wooden slats and a wooden hopper. Turfco sold the first unit in 1961.

Caldwell is glad to continue the tradition of helping the Kinkeads design new equipment. "I'm happy to do anything I can to make anyone's job in this industry easier," he says. ■



Scott Kinkead (right) says golf course superintendents like Caldwell deserve credit for their ingenuity.

## A Combined Effort

### CHEMICAL COMPANIES ADD TO THEIR FORMULATIONS TO IMPROVE PRODUCTS

By Curt Harler

**A** trend in turfgrass seems to be to double-up chemicals ... or triple-up or quadruple-up, if that is the proper term. This trend was obvious in several presentations given by golf industry representatives at the C-5 Turfgrass meetings as part of the Crop Science Society of America gathering recently in Indianapolis.

Doubling-up is the theory behind a new wetting agent from Aquatrols. Synergistic alkylpolyglycoside-block copolymer surfactants give 1.4 times better water infiltration and increased the time for water runoff by 2.5, according to Stan Kostka, western regional sales manager for Aquatrols. The combination also seems to have some effect on increased nitrogen-use efficiency.

Bayer Crop Science is adding StressGard formulation technology to a number of fungicide products. Tartan, released earlier this year, features StressGard, a formulation that strengthens the plant and helps Tartan improve the overall turf quality while controlling 13 turf diseases. Bayer's new Lynx product, with activity against anthracnose and brown patch, also will be packaged with StressGard.

So, if two is good, does that make three better? Syngenta Professional Products' Instrata, a Daconil-Banner MAXX-Medallion combination, shows promise for snow mold control with activity on anthracnose, brown patch, summer patch and others.

Not to be outdone, PBI/Gordon has devised a four-way combination called Q4Turf, a herbicide that was registered in 2006. It combines Drive, Dismiss, 2,4-D and dicamba (Surge). Recommended for cool-season grasses, it might be approved for bentgrass in 2007. It may also be labeled for warm-season bermudagrass. Its use is recommended in 50 gallons of solution per acre (there was a significant improvement at 50 gallons versus 40). As would be expected, it has excellent activity on broadleaf weeds.

At Dow AgroSciences, the company's Escalade2 herbicide combines 2,4-D, fluroxypyr and dicamba. According to Mike Melichar, customer agronomist for Michigan and Indiana, Dow is also releasing a new sulfonamide herbicide that contains penoxsulam, which has good soil-residual activity. It is effective against English lawn daisy, a problem in the West. The product is safe on cool- and warm-season turf and is a "reduced risk" material. ■

Harler is managing editor of *Golfdom's TurfGrass Trends*.

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