


FIGURE 1



Clusters of small, circular patches with bleached leaf blades are characteristic dollar spot symptoms.

Combination Material Teams Up on Turf Diseases

By Richard Latin and John F. Smith

Research on a new combination material shows promise against two important diseases of creeping bentgrass: dollar spot and brown patch.

Tartan combines two active ingredients (triadimefon and trifloxystrobin) to provide effective control of many important turfgrass diseases. The triadimefon component (manufactured separately as Bayleton) is effective against foliar diseases, such as dollar spot and brown patch, and can be used to suppress damage caused by root diseases, such as summer patch and take all patch. The trifloxystrobin component (manufactured separately as Compass) provides excellent brown patch control and is effective against anthracnose and gray leaf spot.

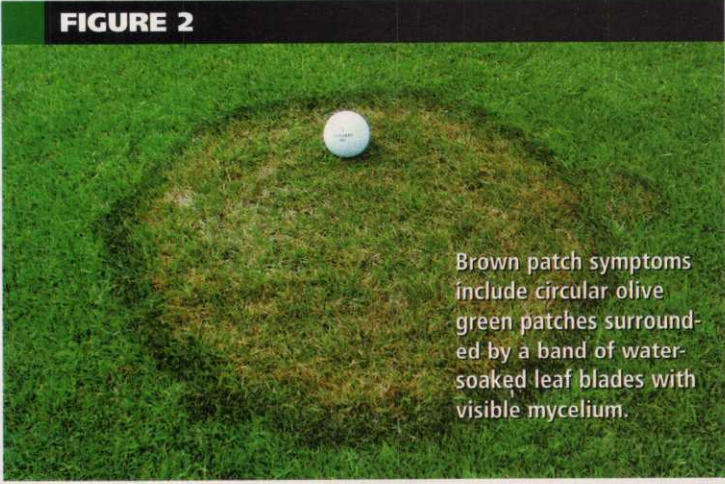
Dollar spot is one of the most common and readily identifiable diseases on golf course turf. It is caused by a fungal pathogen (*Sclerotinia homoeocarpa*) that blights leaf tissues but does not affect turfgrass roots or crowns. The disease is a major concern on golf course turf, especially creeping bentgrass and annual bluegrass greens, tees and fairways, where it can affect playability as well as appearance. Characteristic symptoms on creeping bentgrass greens include small (up to 1 inch in diameter), round white- to tan-colored spots (Fig. 1). The spots often occur in clusters and can cause considerable damage to playing surfaces

if not appropriately managed.

Brown patch is caused by a fungal pathogen (*Rhizoctonia solani*) that affects all cool-season turfgrass species. Moderate to severe outbreaks on high-maintenance creeping bentgrass and annual bluegrass can result in thin, poor quality turf that may be predisposed to algae and moss infestation. Even mild brown patch outbreaks can spoil the appearance of golf greens and tees. Taller mowed turfgrasses for athletic fields and professional landscapes (especially tall fescue and perennial ryegrass) also may sustain damage from brown patch infection. Under favorable environmental conditions

Continued on page 72

FIGURE 2



Brown patch symptoms include circular olive green patches surrounded by a band of water-soaked leaf blades with visible mycelium.

Continued from page 71

(e.g. hot, humid weather) brown patch symptoms may develop overnight.

On creeping bentgrass and annual bluegrass greens, tees and fairways, brown patch results in circular olive green stains, ranging from 4 inches to more than 12 inches in diameter. Similarly, large, round patches of blighted turf can also occur on perennial ryegrass collars and fairways. Leaf blades within the patch become water-soaked and turn brown soon after infection. After warm and humid evenings, a dark gray to light gray band (quarter-inch to one inch wide) is normally evident at the perimeter of active patches (Fig. 2). The band (often called a smoke ring) is a sign of the advancing fungal mycelium and water-soaked infected leaves.

Trials in 2005

The dollar spot trial was conducted at the Daniel Turfgrass Research and Diagnostic Center on the campus of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind. Efficacy of Tartan for dollar spot control was evaluated on creeping bentgrass (cultivar L-93) maintained at a fairway mowing height of approximately one-half inch.

Plots were sprayed with Tartan, manufactured by Bayer Environmental Science, at rates

equivalent to 1.0 fluid ounces per 1,000 square feet and 2.0 fluid ounces per 1,000 square feet at 21-day intervals beginning on May 25, when no disease symptoms were apparent in any of the replicated plots. Visual evaluations of disease severity were recorded at regular intervals throughout the summer.

The brown patch evaluations were conducted at the Rutgers Turf Research Farm in North Brunswick, N.J. Fungicide treatments were evaluated on replicated plots of fairway height (3/8-inch) colonial bentgrass (cultivar SR 7100), a species that is especially prone to brown patch infection. Both rates (1.0 and 2.0 fluid ounces per 1,000 square feet) of Tartan were applied at three-week intervals, beginning on June 16, before the first outbreak of disease. Brown patch severity was evaluated periodically through the summer.

Dollar spot results

Throughout Indiana and the lower Midwest, the 2005 growing season was marked by a warm, dry spring and unusually high temperatures through summer.

Although dollar spot pressure was rather moderate, fungicide sprays were still warranted on area greens, tees and fairways; and disease lev-

Continued on page 74

TABLE 1

Dollar spot severity (percentage of plot area with symptoms) for plots treated with Tartan

Treatment and rate per 1,000 square feet	spray interval	27-Jun DA*	5-Jul DA	10-Jul DA	17-Jul DA	25-Jul DA	1-Aug DA	8-Aug DA	15-Aug DA
No fungicide		0.67	1.95	3.06	15.31	10.45	4.30	7.40	15.21
Tartan 1.0 fl oz	21 days	0.32 12	0.81 20	0.32 4	0.24 11	0.93 19	0.32 4	0.67 11	1.37 18
Tartan 2.0 fl oz	21 days	0.00 12	0.00 20	0.00 4	0.19 11	0.32 19	0.19 4	0.24 11	0.41 18

*DA = Days after the previous spray for each evaluation date.

TABLE 2

Turf quality evaluations associated with Tartan applied to creeping bentgrass for control of dollar spot.

Treatment and rate per 1,000 square feet	spray interval	5-Jul DA*	17-Jul DA	1-Aug DA	15-Aug DA
No fungicide		6.25	4.75	5.25	3.25
Tartan 1.0 fl oz	21 days	7.75 20	7.25 11	7.00 4	7.00 18
Tartan 2.0 fl oz	21 days	7.50 20	7.50 11	7.25 4	7.00 18

*DA = Days after the previous spray for each evaluation date.

Turf quality was assessed visually based on a 0-9 index, where 9 = excellent quality. Values below 6.0 indicate unacceptable turf quality.



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TABLE 3**Brown patch severity (percentage of plot area with symptoms) for plots treated with Tartan**

Treatment and rate per 1,000 square feet	spray interval	Disease severity (%)										turf quality **	
		30-Jun	DA*	12-Jul	DA	22-Jul	DA	5-Aug	DA	15-Aug	DA	21-Sep	DA
No fungicide		28.8		60.0		69.0		36.3		56.3		4.3	
Tartan 1.0 fl oz	21 days	5.0	14	1.3	12	2.8	1	7.5	15	21.3	25	6.5	62
Tartan 2.0 fl oz	21 days	2.5	14	0.0	12	0.0	1	1.3	15	10.0	25	7.8	62

*DA = Days after the previous spray for each evaluation date.

** Turf quality was assessed visually based on a 0-9 index, where 9 = excellent quality. Values below 6.0 indicate unacceptable turf quality.

Continued from page 72

els in unsprayed research plots in West Lafayette far exceeded tolerable levels for creeping bentgrass fairways. Application of both rates of Tartan at 21-day intervals resulted in excellent control of dollar spot as illustrated in Table 1.

Dollar spot symptom expression was significantly less than in the unsprayed plots and remained at or below tolerable thresholds until the end of the application interval. In addition, plots treated with both rates of Tartan maintained high turf quality throughout the season (Table 2).

Brown patch results

Weather during the summer of 2005 was extremely favorable for brown patch development in New Jersey as well as the entire north-eastern quadrant for the United States. Except for a brief cool period in late July, high nighttime temperatures and long dew periods prevailed from late June through early September.

Brown patch severity in untreated plots remained very high throughout the experimental period, indicating that the environmental conditions provided a vigorous challenge to fungicide performance (Table 3).

Both rates of Tartan resulted in significantly less disease than the untreated plots at all evaluation dates. Also, plots treated at the 2.0-ounce rate gave superior brown patch control and excellent turf quality under high disease pressure for the duration of the experiment.

The formulation of the two components into one product offers the advantage of using one product at prescribed dosages to protect against damage associated with a range of infectious diseases. It includes the same StressGard technology found in Chipco Signature.

Richard Latin is a professor of plant pathology at Purdue University. John F. Smith is technical development representative for Bayer Environmental Science.

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TURFGRASS TRENDS

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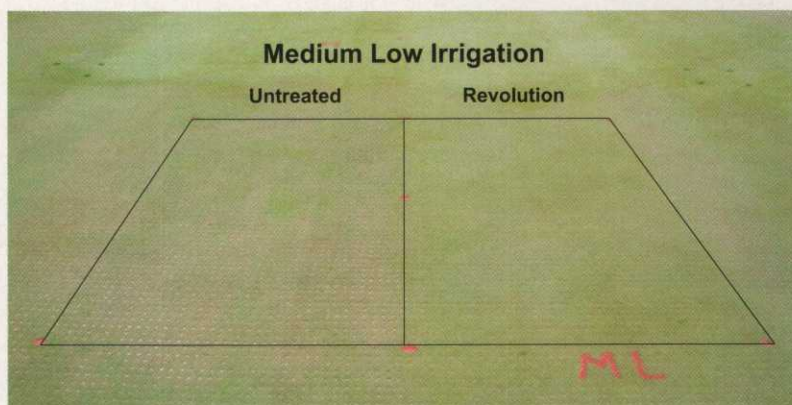
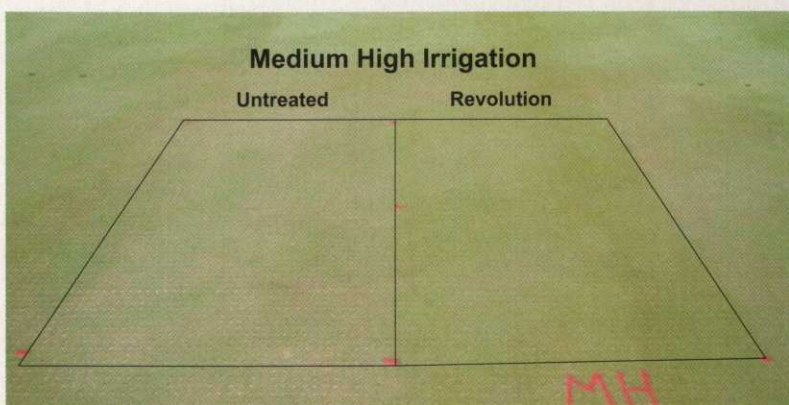
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Granular fungicide

Andersons Golf Products introduces the first granular strobilurin fungicide. With the new Compass G, you can now spread your Compass protection to control brown patch, anthracnose, gray leaf spot, summer patch and more. With the proper setting and a professional grade spreader, the job can be done by anyone on the grounds crew.

For more information, contact www.AndersonsGolfProducts.com.

Curved rake handle

Standard Golf Co. introduces its Curved Aluminum Rake Handle for Standard Golf's Duo-Rake and Tour Smooth Rake. Engineered for easy pick-up and good visibility for both players and maintenance workers, the Curved Rake Handle helps keep users' hands dry and free from sand.

For more information, visit www.standardgolf.com.

Web site upgrade

Multi-Flow drainage has recently upgraded its Web site. It now contains design assistance, technical advice, money and time-saving tips and more. The design and installation sections provide extensive assistance for green, fairway, and bunker drainage.

For more information, visit www.varicore.com

Fertilizer catalyst

Advanced Microbial Solutions L.L.C. (AMS) introduces NutriLife, a proprietary, microbial-based fertilizer catalyst that was developed specifically for blending with fertilizers. NutriLife, as a fertilizer additive, can enhance fertilizer efficiency. University tests and field studies demonstrate the effectiveness of NutriLife in improving fertilizer performance, with significant growth response on turfgrass, according to the company.

For more information, contact 800-SuperBio.

Aquatic herbicide

Phoenix Environmental Care LLC has added Current Aquatic Herbicide to its line of products. Current is a copper-based herbicide that can be used just about anywhere aquatic weeds are a problem. It's effective on pests like Hydrilla, Egeria and Southern Naiad, which can make ponds unattractive.

Phoenix has also added Symmetry Algaecide to its product line. Symmetry is a copper-based algaecide used to eliminate unsightly algae from slow-moving water.

For more information, visit www.phoenixenvcare.com.

Broadleaf herbicide ▼

PBI/Gordon has received EPA acceptance for a new turf herbicide for grassy and broadleaf weed control. The patented formulation contains the protox inhibitor sulfentrazone in combination with quinclorac, 2,4-D and dicamba. Trade-

marked as Q4 Turf Herbicide, the new product will join Gordon's ProForm brand.

Q4 offers a single-product control option for yellow nutsedge suppression and grassy and broadleaf weed control in established turfgrass areas. An alternative to MSMA products, Q4 has reduced phytotoxicity on cool-season grass species.

For more information, visit Q4.pbigordon.com.

Non-selective herbicide

Nufarm Americas announces the addition of Razor Burn to its line of herbicides. Razor Burn is a liquid pre-mix formulation of glyphosate and diquat that offers broad-spectrum, non-selective control of many annual weeds, perennial weeds, woody brush

and trees. Razor Burn gives applicators the same effective control as Razor Pro, but with quicker visual results, the company says. For further information, contact www.nufarm.com

Label expansion

Cleary Chemical's 26/36 Fungicide was granted a label expansion to include 16 different diseases of more than 85 genera of ornamental plants. 26/36 Fungicide, a combination of iprodione and thiophanate-methyl, is a broad-spectrum fungicide that can be applied to a wide range of container and field-grown ornamental flowering and foliage plants, either as a foliar spray, drench or dip. For more information, contact www.clearychemical.com.

Fungicide for fairy ring

Sixteen states approved a 2(ee) recommendation for use of Bayleton 50 WP fungicide as a

preventive treatment for fairy ring in turfgrass, **Bayer Environmental Science** announced. The product may be applied as a foliar spray at the rate of 1 ounce to 2 ounces per 1,000 square feet.

For more information, visit www.bayerprocentral.com.

Pythium control

Insignia fungicide can be used in rotation to combat pythium root dysfunction, according to **BASF Professional Products**. The company says Charles Sheffield, superintendent of Croasdale Country Club in Durham, N.C., used Insignia to stop the spread of the disease at his course. Sheffield says the product is now part of his rotation to battle it.

For more information, contact www.turfacts.com





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Editorial Index

Company	Page No.		
Advanced Microbial Solutions	76	Jacobsen	12
Alfred Tup Holmes Golf Course	40	Joe Bartholemew Golf Club	28
Amery Golf Club	54	Multi-Flow	76
Andersons Golf Products	76	Musket Ridge Golf Club	54
Augusta National Golf Club	10,16	Natchez Trace Golf Course	52
Aurora Hills Golf Club	36	National G.C. Owners Association	14
BASF	76	National Golf Foundation	38
Bandon Dunes	24	Newport Country Club	12
Bethpage Black	12	Nufarm Americas	76
Brechtel Memorial Park Golf Course	27	Old Course	12
Candlewood Country Club	52	Par Aide	76
Chicago Golf Club	12	PBI/Gordon	76
Cimarron Hills Golf and Country Club	52	Phoenix Environmental Care	76
Cleary Chemical	76	Pursell Technologies	12
Club at Strawberry Creek	10	Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment	12
Club Car Inc.	16	Revolution Park	42
Deepdale Golf Club	14	Rocky Mountain G.C. Superintendents Assoc.	36
English Turn Golf and Country Club	27	Royal and Ancient Golf Club	19
Environmental Turf	14	Saddle Rock Golf Course	36
Erin Hills Golf Club	10	SFR Holding Co.	14
Ewing Irrigation	36	Shenvalee Golf Resort	58
FarmLinks Golf Club	12	Standard Golf Co.	76
FarmLinks LLC	12	Syngenta Professional Products	30,36
Four Seasons Equipment	52	Textron	13
General Electric	13	Toro Co. (The)	30
Golf Club at Audubon Park	27	Tournament Players Club of Louisiana	27
G.C. Superintendents Assoc. of America	17,36,45	Twin Hills Golf and Country Club	51
Greenlee	13	United States Golf Association	56
Hacienda Golf Club	39	University of Georgia Golf Course	17
Hillmoor Country Club	10	Vail Golf Course	27
Irrigation Association	14	Wildhorse Resort and Casino	38

Ad Index

Advertiser	Page No.		
AgraQuest, Inc.	23	Novozymes	59
Aquatrols	11, 75	Oregon Fine Fescue	cv3
Andersons, The	04, 35	P B I Gordon	25, 52
Arysta Life Science	16-17	Par Aide	57
B A S F Corp	07, 20-21, 33	Phoenix Environmental Care, LLC	48
Bayer Environmental	44, 45	Poulenger USA, Inc.	06
Bell Labs Inc	09	Rain Bird	41, 61
Bernhard and Co LTD	43	Scotts Seed	(reg)29
Champion Turf Farms	(reg) 05	SePro Corp	(reg) 05, 29
Chemtura Corp	53	Smithco	55
Cleary Chemical Corp	cv4	Spindler Enterprises	78
Drill & Fill Mfg.	78	Standard Golf	18, 19
Eagle Golf & Landscape Products	80	Syngenta	cv2-1, 47
Ewing Irrigation	58	Tech Sales	78
FarmSaver	62	The Toro Co	cv1
From Tee To Green	78	Turf Merchants	31
Graden USA	04, 54	TurfMaster Ind	06
Helena Chemical Company	15, 77		
Irrigation Association	79		
Linear Rubber Products	78		
Markers, Inc.	54		
Milliken	37		
National Mower	13		

TURFGRASS TRENDS

Bayer Environmental	(reg) 67
Floratine	73
John Deere and Co	65
Pursell Tech	69

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