

# SNOW MOLD SURVEY RESULTS 1979

Gayle L. Worf  
Extension Plant Pathologist

Fifty-four superintendents answered the snow mold survey last spring which followed the state's record snow accumulations. Our primary reasons for the survey were to (1) determine whether the unusually severe winter had created greater snow mold problems than normal and (2) what control patterns might be gleaned from members of the WGCSA and subsequently shared. Given below are the results of the questions dealing with golf course greens (note that totals do not always add up to 54, since more than one answer was sometimes given, and occasional questions were skipped.)

1. Snow mold severity (none to light - 37; moderate - 13; severe - 5)
2. Disease level (Same as most other years - 31; not as bad - 9; worse - 14)
3. Type of snow mold (Typhula (gray) - 34; Fusarium (pink) - 8; both 7; uncertain - 5)
4. Primary turf species (Poa annua - 3; bentgrass - 26; both - 25)
5. Was dormant fertilizer applied? (yes - 30; no - 24)
6. Snow mold chemicals used (Calogran - 18; Caloclor - 15; PMAS - 8; Chloroneb - 18; PCNB - 7; Thiram - 9; Daconil - 1; Tersan 1991 - 4; other - 2)
7. Number satisfied with results (yes - 44; no - 7)
8. Was a summer fungicide program followed? (yes - 49; no - 4)

9. Did your course receive a "second" snow cover in March after the winter snow cover melted? (yes - 31; no - 22)

10. If "yes" to question 9, was there an increase in snow mold after the second cover? (yes - 15; no - 17)

Fairway information follows:

1. Severity (none to light - 19; moderate - 26; severe - 7)
2. Disease level (same as most other years - 20; not as bad - 7; worse - 24)
3. Type of snow mold (Typhula - 31; Fusarium - 2; both - 14; uncertain - 4)
4. Was dormant fertilizers used? (yes - 21; no 30)
5. Snow mold chemicals applied on fairway? (two applied PMA and/or Thiram; one was satisfied and one was not. One applied PCNB and was satisfied with results. No others reported treatment)
6. Sixteen reported summer fairway fungicide applications.

Individual comments were perhaps more revealing: (1) "Caloclor-Terraclor applications were made on top of six inches of snow (generally successful when applied on two to four inches of snow)"; (2) "Second snow cover caused pink (Fusarium) snow mold"; (3) "late-season golfers swept off topdressing and chemical, leaving unprotected paths."; (4) "streaks from spary patterns"; (5) "more damage from mice than mold (good snow mold control)"; (6) "severe snow mold where snow stayed on five days longer on one green."; (7) "six pounds of Calogran in one shot seems too little ..."; (8) "The snow storm in mid-March gave all the snow mold trouble"; (9) "should have treated after mid-March thaw ..."; (10) "26019 experimental results were



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## Official GCSAA Blazer Changed

GCSAA has switched from blazers made of 100 percent polyester to a polyester-wool blend. The jackets are traditionally styled with patch pockets, double topstitching and metal buttons. The new blazers are a somewhat darker green and the cost of the jacket is \$50.00. Order blanks for the blazer are available and can be obtained by contacting the GCSAA Membership Department, 1617 St. Andrews Dr., Lawrence, Kansas 66044.

encouraging ..."; (11) "changed courses during winter and no treatments were made by the previous superintendent, the disease is severe"; (several similar comments); (12) "outstanding fairway, snow mold control with PCNB"; (13) "topdressed in late November and believe it helped"; (14) "had three greens with severe desiccation"; (15) "damage to aprons most severe"; (16) "observed burning with PMA, but no crown kill"; (17) "early snow fall killed us ..."; (18) "Poa annua hardest hit"; (19) "greens committee would not let me treat ...!"; (20) "will treat aprons and shoulders from now on"; (21) "spot kill in low pocket areas - not certain it was snow mold"; (22) "worst snow mold activity in 14 years ... feel rains after treatment may have weakened chemicals ..."; (23) "two weeks after final snow melt we encountered 'orange spot' disease ...";

These trends appeared in the reports:

1. Disease pressure was severe on courses throughout the states, but control was achieved by a broader spectrum of chemicals in the south than central or northern Wisconsin.
2. Nearly all northern courses applied either Calogran or Caloclor while many southern courses did not. Several superintendents reported failures when they were used alone!
3. Some superintendents reported "satisfaction" with snow mold control levels which were unacceptable by others.
4. Fairway treatments are infrequent, but some interest exists, especially if more economical treatments are developed.
5. A major concern remains over getting treatments made before permanent snow cover occurs.
6. Either longer residual chemical combinations or immediate retreatments following late winter snow melt are needed to prevent snow mold attack, should late season snow storms occur.