

## Lake Shore Sand & Stone -

DIVISION OF

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## Snow Mold Control Recommendations for 1979-80

Dr. Gayle L. Worf  
Extension Plant Pathologist

We would like to project a goal for WGCSA courses this winter - no snow mold on any greens or tees! It is an ambitious goal, but after evaluating the results of superintendent reports and considering the successes of several treatment combinations that have surfaced in research plots over the past decade, we think it is a realistic possibility. We offer ten suggestions here for your consideration in achieving that goal!

1. If you have had good success with a treatment schedule or practice in past years (and your green committee or owner is satisfied with results) stay with that program.

2. Compatible combinations of "effective" snow mold fungicides are virtually always more dependable during severe winters than individual fungicides applied alone.

3. Inorganic mercury (Calogran or Caloclor) is the basic component of our recommendation in central and northern Wisconsin, and can be used very satisfactorily in southern Wisconsin, too. Chloraneb (Tersan SP or Proturf Fungicide II) can be substituted as the basic snow mold control component in southern Wisconsin.

4. The "basic component" should be supplemented with a second chemical. PCNB (Terraclor 75 W or Turcide 10 G or Scott's FF II) is the

preferred chemical to combine with inorganic mercury in more northern areas. Chloroneb - Mercury combinations are dependable in southern Wisconsin. Chloroneb with other combinations have also been successful in southern Wisconsin, but chloroneb is not recommended in northern Wisconsin. The need for chemical mixtures appears to be due to several different species of snow mold fungi present on courses. Individual courses and greens have somewhat different disease pressures. Final selection of treatments should take into account the superintendent's previous experiences. Troublesome greens may require more intensive treatments than the remainder of the course.

5. Summer fungicide programs are generally helpful in supplementing snow mold fungicide effectiveness. If no summer fungicide treatments have been applied, and/or where snow mold pressure is severe, October applications of chlorothalonil (Daconil or Scott's 101V Fungicide) have improved snow mold fungicide performance, PMAS or other chemicals may do as well.

6. Apply the snow mold fungicides before permanent snow cover. (Combination treatments appear to have efficacy even where applied two to three weeks before normal application dates, though this observation needs confirmation.)

7. Our tests have not demonstrated any consistent advantage to either granular or wettable powder formulations. Granula formulations are certainly more comfortable to apply, but costs are probably two to three times higher. Costs may be a concern when combination treatments are needed. Wettable powders can help reduce cost; also, use the lowest recommended rate for each chemical. (We have had as effective success with even lower rates. At Mt. Telemark, for instance, four pounds of Calogran or two ounces of Caloclor, plus four ounces of PCNB applied in early November on top of four ounces of Daconel applied two weeks earlier provided excellent control at a cost below the "normal" rate of the mercury alone.)

8. A late winter application should be considered if snow melt permits. We have not encountered springtime collapse of better treatments in our trials, but we cannot be certain whether that is a result of chance or chemical efficacy. Cheaper "shorter term" chemicals such as PMA-Thiram may be adequate at the time of year. A superintendent could also consider use of a chemical which might provide some early spring Helminthosporium control as a bonus, such as PCNB.

9. Miscellaneous cultural practices may be worth considering where heavy disease pressure is expected. Dormant fertilizer application

encourages rapid, early spring growth and recovery, without increasing disease potential, as once thought. Physical removal of snow after March 1 can be useful, especially if topdressing was applied so that desiccation is less likely to occur. Milorganite over the snow or ice surface will also speed surface release. While some superintendents feel that topdressing may help, we have observed extensive disease in spite of the cover.

10. Apply all chemicals uniformly, at properly determined rates. Some superintendents split applications and apply two directions for more assured coverage. And keep accurate records so that you can repeat the treatments next year if results are successful - or make intelligent modifications if results are less than desired!



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## Guadalajara To Be Site For 1980 GCSAA Golf Tournament

The 1980 GCSAA Golf Tournament will be a post-conference tournament instead of the traditional pre-conference tournament and will be held in Guadalajara, Mexico. The golf courses that will be used are: Men - San Isidro Country Club and Club de Golf Santa Anita; Ladies - Guadalajara Country Club.

More information will be forthcoming.