

Wisconsin Pathology Report **Snowmold—too late to treat!?!**

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Snow may be covering your golf course by the time you read this. If so, I hope that the snowmold fungicides are properly applied and ready to do the job they are asked to do. Snowmold has been, and remains an especially important disease for us in Wisconsin—never mind what they say about the disease just a few miles south of us!

But in spite of our history with the problem, there are always some last minute questions about the “best” way to treat and prevent damage, from older as well as younger superintendents. This article is intended as a quick review of our thoughts on snowmold control, as well as some observations on possible expansion of areas where the disease should be controlled.

Many chemicals have snowmold control listed on their labels. Several of the newer chemicals, such as Chipco 26019, and older materials like Dyrene, and PMA + thiram are labeled and will do the job when pressure is not too great. But our trial results have consistently indicated that the inorganic mercuries (Caloclor or Calogran), when used in combination with either PCNB (such as Terraclor or Actidione RZ) or chloroneb (such as Teremec 65 or Proturf Fungicide II) offer the most dependable results. Rates for each chemical can be cut back from a third to a half where costs are a concern. They mix satisfactorily in the tank, and in some cases the combinations—especially with chloroneb—minimize the subtle turf damage that sometimes follows mercury and Actidione RZ treatments. Where the history of tough snowmold control exists, mid-fall treatments with Daconil or possibly some other fungicides increase snowmold control activity.

It's worth a reminder to recall that not all snowmolds are alike. In addition to “pink” (*Fusarium nivale*) and “gray” (*Typhula*), there are at least two species of the latter. *T. ishikariensis*—the one that produces pepper seed-sized



sclerotia—occurs more in the north, while *T. incarnata* predominates in southern Wisconsin. But their twains do meet, and some pathologists believe their differences in reaction to fungicides helps account for the control variation sometimes observed. At any rate, I firmly believe that it pays to have a mixture containing more than one chemical for those spots that I really cannot stand to have snowmold on next spring.

Either granular or wettable powder formulations are equally effective.

Dormant fertilizing doesn't increase snowmold. When snowmold occurs, it helps with the early spring mending process.

Timing is maybe not as critical as we used to think it was. For years, it was “known” that you had to be miserable when putting on these chemicals—you had to be doing it just ahead of the “first per-

manent snowfall.” But the plot experiences tend to question whether much is gained by waiting until late November—and taking chances with an early snow fall, to say nothing of the atrocious weather—rather than applying it on a more pleasant day earlier in the month.

It looks to me that some of our highly maintained fairways take a lot more abuse from snowmold than they really ought to. Last year, for instance, some pink snowmold holes were still evident into mid-July. And if a person were trying to minimize *Poa* encroachment, the importance of those holes become even more evident. We can't use mercuries on fairways legally, but PCNB is both legal, reasonably effective, and reasonably economical. I'm surprised that more courses are not treating their fairways this way. There's some evidence that we can enhance effectiveness by trading off a couple ounces of PCNB for chloroneb, plus a little benzimidazole (Tersan 1991, Fungo 50, etc.), or maybe Daconil. The exact rates and combinations deserve some more attention. We plan to do some of that again this fall.

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TURFGRASS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS FROM THE UW—MADISON



Left to right: Brian Birrenkott; Larry Lennert; James Love, Academic Advisor; Wayne Horman; and Jerry Grzan.

Four outstanding students enrolled in the UW—Madison turfgrass management program in the Department of Soil Science were winners of scholastic awards from the turf industry. Larry Lennert is the 1984-1985 recipient of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association scholarship, and Jerry Grzan received a GCSAA scholarship. Wayne Horman has the distinction of receiving the first TUCO Turf Scholarship given to a UW—Madison student. Brian Birrenkott was chosen winner of the 1984-1985 Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Scholarship.

Congratulations to these young men. They are the future lifeblood of our profession and we are particularly proud of them.