



## Fungicide Changes In 1988

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Changes continue in the evolution of fungicides available to help with the task of keeping turf healthy. Here are some gleanings of changes I've noted over the past year.

1. Loss of chemicals. I'm sure most of us are aware of the loss of Actidione TGF by result of company decision. Courses who relied upon this product as a low cost, moderately effective fairway dollar spot control fungicide will probably be looking at a higher price, but fortunately there's a pretty good arsenal of products available for this particular disease. Don't get stuck with a possible future disposal problem—if you have any Actidione left, use it up!
2. Banner (propiconazole) was registered in June, 1987, for control of dollar spot, powdery mildew, rust, anthracnose, brown patch, red thread and stripe smut diseases. The label also describes it as an "aid in the control of *Helminthosporium* spp" and for "fusarium blight". We were pleased with its effectiveness against *Helminthosporium* in bluegrass trials last year. It might not be the first choice if that were the primary purpose for application, but it should help fill the leaf spot gap that can occur in mid-summer on bentgrasses when chemicals ineffective against that disease are being used. Although

brown patch is on the label, it may not be as effective as you would like for this problem. Be prepared to supplement with something like Daconil or thiram if necessary.

3. Scotts has introduced a new liquid fungicide, Fluid Fungicide III, which packages together triadimefon (same active ingredient as in Bayleton) plus thiram. The combination is intended to beef up areas where triadimefon is known to be weak, particularly leaf spot and brown patch. One would expect improved performance for those diseases. The active ingredient rate of triadimefon is at a level that you should not expect extended control of dollar spot, e.g. if you're used to getting 21 or more days of dollar spot control at labeled rates of Bayleton, you're not likely to get the same with "III" because it appears that the rate has been reduced to more or less match up with the length of time of thiram effectiveness. Watch your timing of application, disease development, and weather patterns to get the most out of this—or any other—combination product.
4. Formulation changes. You won't be seeing the wettable powder formulation of Rubigan much longer. It's being replaced with the "A.S." liquid product. Chipco 26019 is also on the market as a flowable product this year, although it is my understanding that the wettable powder

product will continue to be offered. We've been very pleased with Chipco 2F performance compared to the "wp" formulation over the past two seasons. There's some real safety advantage to the flowables and liquids, too, in my opinion, as it greatly reduces the likelihood of getting a face full of dust during mixing times. The main reason we've not seen changes more rapidly has been the difficulty of maintaining efficacy along with proper shelf life characteristics. For instance, "Daconil" pioneered in efforts to convert from "wp" to flowable, and encountered many problems with settling, caking and reduced efficacy before hitting upon the right process. We may see more of the systemics becoming available as emulsifiable concentrates in order to encourage more uptake of product by the foliage. However, this is not too critical for turf, since uptake by roots is a useful alternative or complementary route in this crop.

Ciba Geigy has also recently announced a reduction in active ingredient of metalaxyl in their granular Subdue, from 5G to 2G. This product, used in both turf and ornamental disease control, is applied at such low rates that users were encountering difficulty getting good distribution of product. By going to the more diluted formulation, more total product is applied per 1000 ft<sup>2</sup> or per unit, and better results are expected. It's difficult enough getting properly calibrated and accurate distribution of granular products, in my experience!

I hope your disease control efforts this coming summer are rewarding—regardless of which products or formulations you choose.

### Rob Schultz — A National Finalist



A story written by Rob Schultz, author of "The Sports Page" in each issue of *THE GRASS ROOTS*, is a finalist in a national sportswriting contest sponsored by the Associated Press Sports Editors. Rob's story on the Green Bay Packers' 1967 "Ice Bowl" is among the ten finalists in the "Best Feature Story" category for newspapers under 50,000 circulation. The winners will be announced sometime in April.

Schultz's story appeared in *Wiscon-*

*sin's Greatest Sports Moments*" last November. This magazine, published by his paper, *The Capital Times*, is also a finalist in this competition. Although the quality of Rob's writing has been obvious to readers of *THE GRASS ROOTS*, the kind of recognition a national competition like this brings reminds us in a special way how fortunate we are to have him as a part of our magazine.

Congratulations!