



SNOW MOLD TREATMENTS

By Rod Johnson

I contend that, other than Wednesdays, one of the most difficult parts of this profession is dealing with the uncertainty of what lies under the winter's snow cover.

We have all experienced the problems that Wisconsin's goofy winters can create for us. The frustration comes from those things we have little control over: crown hydration, desiccation, and direct low temperature kill.

Snow mold is one of those "winter problems" that for the most part we seem to have a reasonable handle on control. These days a heavy dose of snow mold on greens and tees usually means someone screwed up. Misapplication or missed application? Maybe a surprise snow storm during Halloween weekend.

The pressure to provide unblemished turf on opening day has led to more courses expanding their programs to include preventative applications to fairways. Simple economics and label restrictions have many of us exploring for the best combination to achieve an acceptable level of control on 20-plus acres. In my own situation, a 6 oz. application of Terraclor ends up being the single most costly fungicide application of the year.

Eighteen WGCSA members responded to this issue's Survey questions. The answers are for information and certainly not intended as any specific recommendation.

Efforts were made to survey both northern and southern courses. Snow mold pressure can be as varied as Wisconsin snow depths in January. For the purpose of this survey, Highway 10 was used to define north and south. Eight responses came from the north and ten from the south.

It should be noted that several courses were from an area within 20 miles of Highway 10. Two courses are within spitting distance. One course is presently south of Highway 10 but will be north of it when that major thoroughfare is re-routed to bypass Stevens Point.

The results to the questions asked are:

1. What areas do you treat for Snow mold?

Greens	18
Tees	18
Fairways	12
Approaches	2

2. What products are you using and at what rates?

Calo-clor	13	1oz.- 4oz.
Terraclor	10	3oz.- 8oz.
Tersan SP	9	3oz.- 8oz.
FFII	6	6oz.- 8oz.
Calo-Gran	5	6lb.- 10lb.
Thiam	1	8oz.
Daconil	1	6oz.
Fung.IV	1	3oz.

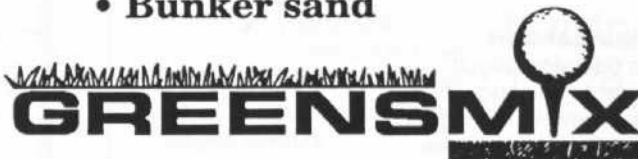
There was a wide scope of rates and keep in mind that in many cases a combination of several products is being used.

Greens, tees, or fairways were not identified or isolated.

All but one of the respondents expressed a concern over the potential loss of products containing mercury. All expressed interest in proven effective alternative products.

YOUR MEMBERS WILL KNOW HOW WELL YOU DID BY HOW WELL YOUR GREENS PERFORM

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- Construction blends
- Straight topdressing sand
- Bunker sand



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