



Snow Mold Control and Summer Disease Management Practices

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At this point of the season snow mold is probably the furthest thing from your mind. But, should it be? Last year we embarked on a study to evaluate the efficacy of early applied treatments (beginning of October) followed by a standard snow mold control application at the end of October. This study was initiated to find a substitute for the mercury products that are still heavily used in the northern snow belt of our state. To evaluate the efficacy under several weather conditions and pathogen populations, the study was conducted at six locations across the state. The results obtained were not predicted as we found that these early applications by themselves were sufficient to provide effective control of gray snow mold (*Typhula incarnata*) and Pink Snow Mold (*Microdochium nivale*) at the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research Facility. Additionally, treatments applied in the fall for the control of take-all patch were effective in controlling snow molds as well.

The time of year that we currently apply our snow mold controls is not always conducive for spray applications. The possibility of frozen nozzles and, of course, the wonderful Wisconsin winds can lead to misapplications, of which I saw several this winter. With the early application some of the adverse factors are eliminated. When I was applying my early applications this year, I was receiving samples of *Bipolaris* leaf spot into the diagnostic lab (usually a hot weather disease) and the grass was actively growing. Yes, it was an abnormal winter, but we had gray snow mold active as early as December and there was very little snow cover by then.

Previously I mentioned that the grass was actively growing when the early applications were applied, and my feelings are that this is the major factor in why the early applications are possible. If you remember many of the systemic products are acropetal systemics, or are translocated upwards in the plant. The plant has to be actively photosynthesizing for these products to effectively work. Knowing this, it would not be any surprise that the products that performed the best were acropetal systemics. However, some other chemistries also performed well.

With the advancement of some older chemistries, some products have proven to be even more effective. Products like Daconil Weatherstik and Chipco 26 GT applied early had similar results as the acropetal systemics. A comparison of the early application treatments from the 1997-98 Snow Mold Control trial at the O.J. Noer Facility are provided below.

As seen in the table there is some possibility of combining applications used for warm season diseases with those used for snow mold. This is only the first year of this research, but we are very optimistic about these results. This fall we plan to initiate even earlier applications, such as the middle of September. These applications could fit into a spray program where you are dealing with late season dollar spot, leaf spot, or even some early *Microdochium* patch.

I realize that this would not be an ideal solution for greens, but if you treat fairways it could be a big time
(Continued on page 25)

TABLE 1. 1997-98 Snow Mold Control Evaluation at O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research Facility, Verona, WI

Treatment	Trade Name	Formulation		Rate	% Damage 2-18-98			% Damage 3-24-98		
					Mean		S.D.	Mean		S.D.
Chlorothalonil	Daconil	6F	8	FL OZ/1000 FT²	0	f	0	1.3	g	2.5
Iprodione	Chipco 26 GT	2F	6	FL OZ/1000 FT²	0	f	0	2.5	g	2.9
Triadimefon	Bayleton	25 WG	3	OZ/1000FT²	0	f	0	0.0	g	0.0
Azoxystrobin	Heritage	50 WG	0.3	OZ/1000FT²	7.5	def	9.6	8.8	efg	11.8
PCNB	Turfcide 400	4 SC	12	FL OZ/1000FT²	3.8	f	4.8	10.0	d-g	7.1
Thiophanate Methyl	Fungo Flo	4.5 SC	1.5	FL OZ/1000FT²	16.3	c	13.8	28.8	b	25.6
Flutolanil	Prostar	50 WP	5	OZ/1000FT²	0	f	0	1.3	g	2.5
Vinclozolin	Vorlan	50 WG	3	OZ/1000FT²	15	cd	12.2	20.0	b-e	11.5
Cyproconazole	Sentinel	40 WG	0.33	OZ/1000FT²	0	f	0	0.0	b	0.0
Cloroneb	Teraneb	65 WP	7.5	OZ/1000FT²	12.5	cde	15	17.5	b-e	17.6
Thiram	Spotrete	75 WG	8	OZ/1000FT²	13.8	cd	15.5	25.0	bc	21.6
Untreated Control					42.5	a	9.6	57.5	a	26.0
LSD (P = .05)							7.8	11.35		

Means followed by the same letter do not significantly differ, LSD (P = 0.05)

(Continued from page 23)

saver, not to mention a money saver. This would eliminate the need for an additional application in October or November, both saving money in chemical and labor. So this fall, you might experiment with your own fairways and find out that this is a good solution to the number one disease in our state, snow molds.

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The University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Plant Pathology released the turfgrass faculty position in their department. The job description that was distributed around the country is provided here for your edification:

The University of Wisconsin, is seeking applicants for a full-time, 12-month tenure track faculty position at the Assistant Professor level: 60% research, 40% extension. Qualifications include a Ph.D. in plant pathology or a closely related field with experience in turfgrass research and management desirable. The appointee will develop an innovative research/extension program leading to economically and environmentally sound approaches to control turfgrass diseases. The appointee will develop and maintain extramurally funded research and extension programs, direct graduate students, and participate in the overall education program of the Plant Pathology Dept. and College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. This position presents rich opportunities to work in an interdisciplinary environment and to collaborate with faculty, staff and industry in turfgrass and biological sciences. Outstanding field research facilities are offered at the O.J. Noer turfgrass research center in Madison as well as outlying research stations. A curriculum vitae, complete undergraduate and graduate transcripts, a statement of research and extension interests and at least three letters of recommendation should be sent to: W.R. Stevenson, Search and Screen Committee, UW Plant Pathology Dept., 1630 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706. Tel. (608) 262-6291, FAX (608) 263-2626. Applications received by Sept. 1, 1998 will be assured of consideration. The position is available 1/1/99. The Univ. of Wisconsin, an equal opportunity employer, encourages women and minorities to apply and offers an excellent salary and benefits package.



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