

study as dollar spot was prevalent the entire summer. But, due to the inoculations the evaluations in both years provided similar results. Once again volume did not impact the length of efficacy within any single chemical treatment. Unlike the green study there were no trends noted. It was originally hypothesized that the carrier volume would have more impact due to the taller turf canopy. Yet it had no effect, and one assumption as to why this was is possibly due to the reduced mowing schedule. Height of cut could be a possibility, but Dr. Kusow has observed in the greens management study that higher cut turf usually has more severe dollar spot symptoms.

While this study did prove that length of efficacy was not influenced by spray carrier volume, you still have to take the label into consideration. One possibility to help reduce the time to apply fungicides to fairways is to utilize a mixologist. Yes, yes, it isn't in the dictionary or the spellchecker, but simply put, it is a person who prepares the slurry of chemical while someone else is out spraying. This is a very efficient way to spray as the mixologist has a prepared mixture when the spray rig is empty. It usually results in about a five minute turn-around time to have the sprayer back out. In addition, if you are using two spray rigs the mixologist is constantly moving. It also helps the chemicals go into solution better when they are mixed in a five gallon bucket with some water. Water-soluble packets benefit from this

method as they are dissolved before they are put into the tank. It is still a good idea to fill the tank half way prior to putting in the solution.

### Snow Mold Control on Greens and Fairways

This study was conducted during the winters of 1999-2000 and 2000-2001. They were conducted at Sentryworld in Stevens Point (Fairway Study) and Gateway Golf Club in Land O' Lakes (Green Study). In each trial a similar design was instituted as with the dollar spot studies. However, several commonly used mixtures and their components singly were applied once in the fall and evaluated the following spring. The sites were not inoculated and all infections were from natural populations. Both of these sites were chosen due to the snow molds complex present at the sites. Both *Typhula* snow molds are present in addition to pink snow mold in these locations. They also have extended snow cover with about 100 days in Stevens Point and over 120 days at Land O' Lakes.

This study probably resulted in the most variability. In both studies slight trends were shown with PCNB performing better at higher volumes. Since this study had all three topical modes of action as well as combinations it was interesting that PCNB was the only contact that showed this type of trend.

Snow mold is in a class by itself, because it is the only disease that requires fungicide applications to last from 4 to 6 months. This is one reason that it is important to make applications with the highest possible efficacy. One way to increase the efficacy is by thoroughly coating the entire turfgrass plant including crown of the plant. This is achievable by using higher carrier volumes. Since the course is closed when snow mold applications are applied, time required to make these applications is not as critical as it would be with summer diseases. Spray volumes could then be increased to help ensure good coverage. Also, if there was damage, re-growth in the spring is not as responsive as it would be in the summer.

### Conclusion

While these studies did not show any statistical differences among spray carrier volumes, it is always wise to spray at higher volumes as many chemicals did show some improvement in efficacy. But the biggest factor influencing your spray volume is the fungicide label. Since the label is law, it is important to follow it. If the labeling for carrier volume allows rates of 1 gal/M you might consider experimenting with it. It should also be noted that there are no claims that similar results will be shown with other diseases. ♣



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# OCTOBER MEETING AT WEST BEND COUNTRY CLUB

By **Mike Berwick**, Golf Course Superintendent, Golf Courses of Lawsonia, Inc.

On Monday, October 15, 96 members, affiliates and guests traveled to West Bend, Wisconsin where Superintendent Bruce Worzella hosted the final meeting of the year at West Bend Country Club. It was the organization's first visit to the club since April of 1993.

The day began with an educational session presented by Bob Vavrek, the USGA Green Section agronomist for the North Central Region. The title of his presentation was "Don't Try This at Home - The Risks of Striving for Championship Conditions for Daily Play". Bob tailored his discussion about the problems associated with fast greens, tight fairways, long rough and firm playing conditions, for the benefit of the approximately 30 club officials (green chairmen, owners, club managers, etc.) who were present as guests of association members.

Although everyone wants their course to be in great condition, the effects of pushing the limits and trying to attain the "next level", may be detrimental to the quality of the course in the long run. One problem that Bob mentioned is that the budgets of some clubs aren't capable of supporting those types of conditions. Greens stimping at 11, 12, and 13 feet require low cutting heights which can cause thinning of turf, which in turn allows establishment of moss, algae and poa annua. The faster greens contribute to increased wear as slope of the green becomes more critical and limits cupping areas, forcing cups to be set on only 3 or 4 areas of a green. Fast greens and long rough also contribute to slow play as only the better, lower handicap players can handle these conditions. Striving for



Part of the large crowd at West Bend CC for the WGCSA October meeting.

firmer playing conditions requires more hand watering and syringing, and therefore more labor and money to accomplish that.

Perfect, firm, consistent sand traps are a misconception and do not exist, and since they are a hazard are not meant to be perfect. Weather conditions, such as we had this past summer, also complicate the ability to maintain firm, fast yet healthy greens, or any turf area for that matter. They can also strain a budget as the need for more chemicals arises.

Bob mentioned the incidence of pythium here in Wisconsin this past summer, a devastating disease that we normally don't encounter, especially to the

**Bob Vavrek, USGA Green Section agronomist and speaker at the October WGCSA meeting.**




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Dick Gagen, green committee chair at WBCC, and Bruce Worzella welcome WGCSA guests.

extent that it occurred. Bob showed slides of different problems he had observed on his Turf Advisory visits across the region. A comment from one attendee was that a video of Bob's presentation would be very helpful to take back and show to his greens committee and membership. Bob stated that although no video has been made, he was available, especially during the winter months, to speak to various groups, and that he also could and does make presentations to groups as part of his Turf Advisory visit.

Thanks again to Bob for attending back-to-back meetings and for providing some insightful information to our group and guests.

A soup and sandwich buffet lunch was served following the educational session. The golf event was a two man, Superintendent / Guest scramble. Other affiliates and members picked their partners or were paired for the event. The course was beautiful, challenging and in great condition. The greens were large, undulating, firm and fast. The weather cooperated, although it did get a bit chilly towards the end of the day. There were some good golf shots and some not so good, and everyone appeared to have a great day.

After the golf event, lively conversation, cocktails and a delicious selection of hors d'oeuvres were served while the scores were tallied and awards were presented.

The golf awards are as follows:

**2 Man Scramble event:**

- 1st place Bruce Worzella, Randy Warobick (66)
- 2nd place Scott Bushmann, Tom Martine (67)
- 3rd place Rod Johnson, Mike Suprick (71)
- 4th place Mike Benkusky, Todd Quinto (71)
- 5th place Dan Shaw, Scott Todd (71)
- 6th place John Feiner, Skip Willms (72)
- 7th place Mike Lyons, Steve Kaiser (72)
- 8th place Mike Berwick, Kris Pinkerton (73)

**Winners of Flag Events:**

- |     |  |                |
|-----|--|----------------|
| #4  | Closest to Pin in One (Supt. Only)     | Dan Shaw       |
| #5  | Longest Putt (Non-Supt. Only)          | Mark Lesar     |
| #8  | Closest to Pin in One(Non-Supt. Only)  | Dave Baxter    |
| #9  | Longest Putt (Supt. Only)              | Scott Schaller |
| #13 | Closest to Pin in One (Supt. Only)     | Mike Berwick   |
| #15 | Longest Putt (Supt. Only)              | Rod Johnson    |
| #17 | Closest to pin in One (Non-Supt. Only) | Tom Martine    |
| #18 | Longest Putt (Non-Supt. Only)          | Mike Suprick   |

Special thanks to Bruce Worzella, President J.J. Ziegler, Professional Don Hill, and the entire staff at the West Bend Country Club for their hospitality.

Also thanks to all the host clubs from this past year, and all the members and affiliates for taking the time to attend these events.

Thank you to all those that donated to the TDL this year on the registration check off.

We raised \$710 for this worthy cause.

We do have openings for hosting next year's meetings. If you would like to volunteer your club it would be greatly appreciated. Have a Good Winter! 🌿

