

Snow Mold Fungicides To Test Before Mercury Ban

By Dr. Ward Steinstra, University of Minnesota Department of Plant Pathology

The testing season last year was not very informative due to the early snow-fall and then having to wait for the sites to melt open. Disease pressure in the Metro area was slight-to-none, and at the test site in Stillwater untreated plots had only 8% disease.

A few plots had 1, 3 or 6% disease, but a true evaluation of product performance was not possible when all products had essentially no disease.

Results from golf courses suggested that most people had fairly good control with the programs that were used. Chloronab at 2 oz., with PCNB at 2 oz. performed well at Duluth, and I expect several golf superintendents should continue to try this combination.

Other products that show some promise are Daconil, 26019 and Vorian. The application of these products alone is not recommended, as by themselves the level of control was not satisfactory, except at 16 fl. oz. of Daconil (a 7% disease score was good in this one year). The tank mixes of Vorian and PCNB or PCNB with Daconil or 26019 and Daconil resulted in good control at one site in one year.

Suggestions for you to try, not recommendations are:

- 26019 And Daconil at 4 fl. oz. plus 8 fl. oz.;

- Vorian and PCNB at 2-3 oz. plus 2-6 oz. A high rate of PCNB did not increase disease control.

- Daconil and PCNB at 6-8 oz. plus 4-8 oz. Again the higher rate of PCNB did not increase disease control.

A combination of Vorian and Daconil was less impressive. While disease control is one factor to consider, another is the regrowth of turf in the spring. The turf appearance was judged as "good" in the following treatments: Caloclor alone, Caloclor plus Chloronab plus PCNB my standard treatments and in Daconil plus PCNB. Turf appearance was "ok" in the following treatments: Vorian plus PCNB, 26019 plus Daconil and in some experimental products.

Your own results on your course may be a very important factor in your decision on what to use in 1994. Test plots will gain be set out, and the results will be available, but I do suggest that you try some of the possible treatments yourself.

GCSAA Response—

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she was taking extra precautions because of her genetic predisposition to the disease, not because she thought the chemicals induced it.

Others interviewed — regardless of their pesticide knowledge — repeatedly used terms such as "scary" to describe their feelings about golfing on and around golf course pesticides.

"Our side" of the story; relating the fact that no scientific data link the chemicals to the disease, appeared briefly toward the end of the segment, which likely had already panicked viewers unnecessarily.

Scott Austin from the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association appeared very briefly, and only a small fraction of his comments were used. Austin did an outstanding job of addressing the issue during his brief appearance.

GCSAA feels this type of reporting is not responsible journalism. GCSAA staff worked at length with the television reporter, providing her with background information and materials in hopes that it would be used to provide a balanced treatment of the subject.

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