

MGCSA Winter Damage Survey Creates Interesting Findings

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After reviewing the Winter Survey Results, I noticed some interesting findings. One was regarding topdressing. Some things it helps, some it does not. Another was the use of covers. Are they helpful, and which ones work the best?

These same questions were reviewed by the MGCSA Research Committee last April, and we allocated money to look into these areas. We will be funding Dr. Dan Taylor's topdressing research in conjunction with the GCSAA. This study will look into different topdressing materials and results as how they relate to winter protection.

The committee also has allocated money to look into the use of covers on putting greens. The work will be done at Rolling Green Country Club under the direction of Pat Walton, CGCSA and Dr. Ward Stienstra. Different types of covers facing different directions relating to the sun will be placed this fall and several at different times during the winter. We will then use some of the same covers next year along with some new ones to see if age is a factor.

If anyone has suggestions or questions relating to these projects or the survey, please feel free to contact me.

Here are the results of the 110 surveys returned.

- 1) Did you cover greens?
 - No (84)
 - Yes (24)
 - HPI (16)
 - Excelsior (5)
 - Other (9)
- 2) Did you topdress?
 - No (66)
 - Yes (45)
 - Unimon (4)
 - Washed Sand (15)
 - 80-20 (23)
- 3) Did the November rain event affect the outcome of your greens?
 - Yes (55)
 - No (51)
- 4) When did your ice start forming?
 - November (51)
 - December (18)
 - January (11)
 - February (14)
- 5) Did you remove snow and ice?
 - No (57)
 - Yes (52)
 - November (6)
 - December (2)
 - January (1)
 - February (4)
 - March (37)
 - April (2)
- 6) When did you start seeing damage?
 - November (1)
 - December (2)
 - January (0)
 - February (7)
 - March (42)
 - April (32)
 - May (1)
- 7) If you removed snow and ice, was it helpful?
 - Yes (32)
 - No (24)
- 8) Was there a lot of damage to your greens?
 - No (55)
 - Yes (47)
 - Minimal (42)
 - Extensive (20)
- 9) What was it?
 - Ice (73)
 - Snow Mold (19)
- 10) What rates and products did you use for snow molds?
 - Daconil Weatherstick - 4, 6, 8 and 12 oz.
 - Chipco 26019F - 2, 4, 6 and 8 oz.
 - PCNB - 4, 6 and 8 oz.
 - Turfcide 400 - 4, 6 and 8 oz.
 - Scotts FFII
 - Calo-Clor - 3 oz.
 - Teremee SP
 - Daconil Ultrex
 - Penn Star 75 WP
- 11) How much water per 1000 square feet did you use?
 - 1 gallon (16)
 - 2 gallon (44)
 - 3 gallon (12)
 - 4 gallon (12)
 - 1.5 gallon (2)
- 12) Did you "water in" your PCNB?
 - No (54)
 - Yes (42)
 - Did not use PCNB (7)
- 13) What are you going to do differently next year?
 - Nothing (50)
 - Topdress
 - Improve drainage
 - Heavy Milorganite
 - Pray
 - Start Earlier
 - Cover all greens
 - Remove excess water before freezing
- 14) What did you do that you feel was successful?
 - Nothing (30)
 - Topdressing
 - Remove excess water
 - Remove snow and ice
 - Cover greens
 - Healthy turf in fall
 - Snow Fence
 - Let greens grow
 - Faith in God
 - Deep tine in December
- 15) Anything you feel that was not successful?
 - Nothing (32)
 - Not getting spraying done
 - Different Covers
 - Topdressing