

144 Attend Phosphorus Seminar

One-Hundred and forty-four MGCSA members attended the March Mini-Seminar on Phosphorus at Midland Hills Country Club on March 18. Host Scott Austin, CGCS, made sure everything was in order for this informative session.

MGCSA President Rick Fredericksen, CGCS, Woodhill Country Club, welcomed attendees. Jim Nicol, CGCS, Hazeltine National Golf Club, followed with a review of last year's PGA Championship as host superintendent.

A brief review of the current phosphorus law was next up on the agenda. Peter Beirman, University of Minnesota, gave a talk on basic soil science and soil testing.

Dr. Brian Horgan, University of Minnesota, spoke on Phosphorus Chemistry and later in the day about fertilizer management.

Jim Turner, Simplot Partners concluded the day with a session on dry soils and wetting agents.

Attendees received a certificate of completion.

Basal Rot Anthracnose—

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were applied on 14-day intervals beginning mid-May through mid-August in 2 gallons of water/1000 sq. ft. The entire study received a total of 1.5 lb N/1000 sq. ft. in periodic increments during the season. The nitrogen treatments applied were over

and above this amount.

In closing, there is debate among pathologists that there may be several strains of anthracnose, each reacting differently to different fungicides. This study certainly indicates control differences by chemical class at this single location. Additional research will be required from multiple locations and years for a more complete understanding of this disease complex. However, several solid conclusions can be drawn:

Utilizing the nitrile class (Daconil) provides "excellent disease control" in a preventive fungicide rotational program.

A balanced nutritional program including nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium are required for vigorous healthy plants that can fend off disease and/or have a speedy recovery post infection.

Correcting underlying problems that place stress on the plant will assist in reducing the severity of outbreak.

Although not thoroughly tested, late fall fungicide applications, in conjunction with snow mold applications, have been observed to reduce disease severity for the following spring season. Whether inhibiting late season infections, reducing over-wintering populations, and/or increasing plant health, the effect to the plant is relatively unknown. However it is known that early preventative applications coupled with good fertility and reducing plant stress, can reduce the economic loss associated with anthracnose. Fortunately, these types of studies give golf course superintendents short-term solutions until a longer-term solution is determined.

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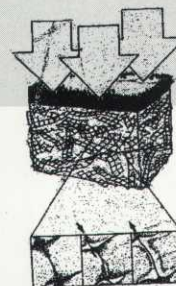
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