

Snow Molds and Winter Stress of Turf

While it may still be summer, preparations for nowmold programs are just around the corner. The two significant winter diseases of turf are pink (*Microdochium*) and gray (*Typhula*) snow mold. Gray snow mold is found where there is snow cover for extended periods of time. It produces circular areas of infected turf that may appear gray in color. Pink snow mold can thrive with or without snow cover and produces pink to reddish brown infection spots in the turf. Both diseases can appear together in the same area of turf.

The Chipco fungicide product line of 26GT, Bayleton, Compass and Prostar offers outstanding flexibility to create the snow mold control program that fits your needs. These products are labeled for pink and gray snow mold; years of research have demonstrated their ability to provide effective, long lasting control (see charts 1-4).

Winter stress of turf, like summer stress, is due to an interaction of diseases and environmental stresses that result in weakened root systems; the general loss of plant vigor due to the weakened turf roots predisposes the turf to even greater susceptibility to further disease and stress damage.

In the winter, stresses to turf can include below normal or freezing temperatures, snow cover, ice formation, drying winds etc. Combine these with pink snow mold, gray snow mold and *Pythium* and it's no wonder turf can suffer from decreased vigor.

Chipco Signature™ fungicide, added to your standard fungicide program for snow mold control, has been demonstrated to provide significant management of winter stress of turf resulting in dramatic springtime turf quality. Signature's preventive performance has been related to its ability to modify the turf plant's physiology; this enables the plant to better withstand future stresses and results in increased turf vigor (see charts 1 and 2).

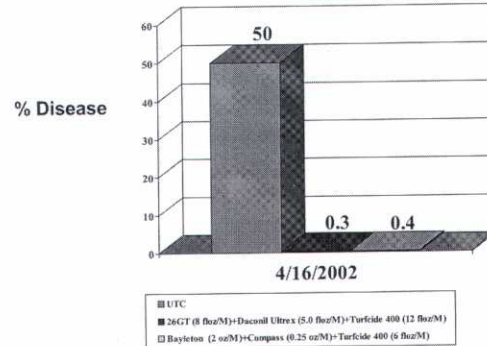
Not only did the improved turf vigor help the turf thru

the winter period but also it benefited the turf in preparing for the stresses of the upcoming spring and summer.

Remember turf disease control and winter and summer stress management is a year round integrated program.

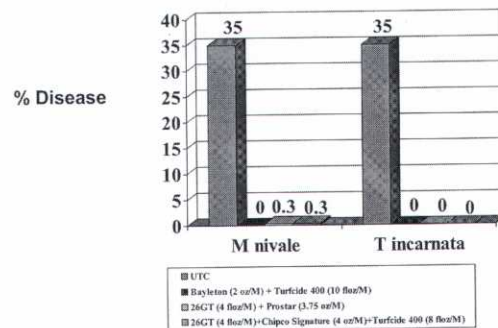
(Editor's Note: This article was reprinted with permission from the Bayer Environmental Science Development newsletter. More information may be found at www.bayerprocentral.com)

Chart 3: Snow Mold Management



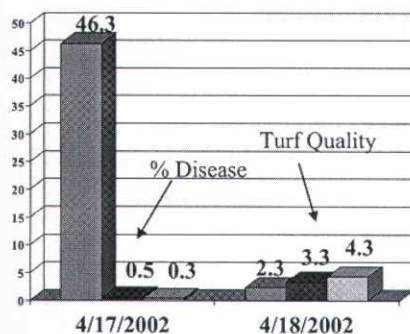
Trial: DRS01F22
Mainly Gray (*Typhula ishikariensis*) Snow Mold with some Pink (*Microdochium*)
Creeping bentgrass and *Poa annua*
Michigan State University
Application: 10/29/01

Chart 4: Snow Mold Management



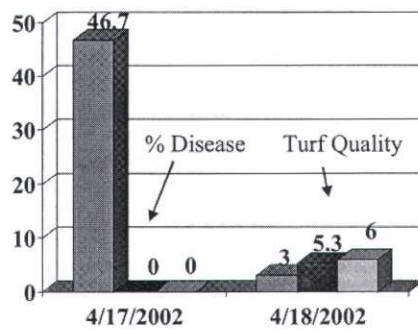
Trial: DRS00F11
Gray (*Typhula incarnata*) & Pink (*M nivale*) Snow Mold
Creeping bentgrass
University of Massachusetts
Application: 11/12/00
Evaluation: 04/04/01

Chart 1: Snow Mold Management



Trial: EAV01F38
Mainly Gray (*Typhula*) Snow Mold; some pink snow mold
Creeping bentgrass
University of Minnesota
Application: 10/22/01 + 11/12/01
Turf Quality: 0-9; 9=best

Chart 2: Snow Mold Management



Trial: EAV01F39
Gray (*Typhula*) Snow Mold
Creeping bentgrass
University of Minnesota
Application: 10/22/01 + 11/12/01
Turf Quality: 0-9; 9=best