

CHIPCO ALIETTE: A NEW APPROACH

by Tom Walsh, Superintendent
Chartwell Golf & Country Club

The increased use of Prograss for annual bluegrass control in fairway turf has brought on an increasing occurrence of pythium blight and brown patch. Recently, after careful experimentation, I started a Prograss program in my fairways for poa control. With it came beautiful seed-head free turf and reduced occurrence of dollar spot. But, as summertime approached, it brought more pythium and brown patch. This was a whole new ball game for me. More and more superintendents in the Mid-Atlantic area are facing the same costly predicament of having to spray their fairways for this deadly disease.

Philippe Ourisson, research and development representative for Rhone-Poulenc Inc., has been doing extensive pythium research here at Chartwell for the last two years. Philippe wanted to demonstrate their new chemical Chipco Aliette vs. other leading pythium controls. This experiment would examine the type of chemical to use, rate, and length of control. The three chemicals tested were Chipco Aliette, Subdue, and Terredec SP (alone and tank mixed). Philippe also wanted to determine if tank mixing Chipco Aliette with Subdue or SP at lower rates could give better control.

The chemicals and rates for 1986 are as follows: (untreated Check, Chipco Aliette 4 oz./1000, Chipco Aliette 4 oz. + Subdue 0.5 oz., Subdue 1.0 oz.; Terredec SP 2 oz. + Chipco Aliette 4 oz., Terredec SP 4 oz.). There was approximately 60% infection at the end of the experiment.

Conclusions showed that although all chemicals and rates initially stopped pythium, Terredec SP alone showed a very short residual. Twenty days after application, all other chemicals and rates still showed adequate control. Subdue may have shown slightly better results over Chipco Aliette, but more research must be done to be more conclusive. Although this experiment did not show much difference between Chipco Aliette and Subdue, it may shed some light on alternative methods of pythium control.

For further information or data contact me at (301) 987-1982.

Meeting Schedule For 1987 Announced

A schedule of 10 meetings, evenly balanced between Maryland and Virginia, has been approved by the Board of Directors, with the opening meeting of 1987 set for Fredericksburg Country Club on March 10 with Ron Barley as host. The remainder of the year will be as follows:

April 14 — Redgate Golf Course, Raymond Evans, host

May 12 — Pine Ridge Golf Course, Lynnie Cook, host

June 9 — Green Hill Yacht and Country Club, James Kelley, host

July 14 — Columbia Country Club, Ken Ingram, host

August 11 — Bretton Woods Recreation Center, Gerry Gerard, host

September 8 — Twin Lakes Golf Club, Barclay Whetsell, host

October 13 — Belle Haven Country Club, Jim Meier, host

November 10 — Herndon Centennial Golf Course, John Tutich, host

December 8 — Army Navy Country Club, Dave Fairbank, host

Winter Golf Can Do Lots of Harm

Dr. Doug Hawes passes along to us the rationale that a club in the northeast used in closing its course for the winter, citing the damage done to bentgrass after its growing season ends. Winter golf, the green committee said, when the bentgrass are frozen and dormant, totally favors the spread of *Poa annua*, which takes quick advantage of any bluegrass weakness. Playing in winter compacts the soil, which then requires more aeration during the spring and fall golfing seasons, plus heavy topdressing, both costly budget items. In winter, the soil under the turf freezes to depths from a few inches to several feet, depending on the cold. Once soil freezes, it negates all underground drainage until it has thawed completely. To compound the problem, part of the upper inch of soil thaws on sunny days, causing excessive wetness from trapped water above the frozen soil. This combination of circumstances results in severe compaction when play is allowed, because the thawed soil is compressed, vise-like, by foot pressure on the solid ice below the thaw.

Tom Regan Captures 1986 Point Tourney

Because of the rainout at Diamond Ridge in November, the final standings in the 1986 point tournament will remain as they were at the end of September, with Tom Regan well out in front with 38 points. Nick Vance finished second with 27, Virgil Robinson was third with 24, and Tom Walsh was the final prizewinner with 19½ for fourth place. Other high finishers were George Renault with 18½, Dave Fairbank with 16½, Ken Ingram with 13, and Grant Pensinger with 12.

An Update On Spin Grinding Technique

by Steven A. Nash, Superintendent
International Country Club

In the April newsletter, I briefly explained a new way to spin grind mowing reels using a regular Foley grinder. Since that article appeared, I have received many calls asking me to describe in detail how to set it up and how to work it. In this article, I will attempt to describe exactly how to set it up.

Using your present manual Foley grinder, you need to mount a platform about 15" square to the right hand side of the Foley, as you stand in a grinding position. On top of this platform you sit your back-lapping machine. Remove the guide finger from the grinding stone, and you're ready to spin grind. Mount the reel in the normal position, making sure it is square to the grinding wheel. The grinding stone must just barely touch the reel from the lowest possible spot. The back-lapping machine must turn the reel in a direction coming over the top and down toward the stone. As the reel turns, move the spinning grind stone across the reel. Continue grinding until the sparks almost stop, then readjust the stone. It is very important to readjust the stone gently, because a real hard grind makes for an uneven grind. Take everything slowly the first time. Once reels have been ground by this method, they are much easier to regrind the next time. Grind the reel until it is sharpened all the way across and keep grinding on the last adjustment until there are practically no sparks. This puts a final smooth grind on the reel. A good spin grind on the reel is no good unless you have also ground the bed-knife properly.