



# TURFGRASS MATTERS

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## Superintendents and Scientists

### A Synergistic Mix

by Tim Norris, CGCS



*Government Relations Chairman Dean Graves addresses EPA officials*

On March 8th, 2001 a groundbreaking meeting hosted by MAAGCS, was held at the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, VA. Golf course superintendents from four area clubs and scientists from the Environmental Protection Agency met for an exchange of ideas between industry and the government. David Evans and Chris Rosetto, representatives from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's Washington lobbying firm, Reed, Smith, Hazel & Thomas, also attended.

Mike Farrar with the EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs and Director of the Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program approached Dean Graves, the Mid Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents' Government Relations Chair with the idea of an open discussion between EPA regulators and golf course superintendents. The purpose of this discussion would be to introduce the scientists responsible for making regulatory decisions to pesticide end users.

Dean Graves, Tim Norris, CGCS, Joe Perry, CGCS and Glenn Smickley, CGCS represented the Mid Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents. Bob Wilbur, golf course superintendent at Army Navy Country Club-Arlington, was kind enough to host the EPA personnel at his maintenance facility for an up-close look at application equipment and procedures.

Mr. Graves, superintendent at the Chevy Chase Club, kicked off the meeting by explaining the concept of Integrated Pest Management and how it fits into the decision making process when superintendents make pesticide applications. Joe Perry, CGCS, superintendent at Eagle's Landing Golf Course, discussed the daily duties and responsibilities that are faced by golf course superintendents. Glenn Smickley, CGCS described the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program and the steps he has taken at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Club to achieve the Audubon Certification. Mr. Smickley also discussed some of the issues that he

faces maintaining a golf course adjacent to Lake Manassas that serves as the City of Manassas' drinking water reservoir. The participants then moved a short distance to Mr. Wilbur's maintenance facility where Tim Norris, CGCS, superintendent at Army Navy Country Club-Fairfax, demonstrated the use of pesticide application equipment, specifically, a dedicated boom spray rig.

Twenty scientists from the Health Effects Division, Environmental Fate and Effects Division and the Biological and Economic Analysis Division represented the EPA. These scientists are responsible for making many of the regulatory decisions concerning pesticides that are used on turf. Mr. Farrar and Gary Bangs from the Health Effects Division felt it would be beneficial to introduce the risk assessors to some background information on golf course management practices so they would be able to make better-informed decisions on pesticide usage. Superintendents were able to gain

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**Anthracnose**, *continued from page 9*

ous summer. Basal rot anthracnose may be less of a problem on greens that have not experienced a significant loss of grass in recent history. In addition, low mowing heights of 1/8 of an inch (0.125 in) or less contribute to the initiation and difficulty in controlling this disease.

**ANTHRACNOSE MANAGEMENT**

**Cultural Practices:**

- √ Do not mow when greens are excessively wet (spongy)
- √ Use walk-behind mowers and reduce mowing frequency
- √ Mow at 5/32" (0.156 inch) and use solid rollers (raising mowing heights may be easier to say than do)
- √ Avoid excessive irrigation/syringe
- √ Apply 0.1 to 0.125-lb. N/M sq. ft. from ammonium sulfate or urea
  - Tankmix with fungicide
- √ Avoid PGRs when anthracnose is active
- √ Avoid grooming (topdressing, verticutting, brushing, quadratine) when anthracnose is active
  - Apply fungicides prior to grooming, even if anthracnose is not active
  - Syringe after grooming

**Fungicides:**

If the disease is active, rotate penetrants from the three classes shown: Thiophanate (CL 3336 or Fungo 50) in the first 7 to 10-days, followed by a strobilurin (Compass or Heritage) in the second 7 to 10-days, followed by a sterol-inhibitor (Banner, Bayleton, Eagle or Rubigan) in the third 7 to 10-days period. Do not use a fungicide from the same chemical class in succession. Keep changing the batting order. Also, as temperatures increase be mindful of growth regulating side effects of sterol-inhibiting fungicides. Always tankmix a penetrant with a contact like chlorothalonil/Daconil.

**Fungicide Rates:**

- Daconil Ultrex (4.0 oz - 6.0 oz) plus:
- CL 3336 4.0 - 6.0 oz
- Heritage 0.2 - 0.4 oz } Rotate
- Compass 0.25 oz }
- Banner MAXX 1.0 - 2.0 oz}
- Bayleton 50W 0.5 - 1.0 oz } Rotate
- Rubigan 1AS 1.0 - 1.5 oz }
- Eagle 0.6 - 1.2 oz }

The best long term control strategy is to encourage bentgrass.

Reduce thatch, mat and soil compaction by core aeration, topdressing, verticutting, etc., when anthracnose is not active and turf

is vigorous.

Footnote: This information was presented at a recent USGA Regional meeting in Monroeville, PA by Dr. Peter Dernoeden, Agronomist, University of Maryland and is offered in cooperation with Stanley J. Zontek, Director of the USGA Green Section, Mid-Atlantic region. This information was also reviewed by Dr. Peter Landscoot and Dr. Wakar Uddin, Penn State University. We thank everyone for their input.

**Mix**, *continued from page 1*

some insight into the type and amount of information that is needed to make these decisions. It is important to understand that in the event no data is available, worse case scenarios are used. It therefore behooves superintendents to provide accurate data on use rates and amounts when it is requested.

This session was not about any particular chemical, although several specifics were discussed. It offered an unusual opportunity for both groups to understand the nature of each other's work and to build long-term working relationships free from any concern about EPA action. Both superintendents and scientists were enthused about the concept, thinking that this is a model for the way government should do its business; by gathering all the insights and information the regulated community has to offer. MAAGCS, GCSAA and the EPA all benefited from this gathering and it set a precedent for similar meetings in other industries. Once again, the golf course superintendent has taken a leadership role in the ongoing search for better and more effective ways to use the pesticides at our disposal.

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