

Rhizoctonia control in the field

Yellow patch on fairways is one disease that breaks through the earliest, says Dan Dinelli, CGCS at North Shore CC, Glenview, Ill. A progressive superintendent, Dinelli has been experimenting with biological disease control.

Dinelli is trying mono-sacharide sugars as a biostimulant, with BioJect and compost teas mixed in-house through the irrigation system.

"It seems like these simple sugars may actually promote *Rhizoctonia cerealis*," suggests Dinelli. "It seems like when we do inject the sugar cane molasses, our cool-weather brown patch gets worse. (We were hoping we could inject the food source for the microorganisms that we're trying to deliver through the irrigation system side-by-side hoping that they would proliferate.)"

"We picked the molasses because it's an inexpensive sugar source. It just seems that for *Rhizoctonia* it's not working quite as well as we had hoped."

Dinelli cautions others that it's still too early to tell if sugars promote the disease, and it would be premature to make any hard decisions based on his as yet limited observations.

During warm weather, Dinelli's Metos weather station offers three disease forecasting models, one of which is for brown patch, which gives him notice on when to start scouting for *Rhizoctonia solani*.

For curative control of fairway brown patch, Dinelli uses ProStar, Thiram and Daconil.

"The preventive program is still biological. We've tried to go strictly curative for fairway brown patch."

Greens at North Shore are on a traditional preventive disease control program.

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