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Stripe Smut Control Found

A team of scientists headed by Turfgrass Pathologist Dr. Philip M. Halisky at Rutgers University has now shown excellent control of stripe smut with the use of the Dupont systemic chemical benomyl.

Thus, in an amazingly short time, intensive research aided by grants from the Merion Bluegrass Association, E. I. Dupont Co. and Chemagro Corporation, has solved an important disease problem.

In the evaluation trials, three fungicides were utilized: Dupont's benomyl, PCNB ("Scott's FF-2") dry granular mix and B-33172. These were applied in replicated plots of heavily smutted Merion Kentucky Bluegrass turf. The experimental area consisted of 96 plots measuring 5 x 5 feet, clipped at 1½ inches and maintained at a moderate fertility level of 4 lbs. of nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. per year.

B-33172 and benomyl, both wettable powders, were mixed with water and applied as drenches at the rate of 50 gallons per 1,000 square ft. of turf per application. PCNB was applied in combination with a granular fertilizer (14-3-3) containing 15.4% active fungicide. This combination was broadcast by hand and watered-in at an equivalent rate of 50 gallons per 1,000 sq. ft.

PCNB was applied in the fall of 1967 and the spring of 1968 while the other two chemicals were spring applied only. Counts of smutted tillers per square feet of sod were made

in the fall of 1968 and the data analyzed.

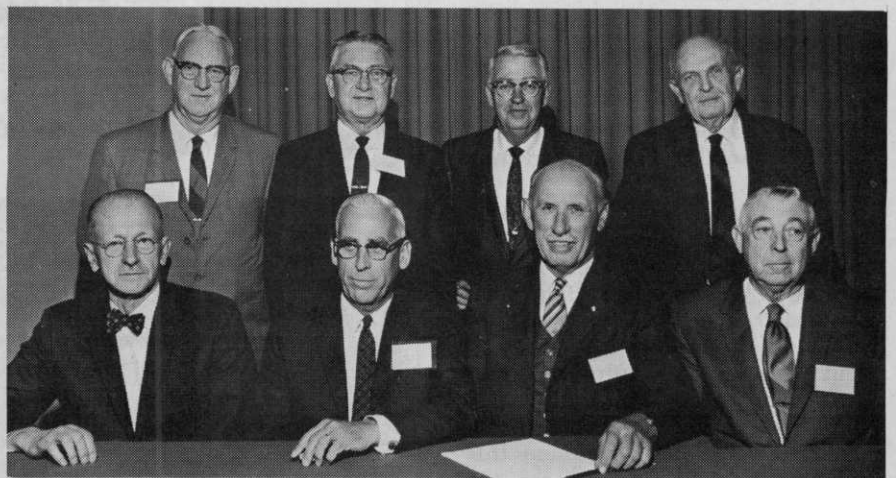
The highest reduction of stripe smut was achieved with five applications of benomyl at the 6-ounce rate. At the 12-ounce rate, benomyl applied once or twice during the spring months also was highly effective.

At the 32-ounce rate, PCNB (Scott's FF-2) with spring and fall applications resulted in significant disease control. Similar applications at the 16-ounce rate were inadequate in controlling the disease. In general, PCNB is considered phytotoxic to bentgrasses and to fine fescues, and may cause some temporary yellowing in bluegrass during hot, dry weather.

USDA Delays Decision On Pesticide Suspension

A decision on re-instatement of nine so-called "persistent pesticides" still has not been forthcoming from the U. S. Department of Agriculture—at least this was the case as WTT went to press.

A spokesman told WEEDS TREES AND TURF that the matter was being studied by the Federal Committee on Pest Control. The materials—DDT, dieldrin, endrin, aldrin, chlordane, toxaphene, lindane, heptachlor, and BHC—were suspended from use July 9.



Officers for 1969-70 of the American Society of Consulting Arborists are (seated, left to right): Secretary-Treasurer Walter P. Morrow of Sewickley, Pa.; Vice President George W. Goodall, Sr., of Portland, Me.; President-Elect Ray Gustin, Jr., of Silver Spring, Md., and President H. M. Van Wormer of Richmond, Va. Standing (left to right) are: Directors Dr. L. C. Chadwick of Columbus, Ohio; H. N. Engledow of Indianapolis, Ind., and F. L. Dinsmore of St. Louis, Mo., and Director-at-Large Henry Vaughn Eames of Stockton, N. J.