

NEMATODE CONTROL

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the same time with a Noer soil profile sampler.

The populations of Ring and Spiral nematodes were reduced following each nematicide application. Nematode populations in areas receiving only one application began to increase within six to eight weeks after treatment. In the areas receiving the two applications (early and late), the nematode populations increased slightly following the early application and remained at a low level for the balance of the season.

The populations in the non-treated areas were rated as very moderate during April, increased to heavy in June, July, and August, and increased to very heavy in September.

Roots in all the nematicide-treated areas penetrated 158 to 175 mm (6.2 to 6.9 inches) which was nearly twice the depth of those in non-treatments. Plots receiving the early and late applications produced approximately four times more grass clippings than the non-treated area, twice as much as the late treatment, and three times as much as the early application. The increased grass clippings indicate a more vigorous plant

growth, even though this difference was not noticeable from general observation.

It is not difficult for the golf course superintendent to appreciate that the deeper root systems provide a greater ability for the plants to withstand stress periods and recover much quicker under the heavy traffic we have in Oklahoma.

Dasanit 15G has performed well for us, and our superintendents have selected the granular nematicide over the liquid fumigant because it's easier to handle. Many of the superintendents carrying out a nematode program say their greens are improved, yet they fail to understand how a little worm they cannot see could do so much damage. We suggest to our superintendents that if they are following a good maintenance program and are having difficulty maintaining a dense stand of grass, they should pull soil samples and obtain a laboratory nematode and fertility analysis.

Our nematicide trials have shown that applications of soil fumigants Nemagon or Fumazone, or the non-fumigant Dasanit will reduce populations of nematodes to a level that will aid growth of bentgrasses. Using the manufacturers' recommended

rate, Nemagon 12.1EC or Fumazone 70E should be applied as a drench, at the rate of one pint with 15 to 20 gallons of water per 1000 sq. ft. **Immediately** following this, the treated area should be given a good irrigation.

When using Dasanit 15G at 1½ to 3 lbs. formulation per 1000 sq. ft., distribute the granular dosage evenly over the turf area. Drench the grass thoroughly after treatment by applying approximately one-half inch of water. Do not treat newly-seeded areas!

Remember that while these materials will reduce the population of nematodes, they do not completely eradicate them from the soil. Therefore, it would be advisable to have your greens checked annually, once nematodes have been found to be a problem. □

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