

Controlling turf diseases

Preventative maintenance is not only an issue when dealing with annual grass and weed control. The same concept holds true when dealing with turf disease control. Preventative measures for dealing with diseases of the turf allow the turf manager to control the turf pathogens before they reach the visible symptom state, when control measures become more costly, not to mention the fact that the damage is already evident, unsightly and detrimental to the health of the overall stand of turf.

But preventative characteristics are not the only important aspect when choosing a turf fungicide. Spectrum of control is also an important issue. Does the fungicide control the major turf pathogens such as dollarspot and brown patch? Furthermore, does the fungicide remain effective throughout the vulnerable period of the turfgrass?

These are the primary concerns of both golf course superintendents and lawn care companies. If a fungicide



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—Jim Ellison
Orlando, Fla.

meets these qualifications, the turf manager should use it. One such fungicide meets these qualifications and also helps manage the populations of annual bluegrasses, a problem weed in both cool-season turf and winter overseeded turf in the south.

Rubigan® 50W is a locally systemic fungicide offering effective control of dollarspot, Fusarium blight, stripe smut, pink and gray snow mold, and is active on large brown patch—activity that can be enhanced with a Daconil 2787 tank-mix. In four years of field use, users report excellent control of dollarspot. For only 10 to 14 cents per 1,000 square feet per day of control, *Rubigan* offers economical control of dollarspot, even resistant dollarspot. *Rubigan*'s multi-sites of inhibition also help reduce the worry of pathogens developing resistance to *Rubigan* treatments.

An extra benefit of *Rubigan* to cool-season turfgrass managers is the gradual reduction of poa annua, reduction that

Crooked Stick Country Club, Indianapolis, Ind.





'On most greens, we've had 100 percent control.'

—Stan Wreyford
Mansfield, Tex.

can only be achieved with cumulative rates of two to three ounces per 1,000 square feet and proper management practices. With *Rubigan*, turf managers can maintain disease-free poa or gradually reduce it. It's their choice.

Rubigan is safe on all commonly-grown turf species when used at recommended rates. Furthermore, application rates are considerably less than conventional fungicides, requiring less storage and handling.

In southern turf species, *Rubigan* provides fungicidal control and season-long elimination of annual bluegrass. No deactivation of *Rubigan* with activated charcoal is required before overseeding as is the case with preemergence herbicides, offering considerably greater seed germination safety.

Stan Wreyford of Walnut Creek Country Club in Mansfield, Tex., has nothing but compliments for the makers of *Rubigan*. "It does one fine job," he says. "We went in with *Rubigan* last year for the first time. Our overseeded greens had at least 50 percent poa annua. We've had at least 95 percent control, and on most of the greens it's 100 percent.

"We've had a lot of positive comments, mostly on the greens' appearance. The golfers are also saying that they're putting better now, too. Even though that's mostly psychological, if that's what they believe, they're the ones that count."

Rubigan's activity on poa annua in northern cool-season turf is also being realized by golf course superintendents. Joe Norris of Jamestown Park Golf



Course, Jamestown, N.Y., agrees. "I've never been loaded with poa annua, but *Rubigan* has gotten rid of what I had," he says. "It seems to be working real well. I plan to keep on using it."

And Jimmy Ellison of Bay Hill Country Club, Orlando, Fla. has special uses for *Rubigan*.

"It works well with our program because we're a golf resort," Ellison says. "I can break up the rates—a little bit now, a little bit later—and still get effective control on my greens. I can also apply it closer to my overseeding dates and not affect the seedlings."

Martin Marietta plant, Orlando, Fla.

