

Weed control for golf course fairways

Conscientious golf course superintendents, concerned with the beauty and playability of their courses, can't afford to wait until unwanted species like crabgrass, goosegrass and other annual weed grasses begin to appear on their fairways.

After weeds appear, it is too late to correct the impact on turf quality that has already occurred. So superintendents choose pre-emergence herbicide programs to control weeds before they become visible.

Many herbicides are available to provide control of different weeds for varying periods of time. Two proven performers for annual grass control are the granular pre-emergence herbicides Balan and Team, both of which are also available on fertilizer carriers through selected formulators.

Balan is the leading granular pre-emergence herbicide in use for golf course fairways. The eight- to ten-week control of a single Balan application yields excellent crabgrass and poa annua



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—Doug Johnson
Newton, Mass.

control with maximum overseeding safety. Balan's low price also allows the superintendent to make a second application if longer control is needed. This predictable length of control by Balan offers the turf manager flexibility to use the cultural practices he needs to maintain the best growing environment.

On the other hand, superintendents

wanting longer-lasting control of crabgrass and goosegrass with a single application now have a product that fits this need. Team offers effective pre-emergence control of crabgrass and goosegrass for 18 to 20 weeks at an affordable price.

University research has shown Team to provide a higher percentage control of crabgrass than other available pre-emergence herbicides. Team is labelled for use on all common turfgrasses used on fairways and roughs, including bentgrass. Team is not labelled for use on bentgrass greens.

Another advantage of Team and Balan is their ease of application. These two granular products can be applied in one-half the time as sprayable herbicides because of the faster refill time, wider application pattern and no need to dodge obstacles in the fairway, plus clay particles spread more accurately, simplify equipment calibration and have no spray drift concerns.

"Applying Team is very easy," claims Howard Gaskill, who supervises three 18-hole golf courses for the Baltimore (Md.) County Department of Recreation & Parks.

The product has worked well for Gaskill, who was able to keep his perennial ryegrass fairways playable despite a record-setting drought and heavy traffic on the public courses this summer.

"I'm really quite pleased with our crabgrass control. The weather has been so bad that we've not been able to



Crooked Stick Country Club,
Indianapolis, Ind.

maintain a dense stand of turf, which is the best crabgrass control."

With the increase in higher quality fairway management programs has come the need for disease control. Rubigan 50W is an excellent fungicide to use in a fairway disease program.

"I've used it not only for disease control, but to control poa annua, too," says Doug Johnson, golf course superintendent at Pine Brook Country Club in Newton, Mass., just outside of Boston. "It's great for resistant strains of dollar spot. I started out with just fairways, basically as a fungicide, then last year decided to give it a try on greens, using it heavier to wipe out the poa."

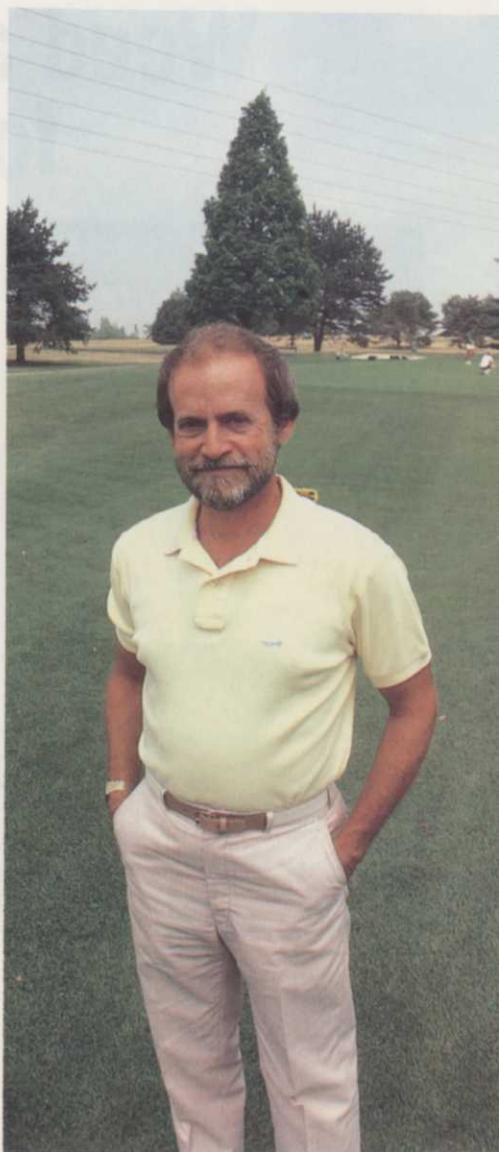
For disease control, especially dollar spot, on his poa/bentgrass fairways, Johnson uses Rubigan in early July, early August, and late August.

Johnson has used the product successfully for four seasons. "I think I might have been the first guy up around here to use it; now there's quite a few," he says. "It's a great fungicide."

Rubigan's control of a broad spectrum of common diseases allows for less product inventory since one product can solve a variety of problems. In addition, Rubigan has been proven unique in that it controls all three pathogens of the fusarium blight complex. This eliminates the need to try to correctly identify the specific pathogen. A preventative treatment of 2 oz. per 1,000 sq. ft. at 30-day intervals will solve his expanding disease problem.

Also, Rubigan is a natural for use in preventative dollar spot programs on bentgrass fairways. An application of Rubigan 50W will give 14 to 21 days of control at $\frac{2}{10}$ oz. per 1,000 sq. ft. or 30 days of control at $\frac{4}{10}$ oz. per 1,000 sq. ft. There's no better value fungicide for fairway dollar spot control.

Whether it's annual weeds or diseases, applications of Balan, Team or Rubigan 50W can help keep the beauty and playability of golf course fairways at their optimum for golf course superintendents.



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Baltimore, Md.