SPOTLIGHT

Closed dispensing system adds more safety to control product applications



Turfpak features a 15-gallon returnable container, electronic control module and dry-break couplings.

During the summer of 1992, Ciba-Geigy successfully tested its Turfpak packaging system, using Banner fungicide for golf course applications and Triumph insecticide for turf insect control.

According to the company, the dispensing system will be available to other regions. Subdue fungicide will be added to the arsenal of products available in returnable containers.

"This is a very slick system," says David Ward, superintendent of the Olympia Fields Country Club in Olympia Fields, Ill. "With the closed system, we have no contact with chemicals, it increases the speed and ease of loading a sprayer tank and there are no empty containers to rinse and dispose of."

John McLeod, Ciba-Geigy Turf and Ornamental Division Northern Region sales manager, says the most important benefit of Turfpak is increased applicator safety.

"According to research by our packaging group, 90 percent of pesticide exposure occurs during the mixing process," says McLeod. "By using a closed dispensing system like Turfpak, we've virtually eliminated that risk."

One Turfpak container replaces 15, one-gallon pesticide jugs. The Turfpak uses patented Drylock Closed Dispensing System technology developed by Aeroquip Corporation's Fluid Security Systems Division, located in Nashville, Tenn.

An applicator mounts the male half of the dry-break coupling on his sprayer tank lid. When applying pesticide, he snaps the female dry-break coupling on the dispensing hose to the male on the spray tank and enters the desired quantity of pesticide in a hand-held electronic control module. The Turfpak shuts itself off after that precise amount is dispensed.

Scott Moffitt, product manager in Ciba-Geigy's Turf and Ornamental Division, says such pinpoint accuracy is critical for pesticide products used in home turf applications.

"The Turfpak system calibrates to one-tenth of an ounce, which is what our customers need to meet their stewardship requirements," says Moffitt.

Charlie Jesky of the McHenry Country Club in McHenry, Ill. used the Banner Turfpak last summer and says it made pesticide application quicker and easier.

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