



CHIPS & PUTTS

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POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

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May 2003

Glenmaura Hosts NE PA Classic

Glenmaura National Golf Club will host the Northeastern Pennsylvania Classic of the Nationwide Tour. This tournament will be held June 9 through June 15.

Andy Jubinski, Golf Course Superintendent at Glenmaura,, is once again looking for volunteers to assist with the course preparations.

Anyone interested in helping out can contact Andy at 570-457-8733.



Todd Ahner, Superintendent Olde Homestead Golf Course New Tripoli, PA

Todd Ahner, our host for the May meeting, has been the golf course superintendent at Olde Homestead since its inception. He began his career with Ted Zabinski at Brookside C.C. in Pottstown in 1985. He then attended Penn State where he graduated #1 in his class in 1989. After graduation, he assumed the superintendent's position at Timber Trails G.C. in the Poconos.

In 1991 he was hired to be construction superintendent at White Tail G.C. in Bath, where he stayed until 1994 when he took the construction job at Olde Homestead G.C., where he remains to this day.

During his tenure he has "grown-in" the original 18 holes and then constructed two additional holes to take the place of the holes lost to the construction of the par-three course opened in 2002.

Todd is married to Jamie, and they have two daughters, Alysse who is six, and Ashlyn, who is 4.

When NOT working, he enjoys hunting anything that moves and fishing either in the Pennsylvania streams or deepwater fishing of the New Jersey coast.

Todd is very fiscally responsible and has been known to be able to squeeze a nickel and come up with a dime. Axe him.....he will 'splain!!

(Submitted by a non-paid independent reporter in NE PA.)



President's Message.....

It was a great day at Green Pond! Thank you, Roger, for a terrific golf course and super hospitality. I apologize for making you suffer while my teammate and I hacked up the course. Actually, my teammate didn't play too badly, but I know I was pretty heavy when the alternate shot holes came into play. Thanks go out also to Eric Reed, Jason Barndt and my teammate, Steve Chirip for setting up the meeting and the golf format. Thank you, Lee Kozsey, for sponsoring lunch and our educational session of the meeting.

We will be at Olde Homestead in May. Another great golf course that many of us can't wait to get at. Hopefully, many of you will be able to have the opportunity to join us! Following the southern swing below the Blue Mountain in April and May, we will head north to Woodloch Springs in June. As I have mentioned before, the golf and educational programs scheduled are top notch. It's going to be a great year for the PTGA and its members.

A lot of you have started, or will be starting, aeration processes. Best of luck to everyone, and hopefully the weather has settled down, allowing us to recover and get our courses back into prime shape as quickly as possible.

It looks like we have a bumper crop of dandelions this year...and the clover will be flowering real soon. It's a nice contrast of color isn't it? Who needs azaleas and dogwoods?

As always, if you would like to help in keeping this organization growing, please contact any of the Board of Directors or our Executive Secretary and express your interest.

See you at the meetings!

Ron Garrison, CGCS

From the Editor's Desk.....

Extraordinary thanks to Rodger Zellner and Todd Krauss for coming through on late notice to host the April meeting. The golf course was in outstanding shape and everything was done first class. Green Pond is a public facility that would rival the amenities of most private clubs in our area.

We will be conducting the drawing for the scholarship and research golf raffle towards the end of May. Please try to have your ticket stubs and any proceeds back to Melinda by May 20. You may also bring them to the May 20 meeting at Olde Homestead.

Eric Reed



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Management Practices Associated with Anthracnose and Abiotic Stress on Golf Course Turf

By Bruce B. Clarke and James A. Murphy, Rutgers Cooperative Extension

PART II: ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM

Improve Cultural Practices

Since it is apparent that nitrogen deficient turf is more susceptible to anthracnose than well-fertilized plants, turf managers should be sure to maintain adequate nitrogen levels. Annual bluegrass typically requires 1-1/2 to 4 lb N/1000 sq ft/year depending on the age of the green and the intensity of traffic. Spoon-feeding turf with 0.1 to 0.125 lb N/1000 sq ft may not be enough to ensure proper plant growth when turf vigor is low. Moreover, it should be remembered that some of the nitrogen from foliar applications of fertilizers such as urea may be lost through volatilization. To improve plant vigor, superintendents should consider periodically increasing the frequency of nitrogen applications from every two weeks to once a week. Moreover, consideration should be given to applying moderate rates (e.g., 3/4 to 1-1/2 lb N/1000 sq ft) of a slow release nitrogen source to greens in the fall or spring to prevent the "nitrogen bank" in the green from becoming depleted. To reduce the incidence and severity of anthracnose, it is also important to avoid severe water stress.

Avoiding drought stress can help improve turf vigor and may reduce the development of anthracnose. Care should be taken when training crew members to hand water. Syringing stressed turf during the day is as much an art as a science. Too much or too little syringing can damage turf: In particular, avoiding wilt stress after 3 PM, when the crew goes home, is an important consideration. Also, remember that straight sand topdressing does not retain as much moisture as do mixes with higher organic matter content. If you have recently changed to straight sand topdressing, make sure that you have altered your irrigation practices accordingly.

Where possible, raise the mowing height when turf is under environmental stress. Simply raising the cutting height 1/32 of an inch will increase the photosynthetic capability of the turf, thus increasing the carbohydrate level in the plant. This should also aid in recovery once the disease is suppressed with fungicides. One approach that can be used to compensate for a slight increase in cutting height is the use of lightweight rolling. Research has shown that lightweight rolling can simulate the effect of a double

cut or a 1/32-inch reduction in the mowing height. Moreover, no detrimental effect has been observed by rolling greens as often as three times per week.

Although some agronomists have suggested that grooved rollers may increase wounding, compared to smooth rollers, the impact of roller type on anthracnose is currently unknown. However, any attempt to reduce wounding (e.g., avoid aerifying, verticutting, or sand topdressing when the disease is active) would presumably reduce the incidence of this disease. Other factors that may suppress anthracnose in the long run include: reducing excessive thatch and compaction when the disease is not active, removing dew and guttation water in the early morning hours, and improving air circulation.

Implement an Effective Fungicide Program

Although additional research is needed to improve current fungicide recommendations, turf managers should be able to effectively control anthracnose by following a few important points. First, on sites that have had a previous history of this disease, it is best to apply fungicides on a preventive basis two to three weeks before symptoms typically develop. For many locations on the east coast this may mean starting applications in early- to mid-May. On other sites, fungicide treatments may have to commence in April. In either case, the key to good disease control is to prevent severe epidemics from getting established. Once severe outbreaks occur, adequate disease control with fungicides is more difficult to attain.

Prior to 2002, only fungicides within the benzimidazole, strobilurin (QoI), nitrile, and demethylation inhibitor (DMI) classes have been reported to effectively control anthracnose (Table 1). Recently, laboratory studies have identified isolates of *C. graminicola* with reduced sensitivity to fungicides within the benzimidazole and strobilurin classes. Although this has yet to be confirmed in the field, every effort should be made to delay or prevent the development of fungicide resistant isolates of this pathogen. For best results, do not apply more than two consecutive applications of any fungicide used to control anthracnose. Alternating or tank mixing products with different modes of action (i.e.,



(Continued from page 3)

different fungicide classes) is still considered by most turfgrass pathologists to be the most effective strategy for preventing this problem.

When developing a fungicide program for a golf course, try to schedule the application of products when more than one target disease can be controlled. For example, applying a DMI or a nitrile fungicide in late-May may help control both anthracnose and dollar spot, whereas rotating a strobilurin into an anthracnose program in late-June or early-July will also help prevent summer patch and brown patch. Moreover, be sure to follow label directions carefully regarding appropriate fungicide rates and intervals of application to optimize disease control.

Finally, remember that the amount of water applied with a fungicide can affect efficacy. Products applied in less than 1 gal. Water/1000 sq ft will almost certainly result in reduced levels of control. This is particularly true for the contact fungicides that must thoroughly cover leaf and stem tissues to be effective. Moreover, contact fungicides should never be watered into the thatch layer

Suppression of Anthracnose Basal Rot with Nitrogen and Selected Fungicide Chemistries

Due to the increased incidence of anthracnose basal rot on golf course greens in the region and the paucity of effective chemical and cultural controls, a field study was established in 2002 to evaluate experimental and currently labeled fungicides for their ability to suppress this disease. A 37 year-old commercial putting green at the

Ridgewood Country Club in Paramus, NJ was selected as a study site because it had a previous history of anthracnose and the superintendent had reported having difficulty controlling outbreaks with benzimidazole and QoI fungicides. Fungicides representing 12 different chemical classes were applied on a preventive basis at various rates and mixtures every two weeks from 16 May to 19 August. The entire study received a total of 1.5 lb N/1000 sq ft in periodic increments throughout the growing season. In addition, the nitrogen source urea was applied at a rate of 0.125 lb N/1000 sq ft to one-third of each 3 ft x 9 ft plot as a separate split-plot treatment every two weeks from 16 May to 19 August. All chemicals were applied in water equivalent to 2 gal/1000 sq ft with a CO₂-powered sprayer. Urea was applied prior to fungicide treatments and was immediately irrigated into the thatch to prevent foliar toxicity. Data was collected for disease severity and turf quality from mid-July to mid-September.

The disease developed naturally on 4 July and became severe and uniformly distributed by 18 July. Disease severity peaked on 10 September (83% turfgrass area infected on non-fungicide treated turf). In general, fungicides within the nitrile (Daconil Ultrex 82.5SDG at 3.2 oz/1000 sq ft) and the antibiotic polyoxin-D (Endorse 2.5W at 4.0 oz/1000 sq ft) chemical classes provided excellent control of anthracnose (96-100%), compared to non-fungicide treated turf. Of the DMI fungicides, only propiconazole (Banner MAXX 1.3MC at 1.0 fl oz/1000 sq ft), tebuconazole (Lynx 45W at 1.11 oz/1000 sq ft), and triticonazole (Chipco Triton 1.67SC at 1.0 fl oz/1000 sq ft) adequately controlled the disease (98-100% control), whereas myclobutanil (Eagle 40W 1.0

(Continued on page 5)



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oz/1000 sq ft) provided moderate control (80-100% control) and triadimefon (Bayleton 50W at 1.0 oz/1000 sq ft) proved ineffective at the rate tested.

The phosphonate fosetyl-Al (Chipco Signature 80WG at 4.0 oz/1000 sq ft), the dicarboximide iprodione (Chipco 26GT 2SC at 4.0 fl oz/1000 sq ft), and the phenylpyrrole fludioxonil (Medallion 50W at 0.25 oz/1000 sq ft) provided good to excellent suppression of this disease (78-100%). As a group, fungicides within the QoI chemical class including pyraclostrobin (Insignia 20WG at 0.5 oz/1000 sq ft), azoxystrobin (Heritage 50WG at 0.2 oz/1000 sq ft), and trifloxystrobin (Compass 50W at 0.25 oz/1000 sq ft) provided relatively poor control of anthracnose basal rot (3-46% control) at this site. Also, the carboximide flutolanil (ProStar 70WG at 2.2 oz/1000 sq ft), the dicarboximide vinclozolin (Vorlan 50DF at 1.0 oz/1000 sq ft), the dithiocarbamate mancozeb (Fore Rainshield 80W at 8.0 oz/1000 sq ft), and the benzimidazole thiophanate-methyl (Cleary 3336 50W at 4.0 and 6.0 oz/1000 sq ft) did not significantly control this disease. In fact, on 55% of the rating dates, flutolanil intensified anthracnose basal rot 17-36%, compared to non-fungicide treated turf.

Although date and fungicide dependent, urea significantly reduced the severity of anthracnose. On non-fungicide treated turf, the addition of 0.125 lb N/1000 sq ft every two weeks reduced symptom expression 18-36%. Tank mixtures of selected fungicides and rotational programs (i.e., applying products from different chemical classes every two weeks) provided excellent disease control that was equivalent to or better than single product entries. Turf quality was closely associated with the severity of anthracnose basal rot. Other than a dark green color induced by the DMI fungicides, no phytotoxicity was observed.

In conclusion, although much still needs to be learned about the etiology and control of anthracnose basal rot, superintendents can effectively manage this disease by improving cultural practices and employing sound chemical application strategies. Future research will focus on the impact of fertility, mowing practices (e.g., mowing frequency, smooth vs. grooved rollers, etc.), plant growth regulators, herbicides, and improved fungicide application strategies on the development of anthracnose basal rot in annual bluegrass turf. Laboratory studies are currently underway to determine the relationship between fungal strains of *C. graminicola* from throughout the United States, to gain a better understanding about the infection process, and to screen isolates of the pathogen for potential resistance to turfgrass fungicides.

Summary : ABR Research @ Ridgewood cc 2002

- * Preventive better than Curative Control
- * Nitrogen (1/81b @ 14- day interval) reduced disease severity
- * DMI, Nitrite, Polyoxin-D = Excellent Control (Daconil) (Endorse) ; (DMI's variable)
- * Benzimidazole and QoI's mayor may not provide control depending on the fungal strains present
- * Phosphonate, Dicarboximide, Phenylpyrrole = Good (Signature)



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2003 PTGA Meeting Schedule

- May 20 Olde Homestead Golf Club
Superintendent: Todd Ahner
- June 10 Country Club at Woodloch Springs
Superintendent: Mark Eisele, CGCS
- July 21 Fox Hill Country Club
Superintendent: Ron Garrison, CGCS
- August 18 Great Bear Golf and Country Club
Superintendent: Keith Snyder, CGCS
PTGA Clambake
- September 22 Valley Country Club
Superintendent: Eric Reed
PTC Joe Valentine Tournament
Qualifier
- October 7 Glenmaura National Golf Club
Superintendent: Andy Jubinski
PTGA Championship/Annual Meeting

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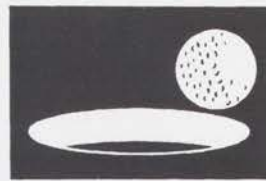
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April Golf Results

Green Pond Country Club, Par 71

Format: 6 holes scramble, 6 holes better ball, 6 holes alternate shot

1 st	70	Charlie Koennecker and Jeff Lipics
2 nd	73	Paul Brandon and Eric Reed
3 rd	73	Charlie McGill and Scott Smith



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Thank you!



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