

BASF AND *Superintendent Magazine* PRESENT:

On the Money

A three-part series focusing on using BASF fungicides in a solutions approach to control dollar spot in the Midwest



At Oakland Hills Country Club, Emerald fungicide is the “cornerstone” of the spring dollar spot control program on fairways, says Director of Agronomy Steve Cook.

▶ Part 1: Spring Spray Keeps the Dollar Spot Away

Come spring at the Oakland Hills Country Club in Bloomfield, Michigan, a major production kicks in at the 36-hole facility. This production is not on Broadway, but it is on fairways — and it involves early season control of dollar spot.

In late April, several members of Oakland Hills’ golf course maintenance team will load up four sprayers with BASF’s Emerald® fungicide and take to the two courses’ 59 acres of fairways. Emerald fungicide’s active ingredient, boscalid, provides up to 28 days of control for dollar spot, a length of time that Oakland Hills Director of Agronomy Steve Cook considers a luxury.

Spraying for dollar spot and other diseases is an enormous task at Oakland Hills, especially early in the season when the crew is shorthanded and without its summer seasonal help. So it brings a smile to Cook’s face to know that he only has to spray once in the spring with Emerald fungicide, where he would have to spray twice with other fungicides to achieve the same length of control.

“To have a product that provides that length of control ... I’m pretty happy with it,” Cook says.

Emerald fungicide inhibits a system called complex II in the

mitochondria of fungal cells. By depriving the fungal cells of energy, Emerald fungicide disrupts fungal growth and development, halting disease development.

Cook says Emerald fungicide is the cornerstone of Oakland Hills’ spring dollar spot control program on fairways. Cook’s crew applies the fungicide in late April or early May. For two months, Cook sees little, if any, dollar spot on the fairways.

“I can remember one year we didn’t have any dollar spot until the weather became too hot for dollar spot to occur, which was late June,” Cook says.

For what Emerald does, the cost of spraying a high-end fungicide makes economic sense, he notes.

At Egypt Valley Country Club, a 36-hole private complex in Ada, Michigan, Golf Course Superintendent Jeff Holmes has also instituted Emerald fungicide to control dollar spot early in the season on the 50 acres of fairways.

“What I’ve found is that if we don’t spray Emerald, then the battle with dollar spot can be a lot harder through the summer,” Holmes says.

Emerald fungicide keeps dollar spot spores to a minimum. Then, in the late spring or early summer, Holmes hits fairways with Xzemplar® fungicide, another BASF product that debuted in 2014. In a short time, Xzemplar fungicide has gained a reputation for preventive and curative control. It contains the active ingredient fluxapyroxad, which blocks respiratory complex II, disrupting the energy supply and biosynthesis of essential building blocks in the process — stopping the growth of fungal cells cold.

Holmes mixes Xzemplar fungicide with a growth regulator, liquid fertilizer and wetting agent to achieve 28 days of control.

Doing more with less has been the slogan at Egypt Valley for several years, says Holmes, also noting that his chemical/fertilizer budget has been flat for six years. That said, he is thankful for chemistries like Emerald and Xzemplar fungicides that perform and last longer.

“Xzemplar is absolutely perfect for knocking down dollar spot and preventing it,” Holmes says. “It’s a great one-two punch for curative and preventive control.”

At the Geneva National Resort in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, Director of Grounds Kevin Knudtson plans to spray Xzemplar fungicide in early June on the 90 acres of fairways comprising the resort’s 54 holes. Knudtson sprayed Xzemplar fungicide in



the late summer last year and was impressed with the product’s performance and length of control.

“Dollar spot has always been an issue here; the No. 1 disease,” he says. “But in high-pressure situations, I was only getting 10 to 14 days of control with other fungicides.” Even with a lower use rate of Xzemplar fungicide, Knudtson expects about 21 days of control after it’s sprayed in June.

Knudtson also believes having Xzemplar fungicide in the rotation will enable him to reduce an annual spray, which means a lot when there are 54 holes to deal with.

“It takes a good solid week to get everything sprayed,” he says, noting he will be able to redirect labor and there will be less wear and tear on spraying equipment.

Gerald Husemann, a senior sales specialist for BASF, calls the Emerald-Xzemplar fungicide combination the “foundational platform” for early season dollar spot control. He recommends spraying Emerald fungicide after the third fairway mowing when soil temperatures are at a 50-degree Fahrenheit minimum, usually in April or early May, followed by an application of Xzemplar fungicide in early or mid-June. This way, superintendents can avoid possible confusion that often comes with deciding when is the best time to make a “preemptive strike” to begin controlling dollar spot early in the season.

“Most of the time, golf courses have a few problem fairways where dollar spot shows up first,” Husemann says. “That’s the trigger to begin a preventive application. But in that scenario, superintendents are not putting out a preemptive strike like they should to get off to the best start possible to control dollar spot.”

Getting off to the best start possible means the fairways are absent of dollar spot, which equates to happy golfers.

“And happy golfers equals a happy superintendent,” Holmes says.

Now subject to BASF FIFRA Section 2(ee) Recommendation for spring dead spot. See see www.CDMS.net for BASF Technical Information Bulletin.

Starting Early, Staying on Course and Finishing Strong

If there’s one thing that most golf course superintendents in the Midwest have in common, it’s the challenge of controlling dollar spot throughout the season. That is why BASF has devised a solutions approach to controlling dollar spot in the Midwest.

The program, spurred by BASF Senior Sales Specialist Gerald Husemann, focuses on three components to control dollar spot during the year: starting early, staying on course and finishing strong.

This three-part series will provide golf course superintendents the information they need to combat dollar spot throughout the season with a variety of BASF fungicides, including Emerald®, Xzemplar® and Honor®. The articles feature superintendents who have found tremendous success in using these products to control dollar spot throughout the season.

The first article, presented here, focuses on using Emerald and Xzemplar fungicides as the “foundational platform,” according to Husemann, to achieve early season dollar spot control.

In May, the second story will feature superintendents using Xzemplar fungicide and Honor® Intrinsic brand fungicide to “stay on course” in their dollar spot control programs, with an emphasis on plant health.

In August, part three of the series will focus on superintendents who use Emerald as the final application of the season in September to “finish strong” with dollar spot control heading into the next season.

Emerald
Fungicide

Xzemplar
Fungicide

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