



## Be prepared: wild weather makes spring turf transitions tricky

*Optimal playing conditions still possible with fungicide, fertilization and aerification*



With temperatures fluctuating wildly in many parts of the country this winter, transitioning warm season turf this spring is proving to be tricky. But with a little planning and the right product mix, superintendents can still achieve optimal playing conditions.

“Unseasonably warm winter temperatures – coupled with the sharp return to cold in March – has turf particularly susceptible to disease,” says Dr. Kathie Kalmowitz, BASF Marketing Development Specialist.

Many superintendents use covers to protect turf in cold temperatures – typically temperatures under 30°. Moisture that builds up under those covers can weaken turf and make it susceptible to disease, especially leaf spot. Couple that with the potential for wind, causing turf desiccation, and storms, providing potential for *Pythium* outbreaks, and turfgrass can become weakened.

Further south, the lack of rain has made *Pythium* less of a concern. However, superintendents have been fighting leaf spot on grasses that didn’t go dormant due to warm weather. Bermuda decline and fairy ring are also posing challenges in southern climates.

**Lexicon® Intrinsic®** brand fungicide provides the ultimate broad-spectrum protection for turf, controlling large patch, fairy ring, leaf spots, both *Bipolaris* spp. and dollar spot, *Pythium* root rots, Take-all patch of warm season grasses and other diseases. **Lexicon Intrinsic** brand fungicide applied in late fall and winter prior to cold and dormancy helps provide winter protection. As turf is pushing spring growth, now is the time to renew the application of **Lexicon Intrinsic** brand fungicide, protecting the turf in weather transitioning months. BASF also offers **Xzemplar®** fungicide for specific problematic diseases, such as dollar spot, leaf spot, fairy ring and large patch.

The appropriately timed application of fungicide is only one part of an effective disease prevention program. Fertilization and aerification – along with a little luck from Mother Nature – can help keep golf courses in championship condition this spring.

Always read and follow label directions.

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