

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



Chris Flick likes several things about Xzemplar fungicide, including its reliability and length of control.

## ► Part 2: Staying on Course with Xzemplar Fungicide

When Chris Flick began his job as director of grounds operations at Cog Hill Golf & Country Club two years ago, one of his first orders of business was to develop a spray program on fairways to combat disease, most notably dollar spot. On paper, Flick's program looked great, but it turned out to be a logistical nightmare.

Cog Hill, based in Lemont, Illinois, near Chicago, is home to four public golf courses, including the nationally ranked Dubsdread, so the 32-year-old Flick had to plan strategically for each course to be sprayed. The problem came with finding an open window to spray those many fairways — 102 acres in all — in the midst of golf outings and regular play. Throw in Chicago's unpredictable spring and early-summer weather, not to mention that Flick has only four sprayers, and it is clear what he and his crew were up against.

In addition, Flick was also spraying a few fungicides that lasted only 14 days during dollar spot season, which usually occurs from late April to mid-July in the Midwest.

"It seemed like we were spraying every day," Flick says with a sigh. "It was hard keeping up on all the rotations and keeping the timing of applications intact."

But Flick tested a newer fungicide that season, which has proven to be a game-changer in his dollar spot control program. That product, BASF's Xzemplar® fungicide, has helped solve Flick's logistical spraying challenges.

Xzemplar fungicide, which debuted in 2014, has gained a positive reputation for its preventive and curative control. It contains the active ingredient fluxapyroxad, a new and versatile SDHI (succinate-dehydrogenase inhibitor). Fluxapyroxad is a highly mobile and effective AI that blocks respiratory complex II, disrupting the energy supply and biosynthesis of essential building blocks in the process — stopping the growth of fungal cells quickly.

Flick first applied Xzemplar fungicide on a portion of a fairway on one of the courses after allowing dollar spot to develop on the turf. "I wanted to see how well it would knock down the dollar spot," he says. "I wanted to get a feel for it."

Flick liked what he saw and felt good about adding Xzemplar fungicide to the rotation last year. But one of the best things that Flick likes about the product is the length of control — up to 28 days — that it offers against dollar spot.

Because of Xzemplar's efficacy, Flick and his crew don't have to spray every 14 days, which means they don't have to find as many open windows to spray. It also means they aren't falling behind on the practice. And even if they do get behind on occasion, they can apply Xzemplar fungicide and count on turf making a rapid recovery.

So now Flick's fungicide program consists of spraying BASF's Emerald® fungicide in late April, which also offers 28 days of control, followed by a demethylation inhibitor (DMI) contact fungicide spray in late May and then the Xzemplar fungicide application in mid-June. Xzemplar is the go-to fungicide for Flick to help him stay on course, so to speak, when dollar spot pressure is at its highest.

"That's when we want our heavy-hitter in the rotation for dollar spot," Flick says. "We may have some breakthrough that needs to be cleaned up. I want to make an application with a product I know will hold strong."

There are other benefits that Xzemplar fungicide offers, such as its reliability, Flick says. With four courses to oversee, Flick and his three superintendents can't scout fairways for disease as much as they would like. But because Xzemplar fungicide is so reliable, Flick says he doesn't have to worry about random breakouts of

## 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 on fairways throughout the season. That is why BASF has devised a solutions approach to controlling dollar spot in the Midwest.

The program focuses on three components to control dollar spot during the year: starting early, staying on course and finishing strong.

This three-part series provides 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® Intrinsic® Brand. The articles feature superintendents who have found tremendous success in using these products to control dollar spot throughout the season.

The first article, which ran in April, focused on using Emerald and Xzemplar fungicides as the foundational platform to achieve early-season dollar spot control.

The article here features an interview with Chris Flick, the director of grounds operations at Cog Hill Golf & Country Club, who is using Xzemplar to stay on course to control dollar spot during the time when dollar spot pressure is most high.

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.



Chris Flick (center), Tyler Wesseldyk (right) and Domenic Lupo have dollar spot under control at Cog Hill.

dollar spot happening on areas of fairways that aren't regularly scouted.

"We needed to put out a fungicide that we can trust," he says.

Typically, Flick's three superintendents and their assistants are spraying because they are the only ones who are certified pesticide applicators. So when a fungicide like Xzemplar offers 28 days of control and they don't have to spray every 14 days, they are able to do other things.

"That is huge," Flick says.

For Flick, sustainability is a crucial component to his spraying program. He knows he needs to invest in products that provide a solid bang for the buck and are environmentally friendly.

"With the efficacy that Xzemplar provides, it is a very sustainable product," he adds. "We need a few applications in the rotation that I consider bulletproof. Xzemplar is one of them."

Flick is also impressed that Cog Hill's fairways are able to combat wear tolerance much better with Xzemplar fungicide in the rotation.

"At a public facility like Cog Hill, you get the brakes beat off of you with all the foot traffic and cart traffic and everything else," Flick says. "So it's really tough to manage turf stress during June, July and August. But that's also where we see the benefits of Xzemplar."

While Xzemplar fungicide costs more than generic fungicides, Flick says it makes economic sense to use the product because of its efficacy and reliability.

"I'm willing to spend the extra money to get a quality product that can be trusted and is going to do what they say it's going to do," he adds.

Flick says he's saving money in the pesticide budget, thanks in part to Xzemplar fungicide.

"It's definitely cost-effective," he adds. "Getting a 28-day interval makes for a big savings. In my experience in the field, I don't ever remember being able to get away with 28 days for disease control on fairways. In my mind, that is just awesome."

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

**Xzemplar®** Fungicide **Emerald®** Fungicide

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