

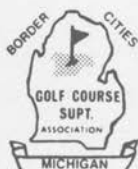
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June 1977



# A PATCH of GREEN

Official Publication of the  
Michigan & Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association



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## Imagination, Experimentation Are Keys To Creative Thinking, Problem Solving

When you have a problem to solve, you can easily attack it in the same old ways and come up with the same old solutions that sort of work or that once worked, but are you missing some new and unique solutions because you aren't thinking creatively?

The next time you're faced with a problem of any sort, serious or minor, routine or unusual, try one or more of these mental exercises in creativity:

1. Reverse the way you look at the problem. Turn it upside down, take a completely different approach to it. Don't be afraid to be absurd in your thoughts once in a while - the fanciful can lead to some very practical solutions. How would Moon Maid solve it?

2. Tear it apart. Then analyze the relationships among the pieces. How are they the same? How do they differ? What if you change one link in a chain - what effect would it have on the whole? Try altering the color, shape, timing or size of one or more parts.

3. Change the order of the parts. Sort things, massage them, jiggle them, line them up in different ways. New ways of seeing the problem will begin to emerge.

4. Find an analogy. What is this problem like? Is it like a little kid pushing an apple up a hill and every time he gets halfway up someone rolls an orange down on him? Find an analogy and you'll see the problem more clearly.

5. Challenge your assumptions. This isn't easy, but ask yourself absurd questions like, Who says it has to be like this? Why should I believe that organizational structures

need a boss? Challenge every assumption you can identify. It will strengthen your understanding of the problem itself.

6. Let your thoughts run wild. Fantasize. Play a crazy game of "... What if?" What would I do if there were no more water available for a year? What would I do about this if I were three years old? Where would I start to build this system if I were the only survivor after a nuclear holocaust?

7. Cash in on the bonus of your own odd thoughts. Carry a notebook, and keep one by the bed at night. When an idea strikes you - silly or not - write it down. When you have a brilliant idea as you are falling asleep or waking up - write it down. Then periodically go through your book of thoughts and toss out the trash - there will be more wisdom there than you might have thought, and it will all be information and ideas you might otherwise have forgotten or not noticed.

These seven steps are parts of a process called creative thinking. People who come up with good ideas use creative thinking. They aren't afraid of some silly ideas, because they know that even in the silliest, there might be a grain of wisdom to use to their advantage. Try it, you'll like it.

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# ROUNDUP - New Aid for Golf Course Care

by JEFF KOLLENKARK, Purdue University

Roundup may be the new tool you have been waiting for. Its slow "kill all" action, along with its short activity span after application make it desirable.

Roundup R (glyphosate) is a new non-selective herbicide released by Monsanto Company. Work done at Purdue University by W. H. Daniel and Jeff Kollenkark demonstrated its value in turf renovation. Once in the soil it is inactivated and so has no effect on germination of newly seeded grasses. It can also be used in hydro-seeding operations with the chemical mixed in the spray tank with the new seed. Though Roundup may have a high cost per gallon, the effectiveness of relatively low rates make it economical to use. One gallon, for example, could be used to kill the vegetation in up to four acres, depending on the weed species to be controlled.

Sites infested with either hard to kill perennial weeds or grass species that are quite disease susceptible could be readily renovated with Roundup. Those sites may include small areas, entire fairways, or just areas to be cleared off for a nursery. This herbicide could be the answer to annual and perennial weed control in those problem areas. Daniel and Kollenkark found that with the recommended rate of 1-2No. ai/A glyphosate, complete kill could be expected in approximately ten days.

Heavy thatch was found to be a barrier to the establishment of new seedlings. Therefore, before seeding, removal of enough thatch to allow soil-seed contact is suggested. In order to allow time for translocation to all parts of the existing vegetation, seeding should not be done for three to five days after application with Roundup. Seeding with a desired

blend of grasses can be done any time after this waiting period. Incorporation of the seed with a vertical rake or Jacobsen seeder is suggested. From here, you water and watch it grow.

There are some things to be aware of. This is not a preemergence chemical since it has no soil activity, so new weeds may germinate and infest the site. Because of the potential weed problem, renovation in early fall is recommended. The early fall seeding will give adequate time for the grass to reach mowing height before snowfall. Also, because either soil or iron in water can inactivate the glyphosate, one should avoid using 'dirty' or 'rusty' looking water. Hard water with high amounts of calcium does not affect Roundup's performance.

There are many practical uses for this herbicide, especially where a complete kill is desired. Roundup can be used as a directed spray to edge traps, spray around drains, trees, walks, paths, etc. This may save the cost of hours of hand labor, certainly a desirable feature in this day of rapidly increasing costs.

---

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695-0511

Birmingham Landscape Service, Inc.

634-3941

We erroneously omitted the coveted Certified Golf Course Superintendent initials from Roger O'Connell's roster listing last month. His corrected listing follows:

**O'CONNELL CGCS, ROGER** (Patricia) A

P.O. Box 38

Royal Oak, Michigan 48068

399-6916

Red Run Golf Club

541-3184



## Dr. Vargas Speaks at Bald Mountain

Dr. Vargas of MSU was the guest speaker at our May meeting at Bald Mt. Golf Club. Gerald Prieskorn was our host for the day. As usual, the Club supplied us with a great day for golf and an ample supply of delicious food and drink.

The thrust of Dr. Vargas' talk was the importance of belonging to the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation. It seems that many of our superintendents are under the impression that they are members of the MTF because they have been participating in the field days and



conferences when in fact they are not members.

Check to see if you or your club belong. If not, join now and support Turfgrass Research at Michigan State University. Your support will be deeply appreciated.

## Good Equipment Maintenance Insures Getting A Job Done Efficiently, Cheaply

It takes good equipment to get a job done efficiently. As a golf course superintendent you have the responsibility to purchase, maintain and protect thousands of dollars worth of mowers, tractors and other turf maintenance equipment.

Purchasing equipment is always a difficult and demanding task. Assuming you need a new piece of equipment, how do you go about obtaining it?

First define the job you want done. Determine specific job requirements - if it is spraying, will you need a hand sprayer or a boom sprayer?

Second, compare how long it now takes to do this job with whatever method or machine you are using, to how long it will take with the new piece of equipment.

Third, list the equipment's life expectancy and safety features. Make sure it meets your specifications as well as legal regulations.

Fourth, give an approximate cost. Most new equipment carries a high

initial cost. But the long-term savings - and a better looking course resulting from timely maintenance - will make the purchase worthwhile. Fit a machine to the job and to the economics of your situation.

You can learn about new equipment by attending equipment shows, such as GCSAA's International Turfgrass Conference and Show, by reading professional literature and by visiting your local equipment dealers. The latter is more time-consuming but provides you important knowledge of the equipment you are buying and the people selling it to you.

Always ask for a demonstration. Ask questions to learn about a machine's drawbacks as well as its potentials. Keeping up with the latest equipment is a must for the conscientious superintendent.

Equipment maintenance is a year-round job. It should start the day you buy the piece. At that time, you should

Continued on Page 18

# Comparison of Production Value versus Dollar Investment

from THE BULLSHEET

It is not unusual for purchase orders to specify shipment via the "fastest and cheapest way."

So it is with the purchase of equipment. You can't buy a Cadillac for the price of a Chevrolet, and if you consider price only, without regard to quality and performance specifications, you might even wind up with a pedal car.

*Selling price* can be considered to be made up of three main factors:

1. Cost of producing.
2. Cost of marketing.
3. Profit on producing and marketing.

Competitive bidding exerts pressure to reduce the selling price, and this can be done only by achieving a reduction in these factors.

The cost of producing is affected to some extent by methods used and volume produced, but it is mostly affected by the product design. As a consequence, a good many manufacturers compromise the performance qualities of their products by designing to meet a price goal.

An engineer working for a large equipment manufacturer once commented, "First they tell us to make it good - and we do. Then they come around and start hollering at us that it costs too much - get the cost out of it - make it cheaper. So we go back to work redesigning and the first thing you know, we got it good'n cheap!

The selling price of most equipment reflects a design compromise that has reduced potential performance quality.

*Profit* is the one factor that can be held in check by competitive bidding - and it is! However, low price on competitive bidding can be misleading. We have seen bids that were obviously below actual costs. Why? - Because it is a well-known fact that too often consideration is given to *price alone*,

with no consideration being given to future operating and maintenance costs. Knowing this, the selling price will be set to cut or eliminate the profit on the whole product and added back several folds on the price of the parts.

The cost of marketing can't really be cut too much. An equipment producer couldn't reach the purchaser without a sales and service organization. There are various ways to reach the purchaser - advertising, trade shows, mail and direct contact. Whether such direct contact is by dealer, distributor, or the factory itself, the cost is about the same.

Regardless of who or how paid, somebody somehow has to make contact with the purchaser and present the story of the product to the purchaser - otherwise, there would be no sales and no production.

---

## Winter Injury Widespread!

Now that summer has arrived, we hear reports that winter injury, which was at first reported as light, was actually more damaging than at first realized. Desiccation was wide spread on hilly courses despite heavy snows. I guess the strong winds blew the cover off the high spots.

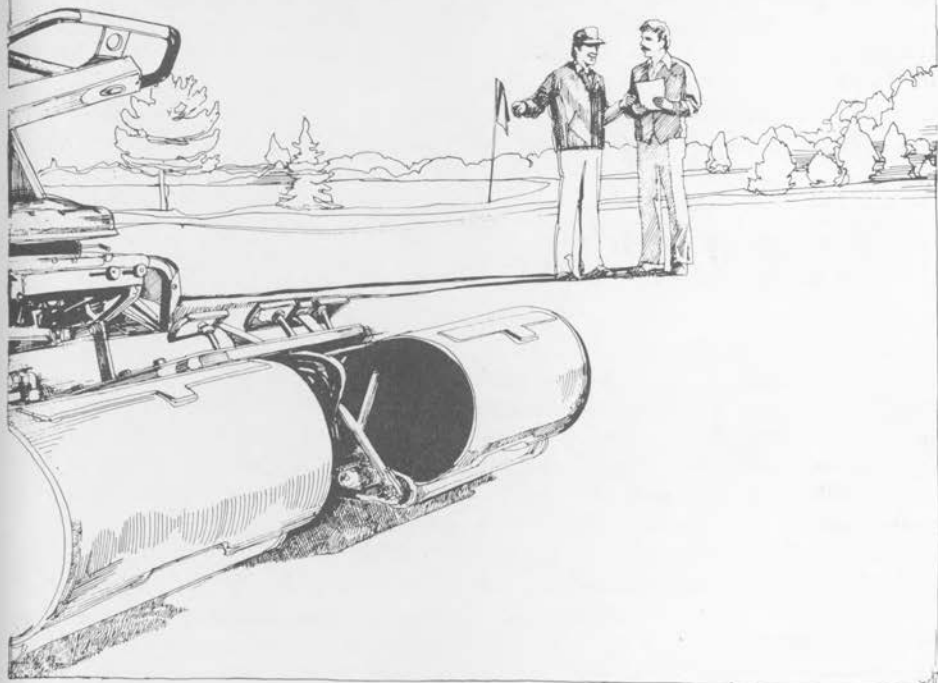
Other reports tell us that many of the low areas suffered from ice damage late in the winter. The early rain on frozen ground caused pockets of water to accumulate and when cold temperatures returned, the grass suffered extensive crown damage. Several greens and tees on many courses also suffered.

The very cold temperatures were also responsible for tip damage to the less tolerant trees and bushes.



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# USGA Green Section

by AL RADKO

Much has been written and/or anticipated about course conditioning for a USGA Championship. Course conditioning is the prime concern of the Green Section's eight agronomists who cover the entire country and work with golf clubs and all aspects of fine turfgrass management. When a course

is selected for a USGA event, the Green Section Regional Director in that area is immediately notified. This normally is two years in advance of the tournament date. From that time on, visits are arranged with the Tournament Chairman, the Chairman of the Green Committee, and the Golf Course Superintendent. During the course of the two years, several on the site visits are made and close contact is kept with the course superintendent by phone or by mail in order to devise the very best program possible for the National Championship for that specific course.

## Our Sympathies to the Vernon Sincerbeau Family

Word comes to us that Charter member Vernon Sincerbeau of Maples, Florida, passed away last month. Vernon was also a Charter member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. He was the proud father of Richard Sincerbeau, Superintendent of Dunham Hills Golf Club, Davison, Michigan and the Grandfather of Scott Sincerbeau of Florida, also in the golf business. He was 77 years old.

"Good was his heart and  
friendship true,  
Loved and respected by all  
he knew.  
To a happy life came a  
sudden end,  
He died as he lived,  
everyone's friend."

Every visit to a golf course is a stimulating experience. It is a study in techniques and management that are intricate and exacting and no two superintendents' programs are exactly alike. Therefore, it is a very delicate thing to make recommendations of any kind without considering the long term effects on the total program, on the course and upon the grasses involved. Most people know generally what the requirements for tournament play involve - close-cropped grasses throughout except in non-target areas; greens that are fast and firm, meticu-

Continued on Page 12



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## USGA Green Section Cont.

lously groomed tees and fairways. Before making any recommendations, however, a thorough study of the course is first made. This includes a thorough discussion with the superintendent about all conditions observed during inspection of the course and his total management program. Once this is completed, then recommendations are discussed and the championship direction is decided upon with all agronomic considerations involved. After all, when the tournament is over, the course should be returned to the membership in as good or in better condition than it was before the championship was scheduled. Please note: THE GREEN SECTION AGRONOMISTS MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS, they don't dictate the terms of management changes! For example, "Do you think you could safely condition greens to reduce the height of cut 1/32 to the area of 5/32 inch?" "Would you double-cut greens beginning with the practice round and throughout the tournament?" "Could you reduce the height of cut on fairways 1/8 to 1/4 inch during the entire competition?" "Would you contour this fairway slightly?" "Would you change your fertilizer program or water management program to insure firmer and tighter playing conditions?" It is a "give and take" process to assure that nothing is done that will cause the slightest turf injury.

Most courses today are beautifully

groomed so the changes involved are very slight and subtle differences from the norm. Surprisingly, many of the changes are retained because once a championship is played on a course, golfers remember every stroke and want to test their skills against the performance of favorite contestants. "Let me see now, Arnie drove the ball here . . . hah! I'm only 10 yards behind him . . . not bad for a once a week golfer, eh!" That drive is conversational fodder for father for a long time thereafter! Of course, no mention is made that "Pops" played the white tees!

This article is designed to let you know what to expect should your club be selected to entertain a USGA Championship. It's a fun and learning experience for everyone involved. We of the Green Section staff always look forward to the challenge with anticipation, to the pleasure of working out intricate problems on the site with the golf course superintendent, and to making friends with new people in this great game of golf.

A good superintendent is a guy who takes a little more than his share of the blame and a little less than his share of the credit.

\*\*\*\*\*

"What you have been obliged to learn for yourself, leaves a path in your mind which you can use again, when the need arises."

— Lichtenberg, 18th century physicist

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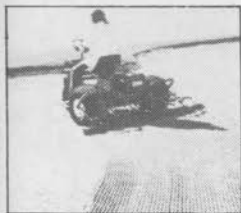
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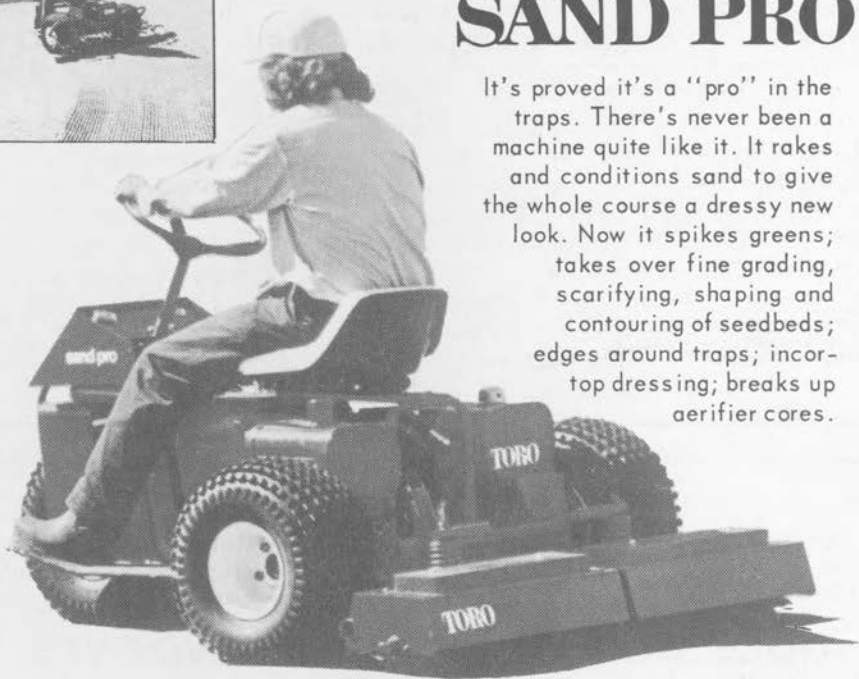
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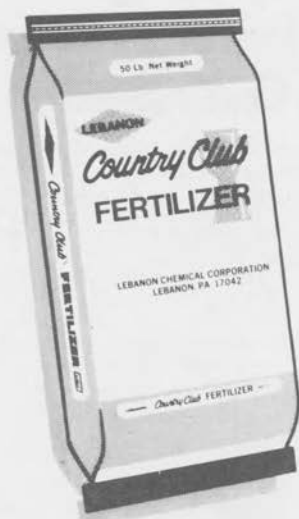
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Whether we like it or not most golf course superintendents are taking on an advanced degree of learning - that of pesticide applicator. And to top it off, meeting the requirements is far from being a push-over. In fact, word has it that fewer than 50% pass the examination the first time over.

What are the rewards one may expect as an extra for qualification? Well, it could be one of the qualifications for holding your job or getting a better one and it should be worth a few more bucks the boss might be willing to shell out. Secondly, you can actually do commercial application and that might be good for a few moonlighting dollars. You'll need to show evidence of financial responsibility however. Both federal and state requirements place greatest emphasis in a relatively few areas. These include degree

of danger or hazard, intensive interpretation and understanding of pesticide labels, personal protection, symptoms of pesticide poisoning, proper usage, and handling, storage and disposal of materials. And of course, to abide by the regulations you are expected to know the regulations.

The requirements are tough but they are not as a whole unreasonable and after you become one of those certified, it should give you a rather good feeling. And maybe that's good for quite a bit!

Charles Calhoun  
From Iowa Golf Course  
Superintendents Reporter

---

Big people talk about ideas; average people talk about things; little people talk about other people.

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## **Century Rain-Aid Announces Appointments**

Century Rain-Aid announced two new appointments to its administration staff. According to Ernie Hodas, president, Mark A. Roberts assumes the duties of Operations Manager and Inventory Control, Leo Damskey is the new Marketing and Advertising Manager.

Mark Roberts is a graduate of Oakland University, with systems engineering his field of concentration and a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering. His business background includes two years with Practical Home Builders and three with Century Rain-Aid as store manager and work in sales and system design.

Leo Damskey graduated from Michigan State University in 1950 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry. His business background includes sales and marketing positions in the automotive, agricultural and construction fields. He is a member of the Society of Automotive Engineers.

## **SCHEDULED MEETINGS - 1977**

- June 28, 1977  
Gowanie Golf Club
- July 19, 1977  
Barton Hills Country Club
- August 2, 1977  
Burroughs Farms
- August 23, 1977  
Meadowbrook Country Club
- September 12 or 13, 1977  
Forest Lake Country Club
- September 19, 1977  
GOLF DAY
- October 4, 1977  
Maple Lane Golf Club
- October 25, 1977  
Rochester Golf Club

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### Good Equipment Maintenance Cont.

make sure you get a service manual that lists all parts and has instructions on how to make repairs. You also need to know what services will be performed by the seller and the details of your guarantee.

When you buy a piece of equipment it is a good idea to make a 3-inch by 5-inch index card on which you can record the equipment's identification number, date and location of purchase, cost and maintenance performed on the machine in later months. This card can be a valuable ready reference for the superintendent, especially as it applies to insurance and depreciation schedules.

Another factor to consider when buying or maintaining a piece of equipment is to be aware of who will be operating that equipment. A careless driver on a tractor will decrease its life expectancy and increase maintenance repairs and costs. It should be remembered also that a machine's cost is related to the time that it will be used. You can buy a \$200 mower to trim the grass around a sand trap or you can buy a \$75 mower to do the same job. No matter which mower you buy, the housing will be severely eaten by the sand. It may be wiser to buy the cheaper mower and replace it as it wears out than to buy a more expensive mower that will require a larger initial cash outlay and still need the same maintenance as a cheaper mower. Expensive equipment does not mean it's the best. Shop around to determine what fits your budget - then determine what is best for you.

An important part of equipment maintenance is proper storage. Your machines should be protected from weather and the destructive effects of cold and heat. Depending on which part of the country you are in, storage may play a bigger part of maintenance repairs and costs than use.

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## EPA Releases List of Restricted Use Pesticides

The EPA has now made public a tentative list of restricted use pesticides. This list may change by the October 21 deadline, but for now, this can be used as a working list of guidelines.

Compounds falling into the following categories will be considered for restricted use:

- a. those bearing the word danger and the skull and crossbones symbol on the labels.
- b. those used in forest areas.
- c. those applied directly to water.
- d. those used to fumigate grain.

The list has been released for distribution through the local extension offices. It includes several substances that are in common use. Some examples are Dasanit, Endrin, Parathion, heptachlor, methylbromide, paraquat, Tordon, 2,4-D, 2,4-DB, 2,4,5-T, silvex, Diasinon, dinoseb, malathion, Sevin. Superintendents should check with local environmental and governmental sources for standards applicable in their region. Members seeking certification to apply pesticides must keep up-to-date in this fast changing area of turfgrass management.

## New Device Charges Spray

WASHINGTON - A reduction in the farm use of pesticides by as much as two-thirds, with no loss in food production, may result from a recently patented electrostatic spraying system. It coats plants while leaving the earth and air unscathed.

The invention, which is generating much interest among agricultural experts, is the work of S. Edward Law, a faculty member at the University of Georgia's Agricultural Engineering Department, Athens, Ga. Law was granted patent 4,004,733.

Next Page



The spray nozzle is fitted with a small annular electrode that charges the spray as it is propelled outward by compressed air. The air takes the spray inside plant canopies and in close proximity to stems and leaves, where the small electrostatic charge is sufficient to attract droplets to the plants.

The economic saving to farmers in reduced pesticide use is estimated at more than \$1 billion annually, besides the reduced pollution from agricultural spraying.

Credit: Carolinas Golf Association  
Thanks to Bob DePencier, Golf Mgr.

## Rhodia Inc. Makes Progress Report on New Turf Grass Fungicide

MONMOUTH JUNCTION, N.J. -

A new type of fungicide for turf grass diseases is being tested by Rhodia Inc. Agricultural Division. The product, Chipco 26019, belongs to a family of fungicides known as "hydantoins." They were discovered in the research laboratories of Rhone-Poulenc, S.A., Rhodia's parent company.

Chipco 26019 is a broad-spectrum fungicide which is effective against summer turf grass diseases and which also shows promise against winter diseases, Rhodia reports.

In addition, common turf grasses

Next Page

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## Turf Topics

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exhibit a tolerance to Chipco 26019. To date, no appreciable injury has been indicated in the testing conducted by Rhodia since it began in 1974.

According to the Company, it expects to obtain an experimental label from EPA for summer type diseases and will apply for an experimental label for winter diseases.

Rhodia says it has found that Chipco 26019 provides broader control than other fungicides currently used for turf diseases.

As a result of testing by Company R & D personnel and universities utilizing golf courses and sod farms, Rhodia reports that the new fungicide is particularly effective against three summer turf diseases, dollar spot (*Sclerotinia homecarpa*), large brown patch (*Rhizoctonia solani*) and Helminthosporium diseases with a dosage level of 2 oz./1,000 sq. ft.

As for application times, those for summer diseases are in the normal range, 7-14 day schedule. Toxicity is reported to be low.

Rhodia foresees wide applications for the hydantoin fungicides. While the first registration with EPA will be for use on turf grasses, the Company says it is already working toward registration for stone fruits.



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