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A Fresh Look at Fungicides for Snow Mold Control

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Objective

Determine the efficacy of various fungicides to control several species and varieties of snow mold.

Summary

Snow molds, which can be a devastating disease in the northern U. S. and Canada, are caused by several species of fungi and, in some cases, by different varieties of the same fungal species. Superintendents apply fungicides for snow mold control but often see inconsistent results.

Research was conducted at two golf courses in Wisconsin. One course has an average 80-day snow cover of 5 inches and the other has an average 110-day snow cover of 5 inches. Six different fungi were artificially inoculated into the plots. Fungicides were applied later before the first snow cover.

Results

- Snow mold disease severity increased as the number of days of snow cover increased.
- Fungicide efficacy decreased as the snow-cover days increased.
- Several fungicides provided consistent control of the six snow mold species.
- The first step in developing a snow mold fungicide program is to choose the appropriate fungicides based on the species of snow mold fungi on the golf course.



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