

New Mode Makes an Impression



Dollar Spot



Anthracnose

Superintendents get good control with fungicide

BY ANTHONY PIOPPA, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

DeMarco says a salesman introduced him to Civitas and he decided to give it a go, even though he admits he's rarely the first to try any new product.

"I [prefer to] wait until

things are tried and true and tested," DeMarco says.

Powelton Golf Club traces its beginning to 1892. Sixteen of the greens are old and of the push-up variety. All 18 greens are a mix of bentgrass and *Poa annua*. The oldest greens have a healthy

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Fungicides, until recently, have had the same modes of action to protect a plant; they're either of the contact or the systemic variety and directly attack the pathogen. Now, though, Petro-Canada has introduced Civitas fungicide that the company says is different from other conventional fungicides. According to the company Web site, Civitas has "a proprietary mode of action called Induced Systemic Resistance (ISR) — a plant defense activator that turns on the natural defenses of the plant to fight off fungus."

The Civitas label shows the product is 98 percent mineral oil and 2 percent "other ingredients." The company says the fungicide is effective against a multitude of problem pathogens such as dollar spot, anthracnose, gray snow mold and red thread.

Bob DeMarco, superintendent of the Powelton Club in Newburgh, N.Y., and Joe Noppenberger, superintendent of Wedgewood Golf and Country Club in Powell, Ohio, have been using Civitas since last year.

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percentage of South German bentgrass. The tees were rebuilt in recent years and are 90 percent bentgrass. The fairways, thanks to a dedicated overseeding program, are as much as 60 percent bentgrass with *Poa* making up the rest.

Convinced Civitas might work, DeMarco made an application to combat dollar spot and anthracnose from tee to green — applying at a rate of 14 ounces per acre mixed with propiconazole at a 1-ounce rate. DeMarco wanted control that lasted at least 21 days, which he did get. He made another application in 2009 to combat snow mold and was happy with that result, as well.

This year, DeMarco put down an application before the dollar spot really hit, and then will make another application in November to thwart snow mold.

DeMarco says it was the best dollar spot control he's had in years. He's been at the club for 33 years, 29 as superintendent. It's the way Civitas works that enticed DeMarco to try it.

"That's what did attract me; it's a whole new mode of action," he says.

At Wedgewood Golf and Country Club, Noppenberger is also using Civitas but in a slightly more cautious approach than DeMarco. Last season he put down an application on two fairways, one that stands up well against disease and one that gets high disease pressure.

Wedgewood is a 20-year-old Robert Trent Jones Jr. design that Noppenberger grew in. Greens and tees are Penncross while the fairways are Penn Eagle.

"It did a pretty good job," Noppenberger says.

It's in one specific area that Noppenberger saw his best outcome.

"On tees we have a dollar spot problem and it was doing really well," he says. "There was better healing of divots."

He, like DeMarco, mixed Civitas with propiconazole. Noppenberger also added fertilizer at a mix of 26-0-19.

Noppenberger says Civitas interested him as soon as his salesman brought it up because it's billed as an environmentally friendly product. ■

Pioppi is a contributing editor to Golfdom.

The Company Line ■ PRODUCT ROUNDUP

Underhill International offers Water Dex, a palm-sized remote that adjusts sprinkler run times without reprogramming the irrigation controller. Called a "shortcut to seasonal adjustments," Water Dex includes a mini-transmitter (3 inches by 2 inches by 2 inches) with a 200-foot, line-of-sight range and micro-receiver that hard wires into the irrigation controller. By dialing up or down on the Water Dex transmitter, end-users can immediately increase or decrease sprinkler run-times for any zone throughout their system, without affecting the programming cycle.

Underhill offers an expanding line of water-efficient irrigation products, including 2Wire Decoder systems, Pellet Pro and LiquidPro applicators, Gulp pumps, Catch Can kits, MicroEase low volume, Magnum and Precision hose-end nozzles, and FCI Profile stainless steel hose-end nozzles.

Kochek Co. offers the UltraLite Irrigation Hose. This multi-purpose and lightweight irrigation hose has a rigid 1-inch diameter, meeting the needs of golf, sports turf and all irrigation market applications. The 1-inch diameter has a 1-inch, full-flow coupling, and the 1¼-inch diameter has a standard coupling with 1-inch fitting. The hose is kink resistant.

Kochek also offers the GH Series Irrigation Hose, a high-quality hose that has a smooth black PVC inner tube. The cover is smooth opaque green PVC compound reinforced with high-tensile strength yarn and is abrasion resistant.

The hose is available in 1-inch and three-fourths inch diameter as well as in different lengths. It's equipped with barb couplings and can be ordered with 1-inch, full-flow couplings (for 1-inch hose only).