



Fairway Fungicide Programs to Control Dollar Spot Disease and Cost

Researchers: CDGA collaborating with Dave Ward, Coyote Run Golf Course

Goals: Reduce fungicide inputs to control dollar spot on fairways. Save money.

Location: CRGC's par-3 practice facility – Flossmoor, Illinois [see photos](#)

Background: Dollar spot (*Sclerotinia homoeocarpa*) is the most chronic fungal disease that negatively affects golf courses. As such it requires more input than any other pest. Annually, the cost to provide adequate control is high. Newer products in combination with different application strategies were investigated.

Brief Material and Methods: This ongoing test began in 2008 at 2 Chicago locations – north and south. In 2009 a total of 14 treatments were included. A standard preventive fungicide program, chlorothalonil, applied every 14 days was compared to strategies known to reduce fungicide use. We also tested alternative products that claim to suppress dollar spot to reduce fungicide use.

Results: Disease, turf quality, and cost [see graphs](#)

- Scouting and tolerating low levels of dollar spot allowed some fungicide programs to control disease with few applications to save money.
- A 3-way systemic rotation program used low rates to save money.
- The CDGA program uses some curative applications to stretch the application interval to save money.
- Coyote Run program uses curative applications and generic products to save money.
- North Shore CC program uses preventive applications (season start) then curative applications (season end) to ensure turf health during peak golf as well as save money.
- Alternative products to reduce fungicide use exist. However, a reduction in cost may not be realized – all use a 14 day application interval. Best suppression was by DewCure, but the product may reduce plant health.