



# SUMMER

We Don't Make The Turf.  
We Make It Better.™

**BASF**  
The Chemical Company

# BETTER TURF TIPS



## High & Dry In July? Get Water Wise.

Water is a precious commodity on any course. Unfortunately, too many courses are unnecessarily wasting water in the quest for perfect irrigation. Here are some tips from the experts to help you cut costs, minimize waste and still keep your course on course.

**GET EVEN:** Use high efficiency nozzles that apply water evenly. Uniform water distribution reduces water usage and reduces “brown areas” caused by uneven irrigation.

**GIVE OLD NOZZLES THE BOOT:** About 10 years. That’s what you can expect to get out of your nozzles. After that, efficiency suffers and the nozzles should be replaced.

**MAKE A CLEAN SWEEP:** Don’t rinse off walkways and cart paths, sweep instead.

**LESS SHOWERS FOR THE FLOWERS:** Avoid overwatering your beds. As a rule, flowers use about 25% less water than turf.

**CONSIDER SOAKER HOSES:** Using soaker hoses in your beds conserves water and potentially lessens disease development.

**CONSIDER A WATER AUDIT:** Improving your system based on audit findings can result in substantial savings — not just in water usage, but also electricity costs, fertilizer needs and maintenance services.

**SPREAD THE WORD:** Expand your water-saving efforts beyond irrigation. Post signs in employee and player/member restrooms encouraging water conservation.

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## Hit The Spot.

Superintendents call dollar spot a lot of names, but *Sclerotinia homoeocarpa* is the only one we can print here. Luckily, there are several steps you can take to treat and prevent this dreaded disease.

- Fertilize: Adequate fertilization can reduce the incidence and help the turf overcome this disease.
- Prevent thatch buildup; remove excess thatch.
- Avoid drought stress by watering deeply, and thoroughly when needed, timing irrigation for early morning.
- Remove morning dew by mowing, irrigating or whisking.
- Apply a fungicide like **Emerald® fungicide** when weather conditions are favorable, usually when day temperatures are between 70° to 80° F.

Dollar spot most commonly occurs on bentgrass, fescues, ryegrass and bluegrass and can be a problem on Bermudagrass, seashore paspalums, centipedegrass and zoysiagrass. Dollar spot is most active from late spring through fall. The fungus develops during humid weather, when daytime temperatures are warm (59° to 86° F) and nights are fairly cool. These conditions result in heavy dew forming on the grass.

### Product Profile:

#### Emerald® fungicide

- Provides unprecedented dollar spot control in virtually every major turf species across the U.S.
- Controls most dollar spot for weeks with a well-timed single application.
- Effectively controls dollar spot strains that have developed resistance to other fungicides.



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## Help Your Crew Beat The Heat.

It's hot out there. Here are some things OSHA recommends to protect your staff from heat-related illness and injury.

- Teach your staff the signs and symptoms of heat-induced illnesses and how to respond.
- Schedule the heaviest work during the coolest part of the day.
- Encourage crews to drink plenty of cool water (about a cup every 15 to 20 minutes) even if they are not thirsty.
- Discourage drinks that dehydrate the body (coffee, tea and caffeinated soft drinks).
- Instruct staff to wear lightweight, breathable clothing such as cotton. Light colors are better, as dark colors absorb the sun's heat.
- Encourage frequent, short breaks in cool, shaded areas to allow the body to cool down.
- Tell your employees to avoid eating a heavy meal before working in the heat.

## Poa Annua Strategies For Cool-Season Turfgrass

In the cool-season turf regions of the country, two strategies are currently providing excellent results for controlling *Poa annua* (annual bluegrass).

### 1 Strategy One: Two preemergent herbicide applications.

Timing of the first application is critical, usually around late August to mid-September, followed by a second application five to eight weeks later. **Pendulum® AquaCap™ herbicide** has given excellent results using this strategy. For added efficiency, consider making the first application using pendimethalin impregnated on fertilizer, and then spray the second application. Remember, though, that pendimethalin is not labeled for use on bentgrass or *Poa annua* greens or tees. It is labeled on bentgrass or *Poa annua* fairways (1/2 inch height or taller).

### 2 Strategy Two: Using plant growth regulators.

Plant Growth Regulators (PGRs) regulate annual bluegrass more severely than creeping bentgrass, which alters the competitive balance between the two species and allows the bentgrass to compete with annual bluegrass. There are several products available which are effective when initiated prior to the annual bluegrass getting overly competitive. Control of annual bluegrass with PGRs requires a well thought out control program to maximize results.

**Research has shown** that on a single golf course there can be several biotypes of annual bluegrass. The various biotypes can often be correlated to irrigation or watering practices. In the rough where no irrigation is used, the annual bluegrass present is primarily of the annual type. On the greens where frequent irrigation is applied, the predominant annual bluegrass is more perennial in nature. Preemergent herbicides will not offer control of perennial types of *poa annua*.

**PENDulum** Herbicide  
AquaCap™

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## **Poa Annua Strategies For Non-Overseeded Warm-Season Turf**

In the warm-season turf regions of the country, two strategies are currently providing excellent results for controlling *Poa annua*.

### **1 Strategy One:** **Two preemergent herbicide applications.**

Timing of the first application is critical, usually around mid- to late August, followed by a second application five to eight weeks later. **Pendulum® AquaCap™ herbicide** has given excellent results using this strategy. For added efficiency, consider making the first application using pendimethalin impregnated on fertilizer, and then spray the second application.

### **2 Strategy Two:** **Fall germination.**

Let the *Poa annua* germinate in the fall; then apply an effective postemergent herbicide to control the emerged *Poa* combined with a preemergent herbicide to provide ongoing weed control. The introduction of sulfonyleurea (SU) herbicides in warm-season turf has given turf managers a new, effective tool for controlling *Poa annua*, without damaging Bermudagrass. When combined with an effective preemergent herbicide, the SU herbicides can eliminate any emerged *Poa* while the preemergent herbicide prevents subsequent germination in one, simple application. Again, timing of the herbicide combination is key. In 2004 golf course trials, a tank mix of Revolver™ plus **Pendulum AquaCap** applied in December or January gave the best control of *Poa annua* and prevented germination of other important winter annuals.



**While postemergent plus preemergent herbicide combinations can offer excellent management in warm-season turf, they can be injurious to cool-season turf.**

## **Fire Ants:** **A Formidable Foe.**

To control fire ants, use a granule bait preparation like **Amdro® Pro fire ant bait**.

The active ingredient takes long enough that worker ants have time to deliver it to their queen. It then eliminates the queen and her entire colony within three to seven days of a mound treatment. The best option for control of existing and subsequent mounds is a broadcast application. This exposes fire ants to a constant dose, so if the mound moves ants continue to be exposed. After application, the entire area will be rid of fire ants.

**A queen fire ant  
can lay 2,000 eggs  
each day.**



**Fire ants can move into circuit breakers, relays, motors, and other electrical devices, causing short circuits and fires.**

**Fire ants forage out of underground tunnels that lead all around within 100 feet of a mound.**

Always read and follow label directions.

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