

Success Story

The Summer Stress Reliever:
Trinity™ Fungicide Helps North Carolina Super Knock Down
Anthracnose During Height Of Summer Stress Period.

 **BASF**
The Chemical Company

Situation

With gentle rolling hills and wide valleys, the Donald Ross-designed Hendersonville Country Club is a picture of stress-free terrain. Unless you're its superintendent.

The private, 18-hole, par-70 course in Hendersonville, N.C., hosts more than 32,000 rounds of golf each year. Kirk McKinney joined the course in January 2007 as golf course superintendent, taking on the challenge of keeping the 1933 push-up greens healthy despite wear, tear and compaction from more than 70 years of heavy traffic.

"Keeping water off the greens is crucial to prevent conditions for disease," McKinney said. "It's also tough maintaining the course's *Poa annua* as temperatures increase in the summer."

Anthracnose had been a consistent summertime problem for several years.

"The turf was fine when I began working here," McKinney explained. "But at the end of May, I saw signs of anthracnose on the greens and we quickly lost five to 10 percent of turf on five or six greens."

The disease showed up as reddish-brown lesions ranging from the size of a pencil eraser to five to six feet in diameter in the most advanced areas.

Based on the course's limited success at controlling the disease in the past, McKinney knew he needed to modify the existing fungicide program.

"The other products weren't giving us control and they were losing their punch," he said.



Solution

McKinney's distributor recommended **Trinity™ fungicide** as safe to use during the summer stress period. Shortly before he planned to make his first **Trinity** application, McKinney attended a distributor meeting for superintendents where BASF sales representative Willie Pennington gave a presentation on the product. Because of the high temperatures in the area, Pennington recommended applying the fungicide at the lower one-ounce rate, increasing the intervals to avoid turf damage.

McKinney prepared a tank mix of **Trinity** at a rate of one ounce per 1,000 square feet and **Insignia® fungicide** at a rate of .9 ounce per 1,000 square feet to treat the anthracnose and control dollar spot. He applied the fungicides – along with fertilizer and growth regulator — in four spray applications, 30 days apart, on the course's greens, collars, and areas surrounding greens and approaches. Between applications, he used other products with different modes of action. As a cultural control, McKinney's crew rolled greens weekly and moderated mowing heights.

**Trinity**
FUNGICIDE

Success

"The first application stopped anthracnose in its tracks. There was 100 percent knockdown," McKinney said. "I saw a difference in four to five days. In July, the *Poa annua* was growing back."

McKinney also achieved control of a range of typical course diseases, including brown patch, summer patch, pythium and dollar spot.

"I had success in the past mixing **Insignia** with other products to control dollar spot and I didn't see any dollar spot all year," he said.

The club benefited from the time and cost savings resulting from fewer fungicide applications. McKinney also didn't need to hire a turf diagnostics lab because of the knockdown of the disease.

The reaction from management and membership was positive. The course's green committee chairman wrote McKinney a note saying that he had noticed the anthracnose earlier in the summer and was impressed with how quickly McKinney got rid of it and how healthy his greens looked.

McKinney plans to use the same program with **Trinity** and **Insignia** next year, and will make his first application 30 days earlier in May to try to gain complete preventive control.

"I was surprised at the knockdown on *Poa annua*," McKinney said. "To have turf recovery in July and August as opposed to waiting until the end of the year was big. I also didn't see any other diseases and that makes me feel good. We had a successful year."



Learn more about Trinity and Insignia at betterturf.com or 800-545-9525.



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