

BEST PRACTICES



NEW YORK STATE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR GOLF COURSES

Drips

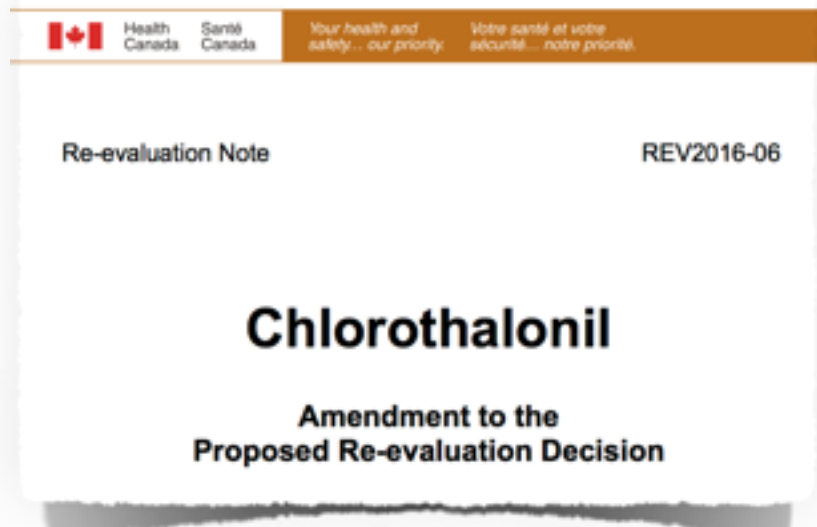


Irrigation BMP's

One of the Irrigation BMP's for NYS Golf Courses states:

Design and maintain irrigation systems to uniformly apply water to the intended area of management.

The golf turf industry must demonstrate the ability to irrigate efficiently. Golf is among the most visible users of water in an urban setting. Water use during the growing season defines the "peak load" that the water delivery infrastructure must accommodate. The failure to demonstrate efficient irrigation could set the stage for serious consequences for golf. A drought or perceived water shortage could provide all the impetus necessary for onerous mandates determining when and how much to irrigate as well as the type of plants a landscape can have. The ability to irrigate efficiently will help the golf industry control its destiny. The Irrigation Association has published these BMPs and are available @ <http://tinyurl.com/gwo715c>



Canada Restricts Chlorothalonil to Snow Mold Use Only

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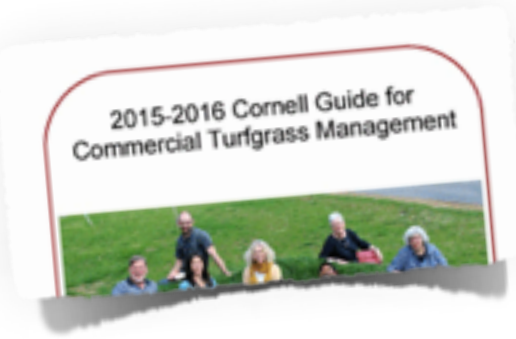
Two weeks ago Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) amended its Proposed Re-evaluation Decision for chlorothalonil. Chlorothalonil ((Daconil) is expected to undergo re-registration in the US soon. The PMRA document states:

Based on the revised occupational and residential risk assessments for chlorothalonil, the PMRA has determined that under the revised conditions of use, some agricultural uses of chlorothalonil do not present unacceptable risks to human health. Based on the human health risk assessment, the PMRA is proposing to cancel the following uses of chlorothalonil:

*Agricultural uses: blueberry, highbush; blueberry, lowbush; celery, field; cherry (sweet and sour); chickpea; Cole crops; conifers (outdoor and nursery beds); corn, sweet; cranberry; evening primrose; lentil; nectarine; onion (dry and green); ornamentals (greenhouse and outdoor); pea, dry; peach; wheat; and **turf (except for control of snow mould).***

This will obviously create some new challenges for golf turf managers in Canada and is a harbinger of what might lie ahead in the US. Contact fungicides such as chlorothalonil are important tools for resistance management, so be mindful of your FRAC codes as we might be entering golf turf AD (After Daconil).

The website that outlines the review and the review document is @ <http://tinyurl.com/zujblb7>.



Survey: How do you get/want your turf management information?

The Cornell Turfgrass Team is asking for your input. We want to know how you prefer to access turfgrass management information, what information is important to you, and how you think it should be paid for. Please take the **Cornell Turfgrass Information Survey** and pass the link onto others in NY's turfgrass industry.

Take the survey @ <http://tinyurl.com/gpvmqk9>

The survey should take 5 minutes or less, and your response will help shape how Cornell presents and delivers turfgrass management information.

This survey is funded by NY State's Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Funds.



LIGCSA Provides Leadership in Response to LINAP

As mentioned last week the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan (LINAP) has specifically targeted golf course for potential regulation regarding N use, even though there exists data from LI indicating golf courses are NOT significant contributors to water quality concerns. To address this issue the LIGCSA attended the public comment meeting and submitted a letter. The following are two key excerpts: (Thanks to Tom Kaplun leading this effort and for providing this info)

After reviewing the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan (LINAP) draft, as well as attendance at meetings in Hauppauge and at Hofstra two weeks ago, the Long Island Golf Course Superintendent's Association (LIGCSA) requests inclusion in the working scope of the LINAP. It is evident that a problem exists with nitrogen pollution in our waterways, and we commend the actions to address this issue to date. However, as an association that comprises 145 golf courses on Long Island and turfgrass managers with science degrees who rely on sound scientific data, nitrogen is the most fundamentally important element for turfgrass and there is no scientific data supporting golf courses as significant nitrogen polluters of our environment. Further, the LIGCSA is disappointed that our input was not solicited in this draft plan.

Throughout the draft and meetings, sound scientific testing and data were emphasized before any nitrogen reduction measures or restrictions are enacted on Long Island. We were encouraged to hear this theme will be central to any decision making that occurs. We encourage you to collect the scientific input and data from Cornell University, as they have previously studied nutrient inputs on golf courses, their impact on Long Island's water bodies, and supported the development of the best management practices. They would also be a valuable asset in any additional scientific testing needed to take place on golf courses in the next few years.

Golf courses are a vital part of Long Island's economy and our roles as environmental stewards is just as important as the turfgrass we manage. With best management practices, we have put environmental sustainability at the forefront of our decision-making and however we can help to uphold and better demonstrate our roles, we stand ready.