



Pest Update for the Start of Summer

Spring is finally here after a long winter and a false start to the season during the latter part of April. Those of you using a soil temperature model to time applications for control of root diseases got caught between a forecast of cool temperatures and a week when soil temperatures reached certain thresholds (April 21-25th). The recommendation is "better safe than sorry". This was based on the fact that Heritage MAXX persists around the root area for 28 days, and it is beneficial to protect the roots during soil temperature fluctuations which are difficult to predict. These applications of Heritage also gave protection from Fusarium Patch and Take-All Patch that occurred during the cool, rainy weather of the first weekend in May.

Who has noticed the ant hills starting to pile up on the edges of the greens? It's time to treat for ants if you see the mounds on your greens and tees. The ant colonies are weakened from over-wintering and they haven't yet gained momentum from the abundance of new food and heat. You can use Scimitar CS to tackle this problematic pest. Make sure the soil is moist and the grass is mowed first, because irrigation and mowing are not recommended for 2 days following application.

We are now on the cusp of the appearance of summer diseases. Warm temperatures can bring the arrival of leaf spot. The fungus that causes dollar spot is growing as a saprotroph right now, awaiting the right amount of heat to become pathogenic. Looking back over the past 7 years, dollar spot has started between May 16th and June 13th in Windsor, ON. I use Windsor as an example because it is our indicator for Canada. The epidemic usually starts 1-2 weeks later in the Montreal area. A disease prediction model to time the first application is important because of the month-long window for the first appearance of disease. Expect a Dollar Spot Alert when conditions favour the appearance of the disease this season.

May is the right time to treat for fairy ring using applications of Heritage MAXX. If you've treated for anthracnose basal rot then a second Heritage MAXX application is required 28 days later. Therefore, to continue coverage for anthracnose, take-all patch, fusarium patch, summer patch, leaf spot and melting out, apply a second application of Heritage MAXX at 63 mL/100 m² for 28 days of control. If diseases are active, then the next logical application will occur in June with a tankmix of Banner MAXX at 103 mL/100 m² and Daconil Ultrex at 73-115 g/100 m² for up to 28 days control. This will manage the above mentioned diseases including dollar spot and brown patch.

I wish you a happy Victoria Day weekend and official start to our Canadian summer.

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