

Why all the Spots at the beginning of the year?

An open Season at the Parksville Lawn Bowling Club last 5 months:

- May, June, July, August, September.

A Season for the Greens is 12 months minus the snow-covered months.

Starting in October, we sprayed the Greens for snow mold. The spray is a mixture of Stressgard-Dedicate and Chlorothalonil. Recommended that we only spray this mixture twice a year. The spray lasts approximately 28 days. It is important that members and animals (dogs, etc) do not encounter this spray.

Stressgard-Dedicate, a systemic fungicide, is absorbed into the leaf. Chlorothalonil, a non-systemic fungicide, dries on the outside of the leaf. For snow mold, this is a “double whammy”.

Last fall we sprayed 3 times. The third time in December just before the snowfall. On January 1st the Greens were bare and in really good shape. The first snowfall of 2024 was followed by many rain days. The Stressgard 5 L. container costs \$1000 and the Chlorothalonil 7 L. container much the same. That is enough material for several years. Both chemicals need a string of dry days. Not good economics to have your spray washed off because of rain.

The timing requires:

- Enough clear days for the chemicals to dry, and to be absorbed by the leaf,
- and at the same time, allow at least 28 days without contact with members.

Once the spray had time to work, the spread of the snow mold came to a screeching halt. The remedial work could begin.

Recommendation: Spray in January, no matter how good the weather is. It won't last.

Regards

Rob Matthews
Greenskeeper