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Results of Using Biofeed Prebiotic Products at Vic Nor Sod Farms for the Prevention of Turf Diseases (Connoquenessing, Pennsylvania) USA

ABSTRACT

In August of 1997, twenty acres of a combination of Blue Grass and Rye Grass were treated with Biofeed SOIL-PLUS™ to determine its efficacy at controlling several strains of turf diseases. Within seven days of one application, all active Brown Patch (*rhizoctonia solani*), Summer Patch (*magnaporthae poae*) and Dollar Spot (*sclerotinia homoeocarpa*) were eradicated.

BACKGROUND

Vic Nor Farms grows more than 900 acres of several varieties of turf grass sod for use by landscapers and golf courses. The escalating costs of fungicides have forced Vic Nor Farms to seek cost effective alternatives to chemical fungicides for the prevention and occasional treatment of a variety of turf diseases. The increased use of fungicides has been blamed for the increased length of time to harvest a crop of turf.

APPLICATION

SOIL-PLUS™ was applied to each acre of infected turf at a rate of 1 gallon per acre mixed with 5 gallons of water. A follow-up treatment of SOIL-PLUS™ at a rate of 1 gallon per acre in 5 gallons per acre was applied 14 days after the first application to stimulate new growth and to reduce the re-occurrence of disease intrusion.

RESULTS

- During the testing period the following results were documented:
- No visible signs of Dollar Spot were present within three days of the first application.
- No visible signs of active Brown patch or Summer Patch were present within seven days of the first application.
- The turf completely recovered within 28 days.

According to Vic Nor Farms manager, turf infected with as much disease as was present would not be ready for harvest in 1997, even treated with a fungicide. After two applications of SOIL-PLUS™, the turf completely recovered and was harvested for sale in 1997.

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