BOOK REVIEW

Latin R. 2011. A Practical Guide to Turfgrass Fungicides. APS Press – The American Phytopathological Society. St. Paul, MN, USA. 270 pp.
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As indicated in the "Preface" (p. VII) this book is addressed to all persons interested in the science and practice of maintaining healthy turfs and lawns with chemicals. In 2005, the APS Press also published a book entitled "Compendium of Turfgrass Diseases". These two books do an excellent job of covering the topic in a broad yet thorough way.

Chapter 1 "Turf fungicide fundamentals" (p. 1–25) briefly but very informatively presents the history of fungicides for turf and lawn protection. In several tables and figures, various active ingredients and fungicide formulations used for turf disease control or alleviation are presented.

In Chapter 2 "Fungicidal modes of action" (p. 27–47) various groups of fungicides are characterized as targeting the cell wall, nucleic acids, mitochondrial respiration and other targets.

Chapter 3 "Fungicide resistance" (p. 49–77) is an excellent review of the mechanisms of fungicide resistance. A good glossary and several drawings explaining the mechanism of resistance are provided.

In Chapter 4 "Factors that influence fungicide performance" (p. 79–106) a history of the research and several examples of the effect of application volume on fungicide performance are provided with the use of excellent illustrations. The role of nitrogen in turf diseases is also presented.

Chapter 5 "Biofungicides, phosphonates and postpatent products" (p. 107–121) explains the possibilities of biological control of fungi using biopesticides and postpatent products.

Chapter 6 "Fungicide interactions" (p. 123–135) presents several examples of the possible use of fungicide mixtures to obtain a higher control effect due to synergism against *Plasmopara*, *Pythium* and *Venturia* species.

Chapter 7 "Scheduling fungicides for turf disease control" (p. 137–156) provides ample information on treatment schedules based on: (1) fixed calendar intervals; (2) weather variables, and (3) weather based brown patch models.

Chapter 8 "Fungicide regulation" (p. 137–167) provides a superb review on regulations endorsed by "Food Quality Protection Act" and supervised by the Environmental Protection Agency in respect to label, safety and first aid.

Chapter 9 "Interpreting fungicide performance research" (p. 169–179) is of special value as it aims to avoid subjective evaluations of fungicide performance. Of particular value is the discussion on methods of disease assessment, and the fungicide performance appraisal which is illustrated and supported with figures and tables.

Chapter 10 "Turf disease characteristics and control" (p. 181–228) contains several good photos and good characteristics of the most important pathogens of turf – among them are: *Colletortrichum cereale*, *Rhizoctonia solani*, *Sclerotinia homeocarpa*, *Microdochium nivale*, *Pythium* spp. All described cases are supported by well-taken photos.

Chapter 11 "Turf fungicide profiles" (p. 229–259) contains characteristics of several active ingredients used in trade products registered for use in the control of turf pathogens. Each fungicide is characterized according to the following scheme: (1) Fungicide Class/MOA Code; (2) FRAC Resistance group and ; (3) Trade Names and Formulations. A good "Index" (p. 261–270) allows for easy access to information.

The above characteristics clearly prove that this book contains a large volume of information which is very useful for students at horticultural faculties and for those in charge of and providing services for city gardens and public parks as well as for those with home gardens.

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