

## IPM Report, 1997

*Impacts of Conventional Turfgrass Pesticides on the Efficacy of  
Composted Amendments Used for the Biological Control of Turfgrass  
Diseases*

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In the past few years, biological strategies of pest control have been attracting considerable attention among turfgrass scientists as well as golf course superintendents. The approaches are being viewed as an attractive means of reducing the superintendents dependency on chemical pesticides. Our work over the past 11 years has focused on the development biological disease control strategies for turfgrasses that employ the use of compost amendments or microbial inoculants. Regardless of the biological strategy followed, the level of control is dependent on the elevated activity of native or introduced soil microorganism.

Despite the positive results with microbial inoculants and compost amendments, golf course superintendents have been reluctant to place more reliance on these disease control tactics. One of the more commonly-asked questions of biological disease control strategies in general is "how will my other management practices affect the efficacy of biological controls?" Of particular concern is the impact chemical pesticides may have on disease control efficacy. It should be realized that no single control strategy is used alone on golf course turf. A wide variety of chemical agents are employed, and no biological agent will replace these immediately. Furthermore, no turf disease control product is always effective, and we would be naive indeed to believe that biological controls were exceptional in this regard. Therefore, information on the compatibility of biological control strategies with existing chemical products, particularly fungicides, insecticides, and herbicides, is critical for the greater adoption of reduced chemical disease management strategies.

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