

**Report For The  
Demonstration of Compost and  
Chemical Fungicide Interactions on Golf Course Turfgrass in  
The Capital District of New York State**

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Background:

This project was designed to demonstrate the use of compost in suppressing turfgrass diseases on golf course fairways, and to study fungicide/compost interactions. Dr. Eric Nelson, plant pathologist at Cornell University, has conducted extensive research on the use of composts to suppress turfgrass diseases (Nelson, Eric B., Ph.D. "Biological Control of Turfgrass Diseases," Cornell Cooperative Extension Information Bulletin 220. Ithaca, 1992.) Two commercially available composts, Sustane and Port Bay Brewers compost, have demonstrated beneficial biological activity. Compost use is a promising technique, but has not yet been widely demonstrated or adopted for commercial turfgrass application. Additionally, the interaction between composts and chemical fungicides in controlling disease is not fully understood.

Although previous research has shown that some composts can suppress a variety of turfgrass diseases, dollar spot disease (*Sclerotinia homeocarpa*) is often the most troublesome problem on fairways, and will be the primary pathogen of interest in this study. Dollar spot causes small, circular, sunken patches of turfgrass that may coalesce to damage large sections of a fairway. The disease is most problematic when the weather is warm and humid during the day and cooler during the evening.

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