

Black Layer.



Black Layer can weaken or kill all grasses located on golf course putting greens.

OTHER NAME.

« *Couche noire* » (French).

LIKELY LOCATIONS.

Golf course putting greens, often in low-lying areas, or poorly-drained areas that tend to accumulate water.

IDENTIFICATION.

- Turf is weakened, and often dies, in low-lying areas.
- A dark and viscous layer can be observed in the first few centimetres of soil.
- The layer releases a strong and repugnant odour when the soil profile is being inspected.

ORIGIN.

The deposition of algae, and algal scum, is a chronic problem on thin and weak turf located on putting greens, during the months of June, July, and August. Once the algae begin to move downward into the root-zone, they will form a « *black layer* » beneath the surface.

CONDITIONS FAVOURING DISEASE DEVELOPMENT.

- The excessive supply of water by irrigation containing **ALGAE**.
- Soil that is stratified with different layers on top of one another.
- A layer of thatch that is excessively thick and buried in the soil because of a topdressing program that is far too aggressive.

CHEMICAL CONTROL OF ALGAE (U.S. ONLY).

Daconil is the only product that provides excellent preventive suppression against the invasion of algae on putting greens. Daconil is not labelled for the control of algae in Canada, but many researchers strongly recommend that this product be included in every fungicide application wherever algae is a problem.

• **Daconil Weather Stik.**

90 to 180 millilitres (3 to 6 Imperial fluid ounces) per 1000 square feet, on a 7 to 14 day schedule.

• **Daconil Ultrex.**

140 grams (5 ounces avdp) per 1000 square feet, on a 7 to 14 day schedule.

PREVENTIVE PRACTICES.

- Reduce the frequency of irrigation.
- Use a wetting agent like **Primer**.
- In spring and fall, increase the practice of core aeration.
- During the summer months, increase solid tine aeration practices.