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Ideas about growing grass

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Jason's Productivity Files

THURSDAY, 5 JANUARY 2017

## 2017 pesticide usage summary

We have never spent less controlling pests on our golf course as we did in 2017. **With a lot of hard work, determination, and luck with the weather and predicting the future**, I was able to continue the downward trend of pesticide use on the golf course for another season. This year we spent 24% less than last year and 41% less than the last 8 year average despite the prolonged and sometimes record breaking wet weather. I used to believe that it was the wet weather that made disease management such a challenge. I am learning that it has more to do with me than the environment which is a tough pill to swallow but also fills me with optimism for future learning and improvement.

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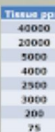
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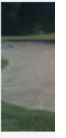
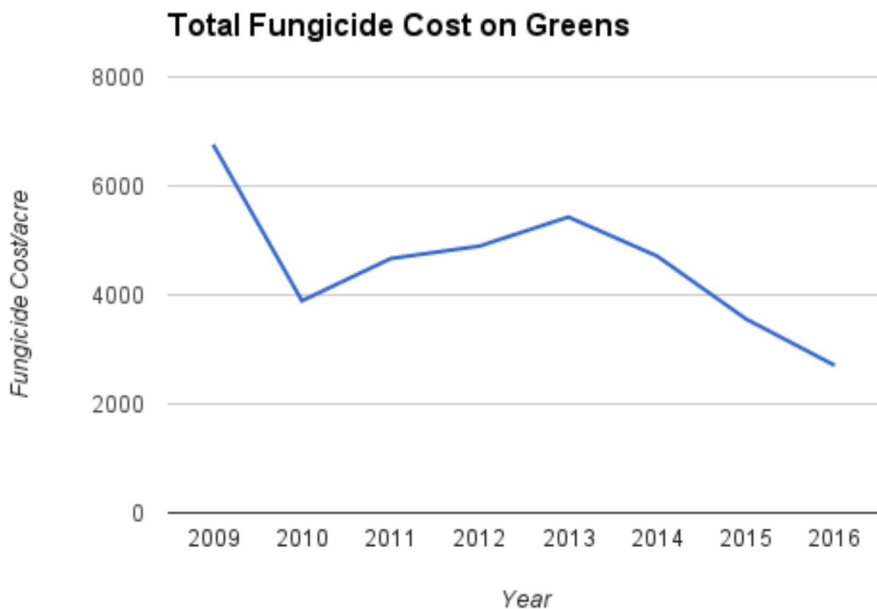


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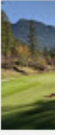
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The table below outlines the total cost of pest control products used on my golf course per year. The table says greens, and yes, this is the only place that pest control products (of any kind including ISR SAR and organic) are used. I have used a bit of iron sulfate on approaches and tees for the last few years for fusarium control and this isn't included in this number. Add on \$100 or so and we will call it even. Speaking of iron, at the rates I apply it I don't get adequate control so I probably won't do it in future years especially if some of the more radical things I am trying work out for disease management (no hints quite yet).



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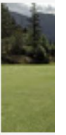
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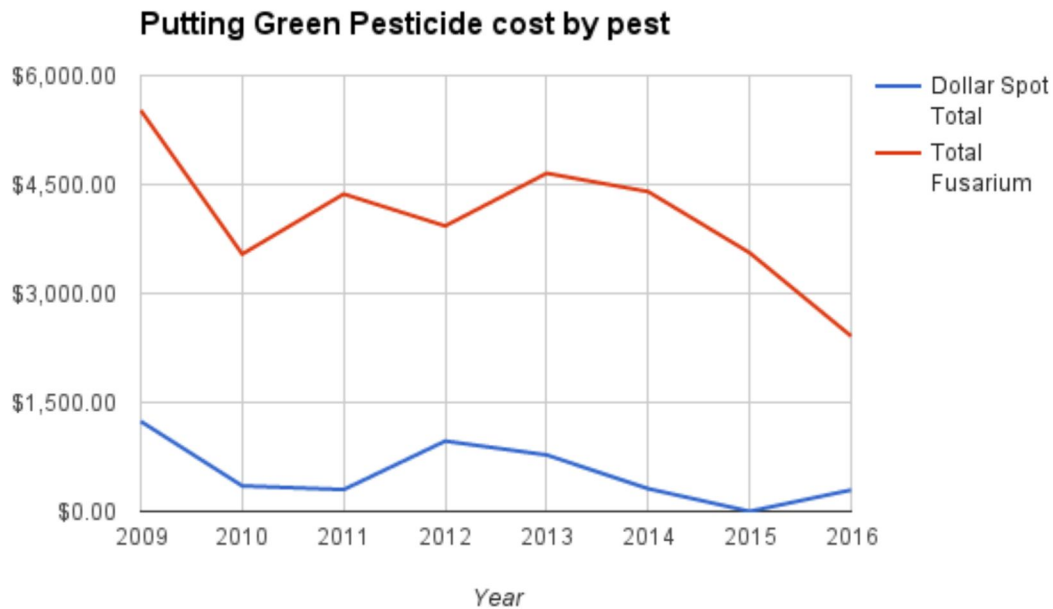
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I can also compare the cost of the different turf pests I have to use pesticides for. Generally I only treat for 2 pests. Dollar spot and fusarium patch. I apply phosphite year-round and I'm sure that it helps with many other pests but for the most part the only pests that cause damage on my course are these two diseases. The cool thing about these types of products is that they don't cure the disease directly and the plant is still susceptible if managed poorly. What they help me do is give me more time to react and make adjustments to the plant management practices. Of course, this isn't possible if your grass is covered in pigment...



I have worked very hard to make this kind of progress. Last year I made big gains but wasn't totally sure it wasn't because of luck. 2015 was a very dry year and this could have been why I had so much success. This year we had a very wet year and I was able to continue with my successful disease management strategy.

Of course, none of this matters if your grass is dead.

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