Special Local Need (SLN) Label for the use of Avid on Golf Course Putting Greens in Georgia – Approved

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The Georgia Department of Agriculture has approved a SLN 24(c) registration for the use of Avid® 0.15 EC Miticide/Insecticide (abamectin) [EPA Reg. # 100-896 and SLN GA-110007] on golf course putting greens. This will provide Georgia golf course superintendents with an additional option for nematode control with reduced impacts on environmental and human health.

According to the "2002-2007 Georgia Plant Disease Loss Estimates" nematodes are responsible for a 2.5% to 4.5% reduction in turfgrass value, which translates into $54 to $72 million annually. On golf courses, nematodes contribute to increased damage and impose additional stresses to turfgrasses which increases water and fertilizer consumption, and pesticide applications due to damaged root systems and unthrifty turf. Since golf course putting greens are typically constructed with a sand root zone, nematodes are among the most severe pests on bentgrass and bermudagrass putting greens.

Avid® offers several advantages compared to the other nematode control products available in turfgrass. The toxicity to humans and the environment is lower and therefore is not subject to the same use and application restrictions. Field trials have demonstrated repeat applications of Avid® can reduce sting (*Belonolaimus longicaudatus*) and ring (*Criconemella ornate*) nematode populations with improved turf growth and root vigor. Additionally, no phytotoxicity has been observed on either bentgrass or bermudagrass maintained under putting green conditions.

Avid® can be purchased and applied according to the SLN 24(c) registration. Since this registration has just been granted, the Georgia label currently is only available online at www.GeorgiaTurf.com. Please contact us if you have further questions on the use of Avid® for nematode management.