

TURF TWISTERS

PLAIN WATER IS NOT ENOUGH

Question: We are in the middle of our spray season; tell me (one more time) how best to clean my spray tank. (Missouri)

Answer: Spray tanks and rigs should be cleaned immediately after every use. Remember, a thorough rinsing with water is NOT sufficient to remove potentially harmful residues. Therefore, thoroughly wash all parts of the sprayer (tank, hose, boom, nozzles) with any *one* of the following in 100 gallons of water:

1. One gallon household ammonia (allow to stand overnight).
2. Five pounds of sal soda.
3. Eight pounds of trisodium phosphate.

I'LL HAVE SOME IRON

Question: Frequently throughout the growing season, our greens will have good growth rates but also begin to go off color. Can anything be done to improve color without overstimulating growth? (North Carolina)

Answer: You bet! Light applications of ferrous iron sulfate (one to two ounces in no more than five gallons of water per 1,000 square feet) with each fungicide application beginning in mid-spring will help grasses retain color. During excessively hot weather, apply ferrous iron sulfate once every three to four weeks. Do not "water in." This is intended to be a leaf feeding.

BETWEEN ROOT ROT & FOLIAGE

Question: Root rot disease and foliage disease — what's the difference in spraying for them? (Georgia)

Answer: Root-infesting diseases have recently been a problem, especially on greens. The same materials that are effective for foliage diseases are also effective for diseases in the root system. The water carrier, however, must be increased to five gallons per 1,000 square feet to drench the fungicide into the root zone. Applying the material and then watering in afterwards is not as effective. Spiking, slicing, or aeration prior to spraying is most important.