

Dollar Spot Severity as Influenced by Fungicide Mode of Activity and Spray Nozzle

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Abstract. Dollar spot, caused by *Sclerotinia homoeocarpa*, is a severe disease of highly maintained turfgrass. Improving the efficacy of fungicides when applied in relatively low water volumes may be possible through the optimization of nozzle selection. The objectives of this research were to evaluate fungicide efficacy when delivered through five different nozzle types and to elucidate any potential interactions between fungicide mode of activity and nozzle type. Research was conducted at four locations in Pennsylvania and Connecticut in 2005. Chlorothalonil (contact mode of activity) and propiconazole (acropetal penetrant mode of activity) were applied alone or tank-mixed and delivered through five different nozzles. At all sites, no fungicide-by-nozzle interactions were observed, and dollar spot suppression was generally greatest when fungicides were tank-mixed. The TurfJet 1/4TTJ04 nozzle generally provided the poorest level of control when compared with all other nozzles (i.e., Air Induction AI11004, Turbo TeeJet TT11003, and XR TeeJet XR11003 or XR11004). Although the impact of nozzle type was not as pronounced under low to moderate disease pressure, nozzles that produce fine to coarse water droplets (i.e., Turbo TeeJet or XR TeeJet) or the Air Induction (AI) nozzle were associated with the best suppression under severe dollar spot pressure. Despite producing a very coarse droplet, the AI nozzle also facilitated excellent suppression of dollar spot under severe disease pressure. The use of AI-type nozzles may improve the efficacy of fungicides used to control foliar diseases while at the same time minimize the potential for drift to off-site targets.

Dollar spot (*Sclerotinia homoeocarpa* F.T. Bennett) is perhaps the most chronic and problematic disease of golf course turf throughout the United States (Couch, 1995; Dernoeden, 2000). The disease can be particularly damaging to creeping bentgrass

(*Agrostis stolonifera* L.) and annual bluegrass (*Poa annua* L.) greens, tees, and fairways (Smiley et al., 2005; Watschke et al., 1994). Due to the severity and destructive nature of dollar spot in high-value turf, fungicides are considered a key component in most management strategies or programs (Dernoeden, 2000; Fidanza et al., 2006).

Improved disease suppression in various crops has been attributed to adjustments in fungicide application techniques, including water-carrier volume, spray pattern, and water-droplet size (Armstrong-Cho et al., 2008; Chapple et al., 1997; Jensen et al., 2001; Lesnik et al., 2005). In creeping bentgrass, Couch (1985) reported that a localized penetrant fungicide dispersed in a flat-fan spray pattern and producing small water droplets provided better dollar spot control when compared with the same fungicide applied with a hollow-cone nozzle that produced very large droplets (Couch, 1985). Improved suppression of dollar spot in creeping bentgrass from nozzles that produce smaller droplet sizes has also been recently reported with the use of contact fungicides (Fidanza et al., 2009b; Kaminski et al., 2006; Vincelli and Dixon, 2007). Vincelli and Dixon (2007) attributed improved suppression of dollar

spot to nozzles that resulted in increased spray coverage. Couch (1985) showed that contact fungicides were most effective at a lower water volume (e.g., 407 L·ha⁻¹) and systemic-type fungicides were more effective at higher water volume (e.g., 814 L·ha⁻¹). However, turfgrass managers often apply tank-mixes of fungicides with varying modes of activity (e.g., contact or systemic-type categorized as acropetal or localized penetrant, etc.) in lower water volumes in the interest of saving labor expenses and time (Agnew and Fidanza, 2007).

Fungicide programs are commonly recommended to manage diseases in turf maintained as golf course greens, tees, and fairways (Agnew, 2007), and optimum fungicide delivery has become a critical factor to ensure a successful disease control outcome (Agnew and Fidanza, 2007; Couch, 1985; Kaminski et al., 2006; Shepard et al., 2006). In recent years, many turfgrass practitioners have reported a reduction in efficacy and length of control associated with fungicides used to manage dollar spot (Fidanza et al., 2007; Shepard et al., 2006). Possible reasons for this reduction include variation in product application rates and timings, differences in application techniques and procedures, and resistance issues attributed to continuous use of the same fungicide product or fungicide biochemical mode of action (Doney and Vincelli, 1994; Golembiewski et al., 1995; Zontek, 2003).

Several nozzle-types are available in the crop protection market, and these nozzles produce a range of water droplet sizes (Matthews, 1999; Wolf et al., 2002). Many of these nozzles were recently introduced into the green industry and specialty crop markets (Fidanza et al., 2007; Shepard et al., 2006). Hence, the overall purpose of this study was to examine the impact of nozzle-type and fungicide mode of activity on fungicide performance for dollar spot control in creeping bentgrass. The specific objectives were to evaluate fungicide efficacy when delivered through five different nozzle types and to elucidate any interactions among nozzle type and fungicide mode of activity.

Materials and Methods

This research consisted of four identical field studies conducted in two locations in Connecticut and Pennsylvania in 2005. In Connecticut, field studies were conducted on golf course fairways at The Country Club of Farmington (CCF; Farmington, CT) and Stanley Golf Club (SGC; New Britain, CT). The SGC site consisted of a mixed stand of creeping bentgrass (unknown cultivar) and annual bluegrass maintained at a height of 1.9 cm. Soil was a Ludlow (coarse-loamy, mixed, semiactive, mesic Aquic Dystrudepts) silt loam with a pH of 5.7 and 9.2% organic matter. The CCF site was predominantly 'Pennncross' creeping bentgrass with <10% annual bluegrass grown on a Rippowan (coarse-loamy, mixed, superactive, nonacid, mesic Fluvaquentic Endoaquepts) fine sandy loam with a pH of 5.3 and 3.4% organic

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matter and mowed to a height of 1.3 cm. Urea was applied to the CCF site at a rate to deliver N at 73 kg·ha⁻¹ in the spring before treatment initiation. No fertilizer was applied to the SGC site during the study. Plots measured 1.5 m × 4.5 m and were arranged as a 3 × 5 factorial design with three (CCF) or four (SGC) replications. In addition, a single untreated control was included within the study to assess the impact had fungicides not been applied.

In Pennsylvania, two field studies were conducted on a golf course fairway (Royal Oaks Golf Course; ROGC; Lebanon, PA) and a driving range (Bellewood Golf Club; BGC; North Coventry, PA) maintained as a fairway. The ROGC and BGC site consisted of a monostand of creeping bentgrass established to cultivars 'Princeville' and 'PennTrio', respectively. Soil at ROGC was a Clarksburg (fine-loamy, mixed, active, mesic Typic Fragiuudalfs) clay loam with a pH of 6.8 and 4.0% organic matter. In the early spring, a slow-release fertilizer was applied at ROGC at an amount of 36 kg N·ha⁻¹. At the BGC site, soil was a Readington (fine-loamy, mixed, semiaactive, mesic Typic Fragiuudalfs) silt loam with a pH of 6.6 and 2.0% organic matter. No fertilizer was applied to the BGC test site in anticipation of this experiment. Both sites were mowed to a height of 1.1 cm with a reel mower, and plots measured 1.5 × 3 m with three replications arranged similar to studies in Connecticut.

At all four locations, fungicide treatments were applied using one of five flat-fan nozzle types designed to distribute varying water droplet sizes. The nozzles were selected to produce droplet sizes that were classified as extremely coarse (≥450 μm in diameter; TurfJet 1/4TTJ04), very coarse (375–450 μm in diameter; Air Induction TeeJet AI11004), coarse (250–375 μm in diameter; TurboTeeJet TT11003), medium (175–250 μm in diameter; XRTeeJet XR11004), and fine (100–175 μm in diameter; XR TeeJet XR11003) (Hewitt et al., 1996). The TurfJet and XRTeeJet nozzles produce a standard pattern flat fan pattern with varying size water droplets. The Air Induction and TurboTeeJet nozzles, however, produce relatively large air-filled drops through the use of a Venturi air aspirator or through a large, rounded internal passage, respectively. These nozzles are commonly promoted for use on golf courses, and are manufactured by Spraying Systems (Wheaton, IL). All nozzles were used to apply fungicides with an acropetal penetrant mode of activity (propiconazole; Banner MAXX; Syngenta Professional Products, Greensboro, NC), a contact mode of activity (chlorothalonil; Daconil; Syngenta Professional Products, Greensboro, NC), and a tank-mix of the two fungicides. Chlorothalonil (4.56 kg ai/ha) and propiconazole (0.236 kg ai/ha) were applied at the low recommended label use rate for the preventive control of dollar spot.

Treatments in Connecticut were applied with a CO₂-pressurized (275 kPa) backpack sprayer and in Pennsylvania with a Gregson-

Clark Spreader Mate (Gregson-Clark, Le Roy, NY). Both application mechanisms were outfitted with a spray boom containing three nozzles spaced 48 cm on center and calibrated to deliver water at 407 L·ha⁻¹, which is a standard volume used for golf course fairways (Agnew and Fidanza, 2007). To account for variation in output from each nozzle, walking speed was adjusted to 3.2 or 4.5 km·h⁻¹ using a metronome (KORG USA, Inc.; Melville, NY). All treatments were applied on ≈14-d intervals and all application dates are footnoted in the data tables.

Disease assessment and statistical analyses. To assess dollar spot incidence, the numbers of dollar spot infection centers per plot (IC) were counted throughout the study. To reduce the impact of an edge effect, a 25.4-cm border was excluded from each plot during the rating. A threshold of ≤10 ICs per plot was considered an acceptable amount of dollar spot activity for fairway turf in these studies. Based on the plot of the residuals, all IC data were square root transformed before analyses. To assess the overall impact of disease development throughout the study, the area under the disease progress curve (AUDPC) was determined. The AUDPC values were calculated using the formula: $[(y_i + y_{i+1})/2](t_{i+1} - t_i)$, where $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n - 1$, where y_i is the number of IC per plot and t_i is the time of the i th rating (Campbell and Madden, 1990). Data were subjected to analysis of variance and means were separated using the Fisher's protected least significant difference test ($P \leq 0.05$). In addition to treatment effects, treatments were further subjected to preplanned single degree-of-freedom orthogonal contrasts (Mead et al., 2003).

Results and Discussion

Data for each site were analyzed independently due to variations in application and rating dates, disease pressure, and turfgrass species. At all locations, examination of the data revealed no significant interactions among fungicide or nozzle-type (Tables 1–4). Therefore, the main effects of fungicide and nozzle type were examined in detail for each location when determined to be statistically significant.

Connecticut: Stanley Golf Club. Disease pressure at SGC was considered severe. At SGC, no dollar spot symptoms were visible when treatments were initiated on 27 May. Over the entire study, IC within the untreated control plots ranged from 54 to 329 (Table 1). On the first rating date (10 June), an average of 57 ICs was present within the untreated control plot. The main effect of fungicide was significant on all rating dates, and plots treated with chlorothalonil + propiconazole exhibited the least dollar spot when compared with each fungicide applied alone. The tank-mix combination provided near complete suppression (≤1 IC) of dollar spot between 10 June and 1 July. When plots were rated on 19 July (≈4 weeks after treatment), the tank-mix combination continued to pro-

vide suppression of dollar spot when compared with each individual fungicide, but no treatments were considered acceptable. The main effect of nozzle-type was significant on all dates until 19 July. The greatest level of dollar spot suppression was achieved in plots receiving fungicides applied with AI11004, XR11004, or XR11003 nozzles. Turfgrass within plots receiving fungicides applied with the 1/4TTJ04 nozzles had the greatest number of IC throughout the study. When disease pressure increased in early July, unacceptable dollar spot suppression was observed within fungicide-treated plots applied with 1/4TTJ04 and TT11003 nozzles. When compared with the untreated control plots, all nozzles and fungicides resulted in an 83% to 98% reduction in dollar spot during the treatment period. Under the high seasonal pressure observed at SGC, AUDPC values indicated that the tank-mix combination applied from XR11004, XR11003, or AI11004 nozzles provided the greatest suppression of dollar spot (Figs. 1 and 2).

Connecticut: Country Club of Farmington.

Dollar spot was low throughout the study period and a total of 26 IC was observed in the untreated plots when disease activity peaked on 19 July (25 DAT) (Table 2). During this period of low disease pressure, there were no significant fungicide × nozzle interactions and the main effect of fungicide

Table 1. Dollar spot (*Sclerotinia homoeocarpa*) infection centers as influenced by chlorothalonil, propiconazole, and a tank-mix applied using five different nozzles at Stanley Golf Club 2005.

Treatment ^w	Dollar spot (no.) ^y			
	10 June	24 June	1 July	19 July
Fungicide				
Chlorothalonil	9 a ^x	4 a	13 b	148 a
Propiconazole	14 a	6 a	18 a	147 a
Chlorothalonil + propiconazole	1 b	0 b	1 c	94 b
Nozzle (droplet size) ^y				
TTJ1104 (EC)	13 a	7 a	24 a	148
AI11004 (VC)	3 b	1 b	3 c	120
TT11003 (C)	13 a	6 a	11 b	140
XR11004 (M)	6 b	3 b	9 bc	122
XR11003 (F)	5 b	2 b	5 c	117
Untreated ^z	57	54	145	329
Probability				
Fungicide	*** ^z	***	***	***
Nozzle	***	**	***	NS
Fungicide × nozzle	NS	NS	NS	NS

***, ** indicates significance at ≤ 0.01 and ≤ 0.001 , respectively. NS = not significant.

^yDroplet sizes are as follows: EC = extremely coarse, VC = very coarse, C = coarse, M = medium, and F = fine.

^xMeans for each main factor and within each column followed by the same letter are not significantly different ($P \leq 0.05$) according to Fisher's protected least significant difference test. Dollar spot levels within untreated plots are shown for comparison purposes but are not included in the statistical analysis.

^wTreatments were applied on 27 May, and 10 and 24 June.

^yDollar spot was rated by counting the number of infection centers per plot (4 sq m).

was not significant on any rating date. Compared across all fungicide-treated plots, differences in dollar spot suppression among nozzle-types were only significant at the time of peak disease activity. On 19 July, plots receiving fungicides applied with either XR nozzle provided the greatest suppression of dollar spot. Fungicides applied with the AI11004 nozzle, however, provided acceptable levels of dollar spot control and were not different from the aforementioned XR nozzles. Among nozzle-types, the poorest level of disease suppression (17 ICs) was observed when fungicides were applied with the 1/4TTJ04 nozzles. When compared with the untreated control plots, dollar spot was suppressed by 69% to 88% when fungicides were applied with the extended range or air induction nozzles. Under the low pressure observed at CCF, no fungicide × nozzle interactions or main effects were significant for seasonal AUDPC dollar spot values (Figs. 1 and 2).

Pennsylvania: Bellewood Golf Club. At the BGC site, no dollar spot activity was observed when treatments were first applied on 23 May. Disease pressure was low throughout the duration of this study, with the untreated control plots averaging a total of 1 to 25 ICs (Table 3). Under this low pressure, no fungicide × nozzle interactions were present and the main effect of nozzle-

Table 2. Dollar spot (*Sclerotinia homoeocarpa*) infection centers as influenced by chlorothalonil, propiconazole, and a tank-mix applied using five different nozzles at Country Club of Farmington 2005.

Treatment ^w	Dollar spot (no.) ^y		
	24 June	19 July	26 July
Fungicide			
Chlorothalonil	2	14	3
Propiconazole	2	8	3
Chlorothalonil + propiconazole	1	5	2
Nozzle (droplet size) ^y			
TTJ1104 (EC)	2	17 a ^x	5
AI11004 (VC)	2	8 ab	1
TT11003 (C)	2	11 ab	2
XR11004 (M)	1	3 b	2
XR11003 (F)	2	7 b	2
Untreated ^x	2	26	7.5
Probability			
Fungicide	NS ^z	NS	NS
Nozzle	NS	*	NS
Fungicide × nozzle	NS	NS	NS

* indicates significance at ≤ 0.05 . NS = not significant.

^yDroplet sizes are as follows: EC = extremely coarse, VC = very coarse, C = coarse, M = medium, and F = fine.

^xMeans for each main factor and within each column followed by the same letter are not significantly different ($P \leq 0.05$) according to Fisher's protected least significant difference test. Dollar spot levels within untreated plots are shown for comparison purposes but are not included in the statistical analysis.

^wTreatments were applied on 27 May, and 10 and 24 June.

^yDollar spot was rated by counting the number of infection centers per plot (4 sq m).

type was not significant for any rating date. Differences in dollar spot suppression were only observed among fungicides on 24 Aug. (19 DAT). At this time, plots treated with propiconazole or chlorothalonil + propiconazole provided a greater level of disease suppression when compared with chlorothalonil alone. However, all fungicides applied through all nozzle-types were providing acceptable dollar spot suppression. Plots treated with propiconazole alone or tank-mixed with chlorothalonil resulted in the fewest dollar spot infection centers over the course of the season, as indicated by AUDPC values (Figs. 1 and 2).

Pennsylvania: Royal Oaks Golf Course. Disease pressure at the ROGC site was considered to be moderate. During the study, disease pressure within the untreated control plots ranged from 9 to 41 and peaked on 16 Aug. (14 DAT) (Table 4). No dollar spot symptoms were observed when treatments were first applied on 6 June; however, untreated plots had an average of 13 ICs by 14 June. The main effect of fungicide was significant on most rating dates, and plots treated with chlorothalonil + propiconazole provided acceptable suppression of dollar spot throughout the study. Plots treated with propiconazole provided similar suppression to the tank-mix on 80% of the rating dates. However, unacceptable disease pressure was observed within plots only treated with propiconazole on two rating dates ≈ 14 to 16 DAT. Although providing acceptable suppression of dollar spot on three of five rating dates, plots treated with chlorothalonil generally had the greatest number of ICs when compared with other treatments. When disease activity increased in mid-July, differences in dollar spot incidence among nozzle types were observed. When compared across all fungicide-treated plots, dollar spot suppression was consistently better when

Table 4. Dollar spot (*Sclerotinia homoeocarpa*) infection centers as influenced by chlorothalonil, propiconazole, and a tank-mix applied using five different nozzles at Royal Oaks Country Club 2005.

Treatment ^w	Dollar spot (no.) ^y				
	14 June	2 July	18 July	2 Aug.	16 Aug.
Fungicide					
Chlorothalonil	5 a ^x	1	18 a	8 a	15 a
Propiconazole	2 b	0	12 b	4 b	12 ab
Chlorothalonil + propiconazole	<1 b	0	7 c	4 b	9 b
Nozzle (droplet size) ^y					
TTJ1104 (EC)	2	<1	18 a	11 a	24 a
AI11004 (VC)	2	<1	11 b	4 b	13 b
TT11003 (C)	4	<1	9 b	4 b	12 b
XR11004 (M)	2	<1	12 b	3 b	6 c
XR11003 (F)	3	0	10 b	4 b	5 c
Untreated ^x	13	9	33	26	41
Probability					
Fungicide	* ^z	NS	***	***	**
Nozzle	NS	NS	**	***	***
Fungicide × nozzle	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS

* , ** , *** indicates significance at ≤ 0.05 , ≤ 0.01 , and ≤ 0.001 , respectively. NS = not significant.

^yDroplet sizes are as follows: EC = extremely coarse, VC = very coarse, C = coarse, M = medium, and F = fine.

^xMeans for each main factor and within each column followed by the same letter are not significantly different ($P \leq 0.05$) according to Fisher's protected least significant difference test. Dollar spot levels within untreated plots are shown for comparison purposes but are not included in the statistical analysis.

^wTreatments were applied on 6 and 20 June; 2 and 18 July; and 2 Aug.

^yDollar spot was rated by counting the number of infection centers per plot (2.5 sq m).

fungicide treatments were applied through AI11004, TT11003, XR11004, or XR11003 nozzles versus the 1/4TTJ04 nozzle. On 16 Aug., dollar spot suppression among nozzles ranked as follows: XR11004 = XR11003 >

Table 3. Dollar spot (*Sclerotinia homoeocarpa*) infection centers as influenced by chlorothalonil, propiconazole, and a tank-mix applied using five different nozzles at Bellewood Golf Club 2005.

Treatment ^w	Dollar spot (no.) ^y			
	20 July	27 July	5 Aug.	24 Aug.
Fungicide				
Chlorothalonil	3 ^x	4	4	8 a
Propiconazole	3	4	3	5 b
Chlorothalonil + propiconazole	2	3	1	4 b
Nozzle (droplet size) ^y				
TTJ1104 (EC)	<1	4	4	7
AI11004 (VC)	2	3	2	5
TT11003 (C)	3	3	1	5
XR11004 (M)	4	4	3	5
XR11003 (F)	3	4	3	6
Untreated	13	1	14	25
Probability				
Fungicide	NS ^z	NS	NS	***
Nozzle	NS	NS	NS	NS
Fungicide × nozzle	NS	NS	NS	NS

* , ** , *** indicates significance at ≤ 0.001 . NS = not significant.

^yDroplet sizes are as follows: EC = extremely coarse, VC = very coarse, C = coarse, M = medium, and F = fine.

^xMeans for each main factor and within each column followed by the same letter are not significantly different ($P \leq 0.05$) according to Fisher's protected least significant difference test. Dollar spot levels within untreated plots are shown for comparison purposes but are not included in the statistical analysis.

^wTreatments were applied on 23 May; 6 and 20 June; 2 and 20 July; and 5 Aug.

^yDollar spot was rated by counting the number of infection centers per plot (2.5 sq m).

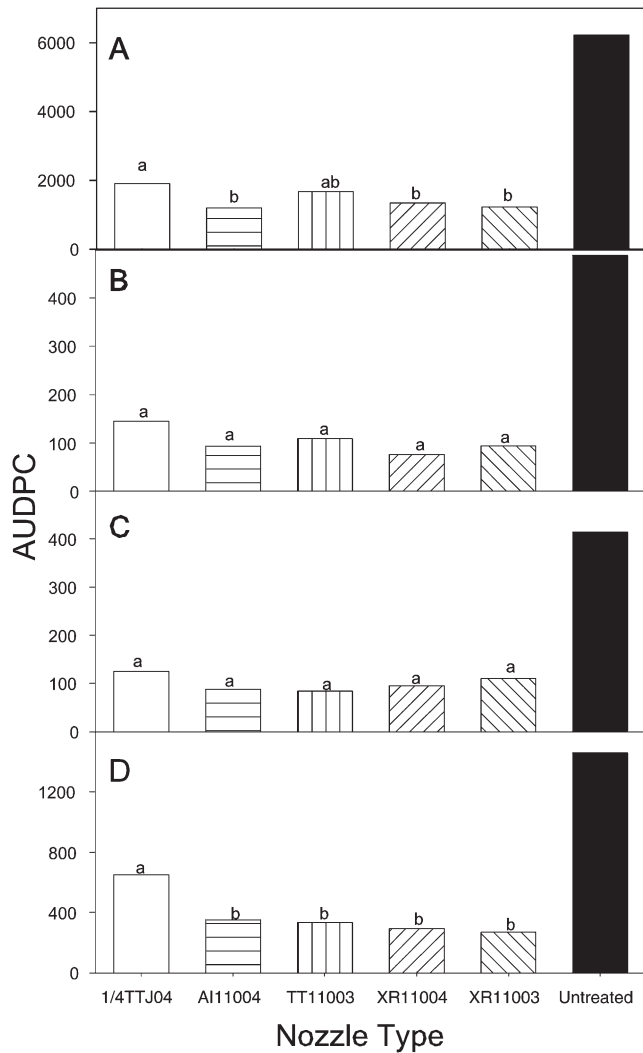


Fig. 1. Area under the disease progress curve (AUDPC) for dollar spot infection centers at four locations as influenced by nozzle type. Nozzle type (TurfJet 1/4TTJ04, extremely coarse water droplet $\geq 450 \mu\text{m}$ in diameter; Air Induction TeeJet AI11004, very coarse water droplet 375 to 450 μm in diameter; TurboTeeJet TT11003, coarse water droplet 250 to 375 μm in diameter; XR TeeJet XR11004, medium water droplet 175 to 250 μm in diameter; and XR11003, fine water droplet 100 to 175 μm in diameter) from Stanley Golf Club (A), Country Club of Farmington (B), Bellewood Golf Club (C), and Royal Oaks Golf Course (D). Means followed by the same letter are not different according to Fisher's protected least significant difference test at $P \leq 0.05$. Dollar spot levels in untreated plots are shown for comparison purposes but are not included in the statistical analysis.

AI11004 = TT11003 > 1/4TTJ04 nozzles. On this final rating date, only those fungicides applied through the XR nozzles provided acceptable control. Over the course of the study, AUDPC values indicated a significant main effect of fungicide and nozzle (Figs. 1 and 2). When applied on an approximate 14-day interval, all nozzles except 1/4TTJ04 facilitated a similar amount of disease reduction (Fig. 1), and the greatest suppression of dollar spot was achieved when chlorothalonil and propiconazole were tank-mixed (Fig. 2).

The overall goal of this study was to determine dollar spot control from two fungicides with different modes of activity when applied through five different nozzles. The spray nozzle is the last piece of equipment that a pesticide comes into contact with and adjustments to the spray droplet formation

and size likely facilitates better coverage and improved protection (Couch, 1985; Fidanza et al., 2009a, b; Shepard et al., 2006; Vincelli and Dixon, 2007). Regardless of the nozzle type evaluated in this study, all fungicides reduced dollar spot when compared with the untreated control. The 1/4TTJ04 nozzle produced the largest water droplet size and provided highly variable and often times poor control of dollar spot, regardless of fungicide mode of activity. Although fungicides used to control dollar spot may be more efficacious when applied using a nozzle that produces fine to coarse droplet sizes, the potential for spray drift and/or negative off-target environmental impacts may increase (Hewitt et al., 1996). The use of nozzles such as the Air Induction and Turbo TeeJet offer drift-reducing advantages when compared with the standard extended range tips and also

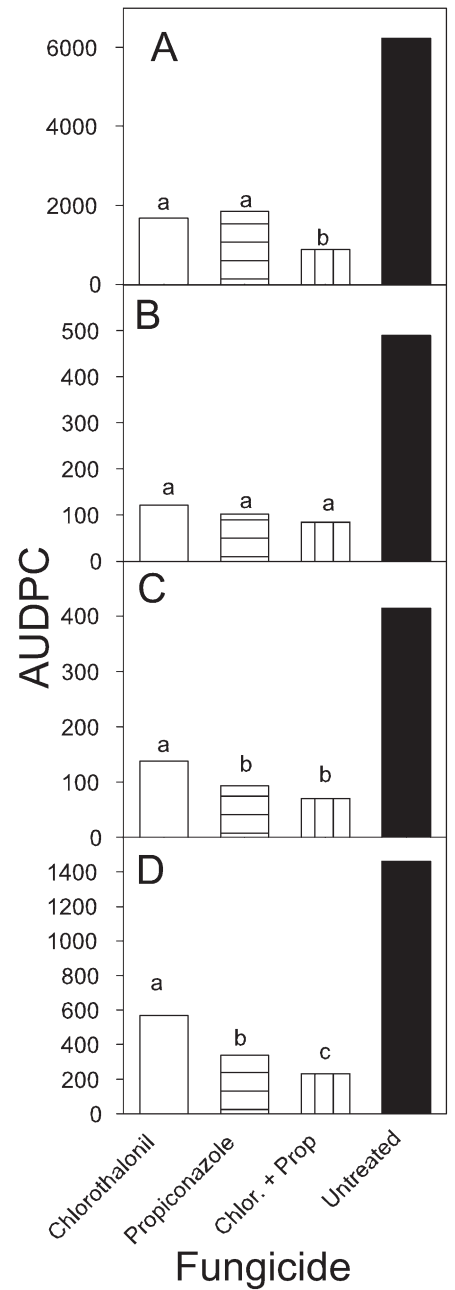


Fig. 2. Area under the disease progress curve (AUDPC) for dollar spot infection centers at four locations as influenced by fungicides. Fungicides included chlorothalonil (Chlor.; 4.56 kg ai/chlorothalonil/ha), propiconazole (Prop.; 0.236 kg ai/ha), and a tank-mix of the two. Data were pooled across five nozzle types. Data represent seasonal dollar spot infection center ratings from Stanley Golf Club (A), Country Club of Farmington (B), Bellewood Golf Club (C), and Royal Oaks Golf Course (D). Means followed by the same letter are not different according to Fisher's protected least significant difference test at $P \leq 0.05$. Dollar spot levels in untreated plots are shown for comparison purposes but are not included in the statistical analysis.

provided improved suppression when compared with flat-fan nozzles that produce extremely coarse droplets (Shepard et al., 2006; Wolf et al., 2002).

In years where dollar spot pressure is low, the impact of nozzle type on disease control may not be observed. During periods of high dollar spot pressure, however, the impact of nozzle likely plays a larger role in the suppression of the disease. Based on the seasonal AUDPC values of sites evaluated in this study, dollar spot occurred in three distinct epidemics. At SGC, disease incidence was severe and the greatest suppression of dollar spot was provided by XR11003, XR11004, and AI11004 nozzles (Fig. 1). At CCF and BGC, dollar spot pressure was low and no differences were observed among nozzle types. Under moderate pressure observed at ROGC, all nozzles producing droplet sizes in the range of fine to very coarse reduced AUDPC when compared with the nozzle producing the largest droplets (i.e., 1/4TTJ04). To achieve maximum dollar spot control, nozzle types that produce fine to coarse droplet sizes will provide the greatest level of suppression. Additionally, excellent disease and drift management may occur by selecting nozzles that incorporate improved technology such as air induction. This information may be useful for managing dollar spot and potentially other foliar diseases, but its usefulness on root- and crown-inhabiting pathogens remains unclear. In an effort to improve fungicide efficacy and to reduce environmental and economic costs, future research should continue to evaluate the impact of nozzle type and application techniques.

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