Statement

Scotts Turf Fungicides & Soil Micro-Organisms

In response to questions from turf managers and agronomists, this summary has been prepared of the safety of the Scotts turf fungicide portfolio on soil micro-organisms.

The information is extracted from European product registration dossiers.

The evaluations are based on doses reaching the soil. In calculating soil doses from a foliar spray, it is assumed that the closely-mown turf of golf courses intercepts 90% of the applied dose, i.e. only 10% reaches the soil and the organisms contained therein. Only a small percentage of that dose will be available in the soil because of the binding effect of the 'thatch' present in the uppermost soil layers. These evaluations, therefore, represent a worst case scenario.

In addition, the doses tested were overdose rates compared to the recommended field use rates.

Doses in the tests are expressed as dose AI/ kg soil, i.e. concentration in soil.

Heritage®

Azoxystrobin was applied to a loam and a sandy loam soil at rates equivalent to 250g ai/ha and **10 times this rate**, incorporated to 5cm (soil concentrations equivalent to 0.33 and 3.33 mg/kg soil, respectively). At these rates, **no ecologically significant effects** on either nitrogen mineralisation or carbon turnover (short-term respiration) were seen.

It was concluded that HERITAGE® would not be expected to cause any significant effects on either soil microflora respiration or nitrogen transformations in soil following use on turf.

Daconil® *(extrapolated from EU review of Daconil® Turf)*

The studies conducted for registration look at the effects of pesticides on the functional endpoints of soil respiration and nitrogen turnover. In the latest studies, there were **no significant effects** at 12 mg ai/kg soil (=90kg AI/ha applied to turf, i.e. **at 6 times the maximum label rate).**