Carl Wittenauer, CGCS at Brookside Golf & Country Club in Columbus, Ohio, knows that timing is everything. Take his role as superintendent for example — three months after accepting the assistant superintendent job at the course, the superintendent position opened up, presenting him with a perfect opportunity to take the reins.

Armed with 30-plus years of knowledge of Brookside, Wittenauer knows all too well that timing is also key when it comes to controlling the No. 1 issue he faces on fairways: dollar spot.

“We’re constantly fighting dollar spot and if you’re not on a two-week program, it can be hard to control,” he says.

Last year he was presented with an option to change that way of thinking. Syngenta Technical Manager Mike Agnew, Ph.D., and Territory Manager Gregg Schaner approached Wittenauer about hosting a trial of Posterity and Secure Action fungicides.

The first application took place in early June — the heart of dollar spot season, according to Wittenauer — with Posterity being applied at a rate of 0.16 fl. oz./1,000 ft² on one 10,000 ft² plot, Secure Action applied at 0.5 fl. oz./1,000 ft² in another and a small strip with no treatment as the control.

The team let the trial go for five weeks and at the end, to no surprise to the Brookside crew, the control plot was covered in dollar spot. However, the plot treated with Secure Action had minimal breakthrough of dollar spot and the one with Posterity had even less, Wittenauer recalled.

After the five-week mark, the crew applied the second application, discovering how both products worked on a curative basis as well. After cleaning up the area, the areas were protected for another four to five weeks.

The extended protection equals big savings for Wittenauer and his course. “If you do two applications of Posterity, you could possibly eliminate one whole spray somewhere, maybe even two, resulting in significant savings for someone on a tight budget.”

He has two applications of Posterity scheduled for his 2019 program. “I feel confident recommending Posterity to other superintendents,” Wittenauer says. Staying informed about the latest developments in dollar spot management is also key, which is why Syngenta created its Dollar Spot Solutions site at GreenCastOnline.com/DollarSpot. This website features dollar spot alerts based on the Smith-Kerns dollar spot model.

A superintendent can sign up to receive texts or emails that will notify them five days before a course is predicted to reach a 20% risk of developing dollar spot, allowing superintendents to plan their sprays accordingly.

“If you let it get in front of you, it will be a challenge for the rest of the season,” Wittenauer warns. Wittenauer recently signed up for the tool and completed his first Posterity application for the season. “If you can have an indicator that it’s time or getting close, that is a great tool.”

For additional trial data and to sign up for dollar spot alerts based on the Smith-Kerns model, visit GreenCastOnline.com/DollarSpot or scan the QR code.