



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **Biofungicide now registered for key turf diseases**

### ***Unique biochemistry offers new tool for superintendents***

**May 26, 2009 – Dorchester, Ontario** – Golf course superintendents and sod farmers have a new tool to combat key turf diseases with the recent label expansion for Rhapsody® ASO approved by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA).

Rhapsody ASO is a broad-spectrum, preventative biofungicide for the suppression of key diseases in turf, including Brown Patch (*Rhizoctonia solani*), Dollar Spot (*Sclerotinia homoeocarpa*) and Anthracnose (*Colletotrichum graminciola*).

“We know golf course superintendents are under increasing pressure from members and the public to reduce the environmental load of the pesticides they use. And while local by-laws and provincial bans may not have as direct an impact on golf courses just yet, as they do for those working in other areas of turf care, there’s a lot more discussion about it these days,” said Janet Porchak, National Marketing and Communications Manager for UAP, the distributor of Rhapsody ASO in Canada. “That’s why this registration for Rhapsody ASO is welcome news because it fills an important void in the arsenal of tools available to superintendents.”

Rhapsody ASO is registered for use in turf in all provinces – including Ontario. It’s registered for use on bluegrass, bentgrass, fescue, ryegrass and orchard grass. This includes fairways, tees, greens and roughs. It’s recommended that Rhapsody ASO be applied with sufficient water to provide thorough coverage and as part of a program with other registered fungicides for resistance management.

“Rhapsody’s favourable environmental profile makes it an ideal product and helps golf course management as a result,” said Sarah Reiter with AgraQuest, the California-based manufacturer of Rhapsody ASO. “It is truly bio-innovation at work to develop a product that’s very effective and fits this market need.”

### **Unique biochemistry at work**

Rhapsody, with three modes of action, harnesses the power of biochemistry to set it apart from other bio products and commonly used conventional fungicides, according to Dr. Brett Highland, a research scientist with AgraQuest. “The *Bacillus subtilis* strain QST713 soil bacteria produces the unique and patented combination of three groups of biochemicals called lipopeptides. It works on the leaf surface and with the activity of three different chemical classes for maximum effect in disease prevention.

Key organic certifications that Rhapsody has earned include the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI), the USDA's National Organic Program (NOP), and the Washington State Department of Agriculture organic designation.

Rhapsody is also used for disease suppression in flowers, greenhouse vegetables and ornamentals.

### **About UAP Canada**

Founded in 1978, United Agri Products (UAP) is the largest distributor of agricultural and non-crop inputs in Canada and the United States and is an emerging developer of their own proprietary innovative new technologies. UAP is helping growers meet the challenges of higher crop yields and healthier production practices by offering a comprehensive line of proven crop protection products, including plant nutrients, herbicides, fungicides, insecticides and specialty products. These products are available to Canadian growers through national and regional dealers. UAP Canada is headquartered in Dorchester, Ontario, with regional offices in Oak Bluff, Manitoba and Langley, British Columbia and reps in every corner of the country.

### **About AgraQuest**

As a leader in innovative biological and low-chemical pest management solutions, AgraQuest is at the forefront of a shift in how food is grown. AgraQuest focuses on discovering, developing, manufacturing and marketing highly effective biological and low-chemical pest, disease control and yield enhancing products for the agricultural, home & garden and food safety markets. Through its Agrochemical and BioInnovations Divisions, AgraQuest provides its customers and partners with tools to create value-enhancing solutions. AgraQuest has its own direct sales force in the NAFTA crop protection markets, and sells its products through a network of distributors and partners in other global regions as well as in several non agriculture related markets.

-30-

### **For further information, contact:**

Janet Porchak  
National Marketing & Comm Manager  
UAP Canada Inc.  
Dorchester, ON  
Phone: (519) 268-5921  
or 1-800-265-5444  
[jporchak@uap.ca](mailto:jporchak@uap.ca)

Carmine D'Antonio  
National Product Manager T&O  
UAP Canada Inc.  
Langley, British Columbia  
Phone: (604) 230-5526  
[cdantonio@uap.ca](mailto:cdantonio@uap.ca)

Sarah Reiter  
Director of Global Marketing  
AgraQuest Inc.  
1530 Drew Avenue  
Davis, CA 95618  
Office: 530-750-0150  
[sreiter@agraquest.com](mailto:sreiter@agraquest.com)

Always read and follow label directions

Rhapsody is a registered trademark of AgraQuest.