
From: K-State turf information [K-STATE_TURF@LISTSERV.KSU.EDU] on behalf of Megan Kennelly [kennelly@KSU.EDU]
Sent: Thursday, May 07, 2009 12:33 PM
To: K-STATE_TURF@LISTSERV.KSU.EDU
Subject: [K-STATE_TURF] K-State Turf: summer patch, dollar spot, golf turf blog
Attachments: summer patch.pdf

Hello,

1) It is the season to start thinking about summer patch. I'm attaching an article, and there are links there to a website with pictures and information on commercial products.

2) Dollar spot is active in some putting greens in NE Kansas.

3) Golf course turf pathology blog

If you just can't enough plant pathology, you might like to check out a new turf disease blog. John Kaminski, Assistant Professor at Penn State, set up the blog. John was a speaker at our Kansas Turf Conference last fall and you might have met him there.

The blog will feature weekly updates from five different regions around the US. The focus is on golf course turf. The 5 partners in crime are:

John Kaminski, Penn State (Northeast)

Lane Tredway, NC State (Southeast)

Jim Kerns, U of Wisconsin (Midwest: Great lakes) Frank Wong, U of California, Riverside (West Coast)

and

Me: K-State (Midwest: Great Plains/Central)

Here is the link:

<http://www.turfdiseases.blogspot.com/>

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Summer patch in turfgrass

Summer patch of Kentucky Bluegrass is caused by a root-infecting fungus. On golf courses, this disease can also be a problem on annual bluegrass in putting greens, and there have been a few scattered reports of summer patch in creeping bentgrass in other states. This article will focus on Kentucky Bluegrass.

The pathogen becomes active in May and colonizes the roots. However, the symptoms don't show up until the turf is stressed by heat and drought. Symptoms appear in June through August as patches 2-6 inches across. The foliage turns dull reddish brown, then tan, then light straw in color. Often the center of the patch remains green, leading to a donut shape of the affected turf, and because of this the disease is sometimes called "frog-eye patch." To see photos, visit:

<http://www.plantpath.ksu.edu/DesktopModules/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentID=986>

The pathogen can survive several years in the soil and cause repeat damage in the same location.

The implementation of appropriate cultural practices is critical for this disease. Avoid excessive nitrogen fertilization in the spring. A good rule of thumb for Kentucky bluegrass is to apply 75% of nitrogen in the fall, 25% in the spring. The spring fertilizer should be a slow release formulation to prevent a flush of new, susceptible growth during the hot months. Acidifying nitrogen sources such as ammonium sulfate can reduce disease severity, but if your water pH is high be aware that it can counter the acid in the fertilizer. Keep mowing heights at least 2 inches tall. Thatch reduction is also important. Lawns with a history of summer patch should be dethatched or core-aerated each year. If turf becomes affected, watering during the afternoon can cool the plants and alleviate the stress.

The common type Kentucky bluegrasses Park, Kenblue, SouthDakota Certified, Ginger, Alene, and Greenley are susceptible. The older cultivars Adelphi, Admiral, America, Baron, Bristol, Challenge, Columbia, Eclipse, Majestic, and Monopoly have moderate resistance. Data are lacking for many new cultivars.

Chemical control is not completely effective but it can reduce disease if used in combination with the cultural practices outlined above. One rule of thumb is that chemicals should be applied first in mid-May with a second application as indicated on the product label (usually about a month later). Another guideline to use is that chemicals should be applied first when 2-inch soil temps are consistently above 65F, with a second application as recommended on the fungicide label. *How to get 2-in soil temps?* Go to <http://av.vet.ksu.edu/webwx/> and choose a station near you, and select 2-in soil temps. Or, buy a soil thermometer.

There are some products available for homeowners to use, but there is little to no published efficacy data. According to the company website, the Green Light products called “Fung-away Systemic Granules” (containing myclobutanil) and “Fung-away Lawn Spray Hose-end Concentrate” (containing triadimefon) are labeled for summer patch. “Bayer Advanced Fungus Control for Lawns-Granules” (contains triadimefon) is also labeled for summer patch. There likely are others—be sure to read labels carefully. Commercial lawn companies have more products available than the ones sold for homeowners. However, even with commercial products disease control is not consistent. As I said above, cultural management is the key.

For information on commercial products visit the following website:

<http://www.plantpath.ksu.edu/DesktopModules/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentID=986>