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**From:** K-State turf information [K-STATE\_TURF@LISTSERV.KSU.EDU] on behalf of Megan Kennelly [kennelly@KSU.EDU]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 22, 2009 4:31 PM  
**To:** K-STATE\_TURF@LISTSERV.KSU.EDU  
**Subject:** [K-STATE\_TURF] K-State Turf: the week in pictures  
**Attachments:** K-state turf.pdf

Hello,

Attached is a newsletter describing and showing photos of some turf topics over the last week or so, including powdery mildew, spring dead spot, spring cultivation, and moss. And, one special-bonus tree story courtesy of one of my colleagues.

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K-State turf: May 22 2009

### The Week in Pictures

In the diagnostic lab lately I've seen powdery mildew, potential chemical injury, and a sedge mis-identified by a homeowner as Kentucky bluegrass. Knowing the plant species is always the key starting point when solving plant problems



Powdery mildew from home lawn, shady area

I also received a nice image sample from one of our county agents. Though I can't say 100% just from a photo, the timing, the symptoms, and the host (bermudagrass) point strongly to spring dead spot. The symptoms appeared about 3 weeks ago, which is about the same time SDS symptoms appeared in my research plot here on campus.



Photo by Lacey Shapland

On the golf course side, I've heard from a few more superintendents that they are seeing dollar spot activity. In addition, the warm, sunny, windy weather is leading to some dry spots/hot spots on putting greens. At our turf research facility we have seen some hot spots.

We also aerified, verticut, and topdressed early this week and hopefully the turf will be rejuvenated soon. We had some issues with thatch build-up (puffiness) in our research greens last year, so this year we are trying harder to stay on top of it. In addition to temporarily stressing the turf, the cultivation has definitely stressed out our moss. The dark brown in the photo is silvery thread moss. It will be interesting to see how the moss recovers.



The after-effects of verticutting, aerifying, and topdressing in a corner of our research green with a heavy infestation of moss. The moss is dark brown

Speaking of moss, we've been busy getting started with a couple of moss studies, looking at the effects of different fertility practices and some alternative moss control products. One product, MossBuster, left some noticeable discoloration (phytotoxicity) in the turf. The label notes that discoloration will likely occur, with turf recovering in 10-14 days.



Plot with MossBuster spot sprays, 24 hours post application. The dark brown is silvery thread moss. The light brown is creeping bentgrass that also received some of the product.

Finally, on the tree side, one of our KSRE Horticulture agents Jacob Weber sent in an excellent example of tree abuse. Here is the story and photo in his own words:

“The homeowner "fixed" his 'Bradford' tree a few years back when the trunk split. Now he has another problem!”



Girdled Bradford pear. Photo by Jacob Weber