
From: K-State turf information [K-STATE_TURF@LISTSERV.KSU.EDU] on behalf of Megan Kennelly [kennelly@KSU.EDU]
Sent: Friday, August 07, 2009 5:23 PM
To: K-STATE_TURF@LISTSERV.KSU.EDU
Subject: [K-STATE_TURF] K-State turf update

K-State turf

1) Field day

Thanks to everyone who participated in the KSU Turf Field Day in Wichita yesterday. The JC Pair Hort Center was looking fantastic thanks to Dr. Jason Griffin, his staff, and many volunteers. Though it was sprinkling, we were still able to move everyone through the 8 stops. The lightning was menacing by the end and I was happy to move inside for lunch. Apparently my hair was sticking up due to static in the air so I was feeling particularly vulnerable. Unfortunately, due to the rain, I didn't take my camera out to take photos at the event but I saw a few others snapping pics and maybe I can include those later.

As I mentioned at field day, my "top 5" list of plant problems so far in 2009 are:

- * root problems due to saturated soils
- * brown patch in turf
- * cedar apple rusts
- * pine problems in general
- * Pythium blight in turf

2) National Plant Pathology Meeting: Update

I spent Aug 1-5 at a national plant pathology conference. What do we do at these conferences? It's an opportunity for plant pathologists from across the US (and other nations) to get together and talk about recent and ongoing research and to discuss potential projects. People give presentations (usually 15 or 30 minutes) about their work, or they prepare posters (about 3 x 4 feet) to display research findings. The posters (nearly 900) are displayed in a big hall and authors are present at various times. That way, a viewer can stop by, read through a poster, then stop back and meet the author later to ask specific questions.

On the turf side, we had posters and presentations about a variety of topics. Here are some examples:

*There are some new diseases popping up in Florida on warm-season grasses. The researchers are trying to get a handle on the identification of the pathogen.

*There's also a new leaf spot that has shown up in Mississippi and south

Texas on bermudagrass and zoysia.

*A grad student in Arkansas showed some maps of large patch disease in zoysia. From the mapping at one site, it looks like aerification while disease is active definitely spread the disease around.

* Researchers in North Carolina are examining the influence of several fertility practices on spring dead spot in bermudagrass.

*On the more "basic" (lab) side of things, researchers at Ohio State are examining proteins that are secreted by the dollar spot fungus and how they interact with plants at the cellular/molecular level.

These are just a few examples, and this is just turf. There's all sorts of new stuff every year.

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