

CORNELL
Turfgrass

Your Weekly Link to Turfgrass Information!

Short CUTT

During periods of warm humid weather there is nothing like a conversation with a turf disease diagnostician. Rich Buckley, the Director of Diagnostic Services at Rutgers University is on pace to break a previous sample submission record set in 2010 of over 520 samples in a single month. This not only indicates the pressure high value turf managers are facing from disease and insects, but also how the problems are so widespread and that many traditional fungicide programs are simply not functioning for their usual intervals. In other words if you are used to getting 21 days out of an application you might consider budgeting for 14 even 7 day intervals. The recent and expected shift in the weather may provide some relief from the heat and humidity but with persistent but spotty showers there is plenty of moisture available for continued disease pressure. The models are calling for decreases in

Pythium risk and increase in dollar spot risk (a measure of temperature change) and brown patch risk will remain high along the I-95 corridor. Since we are discussing fungicide applications it might be a good time to consider what is going into the tank. The common “cocktail” approach might be creating some additional challenges for your putting greens. Recently their seems to have been an increase in foliar burn associated with combinations containing Daconil, Primo and Phosphites, if you add a DMI material such as propiconazole the growth regulating effect could be exacerbated. These seem to be common denominators for damage especially under the intense heat we are currently facing. For those turf managers with little to no annual bluegrass you can enjoy the heat knowing that many perennial grasses will enter dormancy under intense heat and drought but will recover. Others not so much.

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION UPDATE

Bentgrass in Lawns

The persistent warm and in some places wet other places dry weather wreaks havoc on bentgrass that has invaded lawns throughout the Northeast region. Bentgrass at lawn height makes a very puffy surface due to the high percentage of stoloniferous growth and very shallow rooting. The current weather pattern is ideal for foliar diseases such as dollar spot and brown patch, occasionally Pythium. Also if you have had dry



conditions it also does not tolerate drought very well due to the shallow rooted nature. Selective removal of bentgrass from KBG lawns is possible with multiple applications of Tenacity made in the Fall. Expect to seed into the dead area, Tenacity is ok at seeding. Physical removal requires removal of an area about 1-2 ft. past the edge of the visible grass at the surface to account for the stolons that have penetrated the existing turf but have not surfaced. *Tom Kowalsick*

Fore Cast

Weather for the Turf Industry

LAST WEEK (July 15 to July 21)

TEMP

An oppressively warm week with temps over 6 above normal and high humidity. Heat stress was widespread and as expected began to break in Friday/Saturday time period. GDD accumulation was high and we are still not as warm as we were last year-about 1 week behind but about 1 week ahead of the 15 yr. avg. Soils are mid to upper 70's to low 80's.

MOISTURE

Mostly dry throughout the region with most <0.5" except Central LI and south that were 1 to as much as 4". ET was still very high with almost 0.25" of water lost per day. High humidity while in the 70-80% range still has “room” to absorb water, hence the drying that continues to occur. Models were very high for all diseases except for dollar spot during the high heat period.

FORECAST

A closer to normal week that might feel like an “arctic cold front” with temps in the upper 70's to 80's during day and 50 and 60's for lows. Rainfall will continue to come in the pop-up showers typical of summer thunderstorms, so expect hit and miss. Longer term models calling for continued warm and stormy.

CHECK THE MAPS/PREDICTIONS

<http://www.nrcc.cornell.edu/grass/>

WEED UPDATE

RANDY PROSTAK

UMASS



The warm weather that started wet and now has turned dry has been absolutely ideal for crabgrass germination and development. In areas where turf is thin plants are as large as 10 tillers! However in dense turf where crabgrass is integrated into the canopy plants are as little as 2nd as much as 6 tillers. The warm and wet weather in June also will weaken the preemergence barrier as microbial activity is accelerated and if there was a low rate used, it could be compromised. Depending on site location and condition of turf, crabgrass generally ranges for the three-leaf to two-tiller growth stage. A wide range of growth stages will require turf managers to carefully monitor a specific turf site in order to select the best postemergence crabgrass herbicide. Fenoxaprop (Acclaim Extra®) is best used on crabgrass up to the one-tiller stage of growth. Quinclorac (Drive®) can be used on a wider range of crabgrass growth stages, but little to not control is achieved when crabgrass in the 2 to 4-tiller growth stage. Dimension®, often considered by most to be only a preemergence crabgrass herbicide, has postemergence activity on crabgrass prior to

tillering. Mesotrione (Tenacity®) can be used to control crabgrass less than four tillers in size. Follow specific label information for the addition of surfactants. Consider using higher spray volumes as the turf canopy may create “spray shading” and intercept the spray not allowing it to reach the very small crabgrass seedlings. Paspalum is rearing its ugly head. This species is a crabgrass look-alike and a close relative of dallisgrass which is found much farther to our south. Management strategies that are effective for crabgrass, including both cultural practices and herbicides are not effective on this species. Applications of MSMA are the best choice and applications should **not** be made when cool-season turfgrass are moisture and/or heat stress. Repeat application may be required at 14 to 21 days and some temporary turfgrass discoloration is likely to occur. If the population is small, digging and reseeded can be used as a non-chemical management strategy. Where populations are widespread and makeup a large percentage of existing plant material, renovation following the application of a translocated non-selective herbicide should be considered.

GAZING IN THE GRASS

FRANK S. ROSSI

CORNELL UNIV

What to do if turf is dead now? If you have experienced significant turf loss in the last month the good news is that you may have identified structural weaknesses such as poor drainage, low air movement or excess traffic due to design or overuse. If this is the case then by all means do miss the chance to strike up a conversation with your turf users to begin discussing short and long term solutions. The bad news is the grass is dead and now a brown mat or exposed soil is what is left and now requires some level of recovery. Herein lies the rub-This is among the worst times to establish grass from seed due to the need to water that creates disease problems in this heat and if sodding, often the plants will

simply not push roots into the underlying material. Temporary solutions include widespread plugging if trying to get a putting surface playable. Be sure to cut plugs as thick as possible so the a medium for the roots to colonize for water and nutrients requiring little supplemental water over the top. In lawns and sports field consider thick-cut sod (typically cut at greater than 1.5” of soil). Again this provides a rooting medium (the thick soil) that the plants will explore. Keep in mind these are temporary solutions as often thick cut sod creates more layering problems at a greater depth. **Phosphites and Injury** As mentioned earlier there appears to be some phytotoxicity issues

when using phosphites in combination with other products. Professor John Kaminski conducted several studies over the last 6 years investigating potential damage. In a 2007 study he concluded, “when any individual product evaluated (phosphite, Headway, and Primo) was applied alone, little to no injury was observed. However, an unacceptable level of injury, however, was observed in plots receiving a three-way tank-mix of phosphite (except Fairphyte) in combination with Headway (azoxystrobin plus propiconazole) (1.5 fl oz) and Primo (0.25 oz). So take great care and consider making multiple tanks or testing tank on an area prior to making large scale applications.