

PRECIPITATION RATES OF SPRINKLERS

Taken from "Grounds Maintenance"

The precipitation rate of sprinklers refers to the amount of water in actual depth placed on the ground. It is expressed in depth to the nearest hundredth of an inch in the same manner that rainfall is measured. The primary difference is that sprinkler precipitation is expressed in inches per hour of application while rainfall is usually given for a 24-hour period. Sprinkler precipitation can be measured with standard rain gauges. The figures are **averages** applied over the entire area of coverages.

The precipitation rate is normally used as a selection factor for choosing sprinklers which apply water at a desired rate, usually one which is compatible with the infiltration rate of soils to be watered. The coefficient of uniformity is used to determine the efficiency of the sprinkler and the spacing in distributing that precipitation uniformly over the irrigated area.

A WINTER DISEASE OF KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS

This past winter we had an unusual long period of snow cover. This has led to the severe disease injury on some species of Kentucky bluegrass. While one might at first suspect snowmold as being the problem we have established the cause of the problem as due to **Helminthosporium**.

Common Kentucky bluegrass and other **Helminthosporium** susceptible varieties such as Park, Delta, Newport and Prato have been severely damaged. It is not known if the damage is due to a late fall infection by **Helminthosporium** which weakened the grass plants with the subsequent cold weather destroying the weakened turf; or if the fungus continued to grow and develop on the grass plants in the moist chamber provided by the snow cover much the same way snowmold does. Regardless of where or how it happened the disease has done considerable damage to **Helminthosporium** susceptible varieties of Kentucky bluegrass. The extent of the damage will not be known until the spring green-up occurs. This points out again the necessity of planting Kentucky bluegrass varieties which are resistant to **Helminthosporium** such as Merion, Fylking, Pennstar, and Nugget in Michigan where **Helminthosporium** disease are such a problem. If **Helminthosporium** susceptible varieties are grown, consideration should be given to applying one or more late fall sprays of a fungicide. Use fungicides such as Daconil 2787, Fore, Dyrene, or Acti-dione Thiram will prevent this disease problem from occurring in the future.

Article submitted by Dr. J. M. Vargas, Jr., of the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, MSU.

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