

USGA UPDATE

Overseeding Irregularities and Diseases Continue

2006

University of Florida's
Pest Control Guide for Turfgrass ManagersUNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA
IFAS EXTENSION

The University of Florida produces an excellent pest control manual for turfgrass managers, with a list of recommended pesticides for common turfgrass pests at the following website:

<http://turfpfath.ifas.ufl.edu/turfgrass/2006TurfPestControlGuide.pdf>

By Todd Lowe

Warm temperatures in early winter have had a significant impact on golf course playability. As mentioned in previous updates, increased disease activity on putting greens and the need for increased cultivation occurred in early winter. Overseeding consistency

is an additional factor that the odd weather pattern affected.

Some golf courses in our region overseed playing surfaces with cool-season grasses to improve color. Certain factors dictate overseeding success, and one of the most important of these is temperature. Ideally, seeds are applied as soil temperature decreases and bermudagrass becomes dormant or semi-dormant. Increased soil temperatures occurred this past fall, which encouraged prolonged bermudagrass growth during the overseeding establishment period. As a result, the bermudagrass turf became more competitive creating spotty overseed establishment.

Overseeding irregularities were less obvious when the bermudagrass turf was green, and were not observed until frosts occurred in January and February. Low temperatures caused the bermudagrass to temporarily lose its color, accentuating non-uniform overseed establishment and causing numerous golfer complaints. Winters like these have certainly caused clubs to take a long, hard look at whether the practice of overseeding is worth the aggravation and increased resources necessary for good overseed quality, particularly in southern Florida.

Some disease pressure continues to plague golf course putting greens throughout the region. In particular, *Pythium* was observed on several courses in South Florida during recent visits. Temperature fluctuations have, at times, been conducive for *Pythium* outbreaks and it is important to scout, observe weather patterns, and utilize reliable products for *Pythium* control as needed. Just because a product is labeled for the control of a particular

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Rapid Turfgrass Diagnostic Service
Florida Extension Plant Disease Clinic
Building 78, Mowry Road
Gainesville, Florida 32611-0830 Phone (352) 392-1795

This is the correct form for the Rapid Turfgrass Diagnostic Service. Please fill out as much of the form as possible, keep a copy for your records, and submit the original with the sample. See reverse for submission instructions. For the most timely response, call or email to advise when the sample will arrive.

\$75.00 PER SAMPLE **DATE SAMPLE COLLECTED** / /

Attach business card or fill in below

Superintendent or Turfgrass Manager	Sample Submitter or bill to
Name _____	_____
Company _____	_____
Address _____	_____
City/Zip _____	_____
County _____	FAX/MAIL/EMAIL To : Grower <input type="checkbox"/> Submitter <input type="checkbox"/>
Phone No. () _____	() _____
FAX No. () _____	() _____
EMAIL _____	_____

TURF SPECIES, CULTIVAR, PLANTING TYPE _____

GREEN OR FIELD NUMBER, IDENTIFIER _____

Check/Fill-in all that apply

SYMPTOMS INCLUDE: Leaf spot ☐ Blight ☐ Patch ☐ Ring ☐ Decline ☐

SYMPTOMS ARE: 12" or less ☐ Larger than 1 ft ☐ Mild and scattered ☐ Severe and widespread ☐

SYMPTOMS DEVELOPED: Suddenly ☐ Within the last week ☐ Over several weeks ☐

SYMPTOMS OTHER INFO _____

TURF MAINTENANCE: Height of cut _____ Irrigation water quality/reliability _____

Growth regulator and frequency: _____ Recent fertility schedule _____

List fungicide applications for the past month (product and rate): _____

Additional information that may be helpful: _____

I would like: diagnostic confirmation ☐ Fungicide management recommendations ☐ Other: _____

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pathogen does not necessarily ensure that it provides the best control.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: *The University also has a Rapid Turfgrass Diagnostics Service which provides accurate disease diagnosis within 24-48 hours. See IFAS form in this section for more information.*



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