

News

DISEASE

Gray leaf spot hits in humid weather

Gray leaf spot develops rapidly during periods of warm temperatures and abundant moisture, warns Dr. Walter Walla, a Texas Agricultural Extension Service plant pathologist. The fungal disease can give St. Augustinegrass, or centipede, a blotchy appearance.

Gray leaf spot first appears in damp, shaded areas. Grass with heavy disease development may have a scorched appearance. The disease is characterized by irregular gray, dirty-yellow or ash-colored spots on grass leaves. The borders of leaf blades may have a brown, purple or water soaked appearance or a gray mold may cover the spots, says Walla.

The disease becomes more severe when excessive nitrogen fertilizer is applied on certain St. Augustinegrass types. Newly-sprigged and rapidly-growing grasses are more susceptible. Walla advises watering during the day so foliage won't remain wet overnight. He also points out that most turf fungicides effectively control the disease when used at 10-day intervals during the warm, humid periods. Mix the fungicide in 15 gallons of water plus two ounces of liquid detergent for each 1,000 square feet of turf.

LABOR

Summer labor must comply with law

With summer, many youths look for temporary employment. It is a great source of help during the busy season. However, the Department of Labor warns that the child labor laws must be observed. These laws do not apply to anyone 18 and over.

At 16 and 17 years old, youths may be employed without a limit on hours worked and in any nonagricultural occupation other than those declared hazardous by the Secretary of Labor. Some of those that might apply include:

operating various types of power-driven saws and guillotine shears; operating most power-driven hoisting apparatus such as non-automatic elevators, fork lifts, and cranes; and operating motor vehicles or working as outside helper on motor vehicle.

The Department of Labor office told **Golf Business** that operating a motor vehicle applies to transportation. Driving a tractor, doing work, is not included and is allowable.

However, not for workers under 16. Fourteen and 15 year olds are excluded from working in all hazardous occupations, including operating or tending most power-driven equipment.

If you have a specific question, call Betty Hayes in the USDL information office at 202/523-8743.

By the way, golf course labor is considered nonagricultural.

PESTICIDES

DOW requests cancellation move

"We believe that a hearing panel composed of three EPA employees will find it difficult to recommend that he (EPA administrator) reverse his position. The situation calls for independent review."

With that statement, DOW Chemical Company withdrew from the 2,4,5-T and silvex suspension hearings and requested that the Environmental Protection Agency assign an Administrative Law Judge and schedule an immediate pre-hearing so that a full examination on risks and benefits could be undertaken with an ultimate government decision resulting.

DOW attorney Michael J. Traynor stated, "We have participated in two days of suspension hearings before a three-man panel of EPA employees to determine if 2,4,5-T and silvex herbicides should remain off the market during the upcoming six-month to two-year cancellation process. It has become apparent that the fundamental issues, which are the long-term safety and benefits of these products, will not be considered, therefore we are withdrawing from the 'suspension' hearings and pressing for prompt commencement of the broader cancellation hearings. This action is not an abandonment of the products or their defense, but simply a means to expedite the final resolution of their futures by beginning the cancellation hearings immediately."

DISEASE

Turf symposium provides update

A symposium on Turfgrass Diseases recently (May 15-17, 1979) took place in Columbus, Ohio. Over 150 were in attendance representing turfgrass pathologists and agronomists from universities, chemical companies, lawn care companies, sod and seed producers, golf courses, and other turfgrass industries. The major disease problems on turfgrasses were discussed by twenty leading experts. Time was devoted to discussion periods in which an exchange of ideas between those attending freely took place. These ideas should prove invaluable in developing new research areas in managing turfgrass disease problems.

The morning of the last day was devoted to a contributed paper session. That afternoon was spent touring turfgrass research facilities at ChemLawn Corporation and Ohio State University.

The symposium proceedings will be published and should be a valuable update on turfgrass disease problems. Anyone interested in purchasing the proceedings should contact the symposium organizers, Dr. P. O. Larsen — Ohio State University (614-422-6987) or Dr. B. G. Joyner — ChemLawn Corporation (614-

885-9588.

The response to the symposium has led to the planning of another symposium for 1980. The 1980 symposium is scheduled to occur on Oct. 14, 15, 16 and will cover insect problems on turfgrasses. Those seeking additional information or wish to contribute ideas for this symposium should contact B. G. Joyner, Plant Diagnostic Labs, ChemLawn.

EFFLUENT WATER

Effluent can enrich land, pocket-book

As an incentive for considering innovative treatment processes of sewage, the Federal cost-share percentage is 85 percent, as compared to 75 percent for conventional sewage treatment plants. This is a result of the 1977 amendments to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. They instructed all construction grant applicants planning new or improved sewage treatment plants to consider innovative treatment processes such as land treatment.

Land near cities can sometimes benefit from the nutrients contained in the effluent, typically 50 pounds of nitrogen, 25 pounds of phosphorus and 40 pounds of potassium, according to Dr. John Sweeten, agricultural Engineer with



Speakers at the recent symposium on Turfgrass Diseases 1979 (May 15-17) held in Columbus, Ohio. Pictured from left to right, P. O. Larsen (Ohio State University — Symposium Co-Organizer), J. L. Saladini (DuPont-Denver), N. Jackson (University of Rhode Island), T. E. Freeman (University of Florida), B. G. Joyner (Plant Diagnostic Labs., ChemLawn Corp. — Symposium Co-Organizer), L. L. Burpee (Bermuda Dept. Agric. & Fisheries), J. M. Fenstermacher (ChemLawn Corp.), A. K. Hagan (Ohio State University), R. W. Smiley (Cornell University), J. D. Smith (Canada Dept. of Agric.), H. B. Couch (VPI & SU), J. M. Vargas, Jr. (Michigan State University), and L. T. Lucas (North Carolina State University). Speakers not pictured include A. F. Schmitthener (Ohio Agric. Res. & Devel. Center), R. M. Riedel (Ohio State University), P. F. Colbaugh (Texas A&M University), C. F. Hodges (Iowa State University), R. M. Morrison (Northrup, King & Co.), K. Kmetz (DuPont-Columbus) and H. Cole, Jr. (Pennsylvania State University).