Dollar Spot

The fungus Sclerotinia homoeocarpa ("Dollar Spot") commonly attacks low-cut creeping bentgrass. It thrives in damp clippings or moist, cool soil.

Symptoms:
- Fast-spreading Dollar Spot begins as small discolorations. Grass blades bleach, forming dead patches on turfgrass surfaces. Spreading infection causes ugly, tan-colored spots 2-3" wide (silver dollar size).
- Many small, round dead patches
- Hourglass-shaped lesions
- Cobwebby white mold
- Damaged putting greens

Solution:
Kestrel®MEX

Kestrel®MEX is a broad spectrum fungicide ideally suited for control of Dollar Spot and more than 20 other troublesome turf diseases. Based on a unique, value-added formulation of the proven ingredient propiconazole, Kestrel MEX is one of Phoenix's new NexGen products, a line of enhanced, post-patent pesticides that comprises the highest-quality, top-performing formulations. Kestrel MEX can be tank mixed with a variety of other fungicides and insecticides and is also available in a BATPak®, Phoenix’s convenient, returnable packaging concept.
NO SINGLE BENTGRASS DOES IT ALL
A creeping bentgrass that performs well at putting green height may get puffy on tees and fairways — or collars. That's why you need choices, and Turf Merchants has those quality selections.

WE DRAW ON SEVERAL BENTGRASS BREEDERS AND SEED PRODUCERS
There are as many opinions on what constitutes a quality bent as there are uses and locations, so we draw from some of the best breeders and Oregon growers to produce our time-proven, top-performing varieties.

WINTER OVERSEEDING BENTGRASSES NEEDN'T COST A FORTUNE
As creeping bentgrass gains favor over *Poa trivialis* for winter overseeding the tighter new bermudagrass cultivars, we have quality choices that needn't cost an arm, a leg, and that new greens mower you've budgeted for.

THE BOTTOM LINE IS SIMPLE — YOU NOW HAVE SEVERAL CHOICES
If you can't sort them out, we have people who can help you select which bentgrass best fits your specific needs.

Choose to call Turf Merchants today!

800.421.1735
The Most Important Redefinition We've Ever Seen?

BY GEOFF SHACKELFORD, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

At the Golf Industry Show in February, the American Society of Golf Course Architects had just emerged from a closed-door meeting. Two scions of the profession, Alice and Pete Dye, approached Golf Digest Architecture Editor Ron Whitten in the Orange County Convention Center hallway. When Pete and Alice come calling, you listen.

With Bruce Charlton ascending to the ASGCA presidency, they explained to Whitten that there would be an increased emphasis on environmental issues. The Dyes told Whitten that one of the ways to immediately impact the game would be through some sort of environmental category in the highly influential Golf Digest course rankings.

Whitten explained that the panelists had enough on their plates already, so Pete started in on his beef about what he called the “excessive use” of water on American courses. Whitten countered that maybe it was time to redefine the magazine's conditioning category.

The old Golf Digest ballot definition for “Conditioning” went like this: “How would you rate the playing quality of tees, fairways and greens when you last played the course?”

This disastrous 18-word definition left the magazine open to extreme hostility from golf course superintendents and architects who found it emphasizing the manicuring and beautification of turf over leaner conditions that would produce firm and fast golf.

Under those fluorescent lights of the convention center halls, a debate ensued over the proper rewording for the conditioning category should Whitten get it approved by his superiors. The Dyes nominated sentences that emphasized “firm and rolling,” but were leery about giving the impression that golf should have greens that don’t hold. Whitten came back with something about “firm and fast” but also threw in a stipulation about greens still holding.

They eventually settled on the language: “How fast, firm and rolling were the fairways, and how firm yet receptive were the greens on the date you played the course?”

Whitten e-mailed Jerry Tarde, head honcho of Golf Digest, who circulated the proposed redefinition among the editors. They came back with questions, as editors are prone to do, most wondering about a panelist playing two days after a heavy rain.

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Golf Digest's new conditioning definition could change course maintenance in a big way.
Great turf is built on tradition.

We know how important beautiful turf conditions are to the game. For the past 53 years, we’ve owned and operated our own golf course. It’s that hands-on experience that has taught us just how much energy, knowledge and passion superintendents put in to turf to keep it looking better... and playing better. Maybe that’s why all of us here at Cleary are uncommonly committed to working with you to keep your turf looking and playing at its best.

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Since 1937, we’ve been listening to the ideas and suggestions of superintendents to help us develop our line of exceptional turf products. Backed by our 70 year tradition of excellence in product research, innovative formulation, rigorous testing and field support, Cleary products have become the disease control solutions you can count on – day in and day out.

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Cleary has always been and will remain an excellent resource for superintendents. More than a supplier of superior turf products, we're your long-term partner in creating turf conditions that will make any golfer's day. For more information about our products, contact your local distributor or visit www.clearychemical.com.

Make it a Cleary Day.
If You’re Looking
At a Fairway Mower...

Start From the Ground up.

Only the reel of a fairway mower actually cuts grass. And there’s only one reel in the world that can actually improve the quality of your turf. For almost 90 years, Jacobsen has manufactured the most advanced, precision-engineered reels in the world. Reels that have 67 points of unique geometry. Reels that hold their adjustment out in the field. Reels that use the original and only Turf Groomer®. Reels that provide a consistently superior cut day in and day out. Reels that create conditions that get talked about well after a round is over. Since golfers spend most of their time on your fairways, the best invitation for return visits is a superior finish on the surfaces they’ll remember most. So if you want top conditions on your course, start from the ground up. For more information, contact your local Jacobsen dealer or visit us at jacobsen.com.
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Whitten noted that Golf Digest panelists were smart enough to understand such circumstances, and then volleyed back with comments about courses that don’t drain well, which would give superintendents ammunition to install better drainage.

But mostly Whitten saw this as an opportunity to reward a cut back on water usage. The editors agreed, especially since they could incorporate this in the May issue where they were preparing to run a 30-page report on golf’s place in the environment by writer John Barton.

This unprecedented package would be the ideal place for Golf Digest to influence what the publication sees as a crisis for the game — what the magazine calls golf’s excessive water use and the need to irrigate a lot less. Considering that Golf Digest was putting the finishing touches on its May issue, this radical change in its conditioning definition just barely slipped into the coverage. While kinks must be worked out, the unprecedented change speaks to the urgency of the issues at hand.

As much as it pains most of us to give any golf magazine the impression we respect their rankings (lest it go to their head), Golf Digest is the most-powerful media outlet in the sport with 1.5 million subscribers. No matter what you think of rankings or how much you might quibble over the definition of categories used by panelists, we’re about to find out just how influential Golf Digest really is. This will also put more pressure on the Golf Digest panel to start looking closely at maintenance practices and drainage. But the times are a-changing — sort of. I had the privilege of speaking to the Golf Digest Panelist Summit last fall, where the group convened at Pinehurst to talk shop.

The seminar gave me newfound admiration for Golf Digest’s efforts to improve its highly influential golf course rankings. I’d say about 40 percent of the panelists are serious students of the game who really grapple with the rating process. They do their best to weigh all of the elements influencing America’s best layouts. Another 40 percent of the panel puts in enough of an effort to not be considered dangerous, except perhaps when it comes to conditioning and service expectations. Then there’s the 20 percent of the panel that has no clue whatsoever and even less business rating course design and conditioning.

While plenty of great suggestions were bandied about last fall at Pinehurst, I didn’t

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The Author of “How Green Is Golf” Speaks
A longtime contributor to Golf Digest, John Barton spent several months researching his feature story titled, “How Green Is Golf?” Barton talked to an array of golf industry figures and penned several stories for the 30-page package designed to educate golfers about issues facing the future of the game. He sat down with Golfdom’s Geoff Shackelford to discuss what he found and the reaction Golf Digest has received. Read it at www.golfdom.com/onlineexclusive.com

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recall hearing much talk about the “conditioning” category, even though it has cost jobs and impacted lives. Because until May, courses were not rewarded by Golf Digest for environmentally sound maintenance practices or simply celebrated for presenting a firm, fast setup that meant less water usage and traditional course setup values.

As Golf Digest’s Whitten wrote: “This definition has nothing to do with the color of the grass or the perfection of a lie. It rewards courses that water less (but sensibly) and makes it easy for panelists to evaluate conditions on the basis of golf shots. It takes into account all types of turfgrasses.”

Now, in the hands of the 40 percent of Golf Digest panelists who get it, I have no concerns about the new definition. Unfortunately, the remaining 60 percent may not know enough to identify a course with kikuyu, paspalum or zoysia fairways, and they may not understand firm and fast according to the circumstances.

There is also that thorny issue of panelists playing after rains or when a superintendent is throwing a little more water out for maintenance purposes. Here’s what Golf Digest tells its panel: “What about situations of inclement weather? Because the first rule of good golf architecture is drainage, drainage, drainage, this definition rewards that. Courses whose fairways and greens don’t easily drain after a normal rain (or after routine irrigation) deserve lower conditioning scores than courses with excellent drainage.”

There are kinks to work out. But when you combine the efforts to educate the panel and Golf Digest’s ability to influence the direction of golf through its rankings, this could be a revolutionary moment for golf. Picture golfers reading this from the No. 1 publication in the game: “Great conditioning is not striped mowing patterns in the rough or uniform lies in bunkers. That’s overindulgent cosmetics.”

I’d say that’s pretty good bulletin board material. •

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Billbugs are well known insect pests of turf in many parts of the world. Historically, this has been true in the United States in areas where cool-season turfgrass, such as bluegrass, is grown. In these regions, research on the bluegrass billbug, Sphenophorus parvulus Gyllenhal, has been quite thorough, and its biology and ecology is well understood. The billbugs have one generation per year, overwinter as adults, and the larvae are the damaging stage of the life cycle. Other species found in the Northeast to a lesser degree include S. inaequalis (Say), S. minimus Hart, S. coesifrons Gyllenhal, S. venatus vestitus (Say).

In regions that are dominated by warm-season turfgrass, the hunting billbug, S. venatus vestitus, has become an emerging pest. Damage is often noticed in the spring as grass is slow to recover from winter dormancy. It is noticed in the late summer and fall as a dry patch, which does not respond to additional watering. Unlike its counterpart, the lifestyle and habits remain more of a mystery. In the Southeast, hunting billbug adults are often observed, but our knowledge of their biology and ecology is limited, and our ability to effectively manage them is poor. Other species occasionally found in the Southeast include S. inaequalis, S. minimus, S. coesifrons, S. parvulus and S. apicalis LeConte.

A rising occurrence
The number of reports of billbugs in the warm-season turfgrass region has been on the rise during the past 10 years. From these reports, the most abundant species appears to be the hunting billbug. Although it has been cited as being present in both warm- and cool-season turfgrass, we have observed it most frequently in bermudagrass and zoysiagrass. Based upon the reports of billbug biology in cool-season turfgrass, we assumed that this billbug overwintered in many stages, including adults and larvae. It was also assumed that the larval stage damaged turfgrass.

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Shift your expectations of what a trim mower can do.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>7400 TerrainCut</th>
<th>Toro 3500</th>
<th>Jacobsen AR-3</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mowing Width</td>
<td>Width On Demand 68&quot; or 74&quot;</td>
<td>68&quot; or 72&quot;**</td>
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<tr>
<td>Max Trimming Reach</td>
<td>15&quot;</td>
<td>12&quot; or 14&quot;***</td>
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<td>Engine Net Horsepower</td>
<td>36&quot; (25.6 kW) @2600 RPM</td>
<td>32&quot; (23.9 kW) @2800 RPM</td>
<td>32.8 (24.5 kW)</td>
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<td>Fuel Capacities Gallon (L)</td>
<td>13 (49.2 L)</td>
<td>11 (42 L)</td>
<td>12 (45.4 L)</td>
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* 72" configuration requires lift arm change. **14" trimming reach only with 72" width of cut. ***Engine HP is provided by engine manufacturer for comparison purposes. Actual operating HP will be less.