

Making Turf Diagnosis Easier

The Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic (PPDC) at Ohio State University recently published this list of the top 10 factors you should include when writing or calling a college or university about a turf problem:

1. List all symptoms. Describe the general appearance of the turf. Does it look water-logged, dried or scorched? Have any patterns or color changes occurred? A clear color photograph is the best visual aid.

2. Pattern of development. Does the problem appear in full sun or shade? Do the affected areas occur near irrigation lines, high traffic areas, sidewalks or buildings? Does it occur in low, moist places?

3. Amount of turf affected. How much of the lawn, green or field is affected? Do lawns nearby show similar symptoms?

4. Crop. Please list grass varieties planted, so consultants can determine which grass is more affected by the pathogens.

5. Seeding date. Was the lawn seeded or sodded recently, or is it a mature lawn?

6. Time of infection. When did symptoms first appear? What were the weather conditions prior to symptoms? Did the condition worsen coincidentally with an environmental or cultural change?

7. Treatments. When, at what rate, and what chemicals or fertilizers were applied? Was the grass irrigated before or after treatment? Send any samples of turf before fungicide applications were made. Fungicides prevent or impair culturing results.

8. Irrigation. Specify frequency, amount and time of day that irrigation is applied, if any.

9. Cultural practices. Was the turf aerated or top-dressed? When? Did the problem occur afterward? How long afterward?

10. Environment. What amendments have been added to the soil? Include the results of recent soil tests, if applicable.

—Landscape Management



The Tartan Park Group of Steve Conway, Joe Moris and Dr. Ward Stienstra.



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