

MANAGING PATCH DISEASES IN THE FIELD

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There are many Patch disease management options available. Tender Lawn Care has used many different approaches, depending on the site condition. The following program has been the most successful.

Site Information - Mowing is performed every 5-7 days at 2 1/2-3". The soil is compacted clay-clay loam. The terrain has some berms. Irrigation at .15-.20" is performed every day between 9:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. (mid-day is preferred, but not feasible except for certain areas). The site receives heavy traffic periodically throughout the year. Soil pH is 7.5. Rain/irrigation runoff is a common problem. Summer Patch can be found throughout the site, but is most serious in the parking lot islands.

Program information - Phosphorus and potassium deficiencies were discovered through soil testing. Acceptable P and K levels were established after being on the site for one year.

Fertilization schedule

	Pounds applied per 1000 sq ft.		
	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O
5/1 - 5/15 High potassium	.80	0	1.5
6/15 - 6/30 High potassium	.80	0	1.5
7/5 - 7/10 High phosphorus	.70	1.0	.20
8/15 - 8/30 High nitrogen	1.5	0	.75
10/20 - 11/15 High nitrogen	1.5	.3	.5
Total N.P.K	5.3*	1.3	4.45

*contained 20-65% W.I.N. Potassium source = sulphate of potash

Note: This schedule was implemented after acceptable P and K levels were established. Therefore, it should be considered a "routine" program for this site.

Core cultivation - Hollow tine with Ryan Lawn Air IV and tow type was done 2-4 times per year prior to the fertilizer treatments noted above.

Wetting agents - Aqua Gro L was applied at 8 ozs/1000 sq ft in May and then again in June (30 days after first treatment).

Note: In 1988 we used Peneturf at the high rate instead of Aqua Gro L.

Pre-emergent crabgrass control: Was applied in early May.

Broadleaf weed control: Was applied in spring and fall.

Note: Rubigan at 1 oz/1000 sq ft was applied once in May and in June to some of the parking lot islands where disease symptoms were worst.

Other Patch Disease management practices used include:

** Ringer's Lawn Restore applied in May (20-2-13 with Team), June, July and September at a high rate (10 lb/1000 sq ft).

** Fertilizer program using 4 lb N and 2 lb K/year (40-60% of the N being C.R.N.) plus one or two treatments of Chipco 26019.

Summary: Every aspect of the maintenance program is vitally important. Reducing or eliminating any part of the program will probably result in unacceptable turf quality due to Patch Disease.