

MOSS AND ALGAE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES ON MICHIGAN GOLF COURSES

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This presentation details the results of a survey that I conducted at the MSU Field Day on August 18, 1993, at the Hancock Turf Research Center. At a golf-turf-tour stop, I asked superintendents to complete a questionnaire that dealt with two separate issues, moss and algae. Eighty-nine people returned completed forms.

Twenty-one percent reported difficulties with moss indicating that it occurred three times more frequently on greens than tees. Some reported problems in the roughs, and only a few had noticeable fairway activity. Sun or shade did not seem to matter.

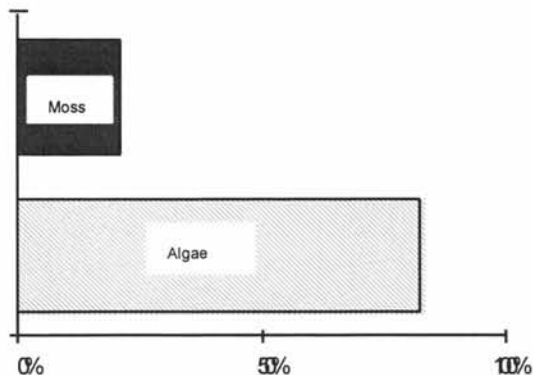


Figure 1. Percentage of respondents who reported problems with moss and algae on Michigan golf turf.

I ranked the preferred management practices with the first being the most common. The top five moss-management methods were as follows:

- 1) none, and don't try,
 - 2) chemicals, particularly mancozeb,
 - 3) decrease irrigation amount,
 - 4) reduce irrigation frequency, and
 - 5) change fertilizer practices, which ranged from 1 lb N/ 1,000 ft², using 13-0-44, to little or none.
- Eighty-two percent reported difficulties with algae. As with moss, occurrences on greens were three times those on tees. Algae were not a problem in the roughs. Favorable microclimates included both sunny and shaded areas. The top seven algae-management methods were as follows:

- 1) cultivation and/or topdressing,
- 2) chemicals, mancozeb most common,
- 3) decrease irrigation amount,
- 4) reduce irrigation frequency,
- 5) change fertilizer practices (similar to #5 above),
- 6) prune nearby trees, and
- 7) none, and don't try.

My conclusion from this survey is that algae are a more serious problem than mosses for Michigan golf-course superintendents, and that management methods are not very effective, generally.

Note: This article was omitted from the 1995 Michigan Turfgrass Conference proceedings.