

The cutting height during the late fall period and at the onset of dormancy should be comparable to that normally maintained on the turfgrass area. Excessively long leaf growth will result in increased snow mold activity whereas turfs which are cut extremely short will be subjected to greater low temperature injury. Closely mowed turfs will be less susceptible to leaf desiccation but there is no effect on the rate of desiccation of the important meristematic tissues of the crowns, rhizomes and stolons. Short mowing is best practiced in early spring prior to the initiation of growth, rather than in late fall. Short mowing in early spring will serve to remove excessive debris and trash and will also stimulate early spring green up.

STOP 16

Dr. Joseph M. Vargas

Turfgrass Disease Study: The most important disease in Michigan on Merion bluegrass is Fusarium blight. The disease usually occurs in lawns which are 2 years or more old. The disease is recognized by the typical "frog eye" spots which occur in the diseased turf. There are still many unanswered questions about this disease which we hope to solve in the near future.