



## IRRIGATION PRACTICES AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT

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Current irrigation recommendations for most turfgrass areas suggest irrigating deeply and infrequently. Research on Fusarium blight showed light, daily irrigation helped prevent the disease from occurring. This study on irrigation was conducted to determine the effect of 3 irrigation regimes on Nigrospora patch. The regimes consisted of 20 minutes of daily irrigation, irrigating every 3 days and irrigation only when severe drought symptoms were evident. The study was replicated 3 times and nitrogen fertility treatments were included. Nigrospora patch never developed in spite of attempts to inoculate the plots. What did occur was healthier, denser, greener turf in the plots receiving daily irrigation compared to the other treatments. This spring when the every 3 day irrigation and as needed irrigation treatments were being thinned by Helminthosporium melting out (H. vagans) the daily irrigation treatment remained dense and healthy. These findings are only preliminary and the long-term results of such treatments will not be known for some time. However, the results so far suggest daily, light irrigation may give a healthier, denser turf than heavy, infrequent irrigation practices.