

SUMMER STRESS IN CREEPING BENTGRASS AND ANNUAL BLUEGRASS 2004

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Summer Stress Syndrome has been associated with thinning and dying of turf during the warm summer months when turf goes under stress. It is especially problematic on low cut turf growing in poor environments. This includes greens growing in shaded areas or where there is limited air movement. Fungicides applied alone and in combination with other products on a preventive basis have been shown to prevent this decline from occurring. These fungicide combinations not only manage disease problems, but also seem to create a more dense appearance and better color.

Unfortunately, this summer has not yielded the heat and humidity that normally puts turfgrass under stress. We have not had high temperatures, even though it's mid-July, and precipitation has been, if anything, higher than normal. Drought and heat stress have been essentially nonexistent this year. Even so, some minimal differences can be seen on our plots. Differences in turfgrass density and color can be seen.