SPRING DEAD SPOT DISEASE

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1987 Research Grant: $10,000
(last year of support; $30,000 over three years was contributed by Mr. Hall Thompson of Shoal Creek, Alabama.)

The project on spring dead spot (SDS) of bermudagrass was completed in the fall of 1987. Fungi were isolated from bermudagrass with spring dead spot symptoms throughout this study. Selected isolates of the fungi were used to inoculate bermudagrass in the greenhouse in the fall of 1986. The inoculated pots were exposed to outside winter conditions during January to May of 1987. Spring dead spot symptioms developed with two of the isolates used. The symptoms produced were typical of spring dead spot symptoms on golf course fairways. The fungus that caused the disease was identified as Gaeumannomyces graminis, which is the first report of this fungus being associated with spring dead spot of bermudagrass. The fungus was identified from the inoculated plants and from spring dead spot samples collected in May from North Carolina and Alabama.

Fungicides and fertilizer treatments were evaluated at four locations in the southeastern United States for the control of SDS. Rubigan applied in September (1 oz./1000 square feet) and Tersan 1991 (8 oz./1000 square feet) applied in November were fungicides that gave the best control. Cold hardiness of bermuda grass following treatments with fungicides were evaluated in a study at Raleigh, North Carolina. Plugs of turf that were treated with Tersan 1991 in the fall survived cold temperatures better than other treatments. The fungicides and cold hardiness evaluations are continuing through the spring of 1988 to obtain two years of data for these experiments.