

the disease over the whole course. Then spray. Mercurials were specific, and when I had trouble last year I dug up an old bottle of Panogen which used to be one of the fungicides of choice. The University's "Guide to Turfgrass Pest Control" lists Dexon and Koban for Pythium. Whatever you use, follow directions and rate recommendations carefully, because when temperatures are hot, dosage gets critical. You might as well lose a green from Pythium as from an overdoes of fungicide on hot grass.

Take steps to dry the green. These can include hole punching, or topdressing with sand. Leave any fertilizer or organic matter out of the topdressing this time. Go as long as you can between irrigations, but when the grass needs water, water it.

If you use the temporary green and limit mowing the regular green, there will be one less stress working against recovery.

Once the hot spell breaks, control is easier. If the disease was checked in its earlier stages, recovery should be fast. If the disease ran too long, grass in the infected areas may be lost.

Pythium often shows up where changes in the irrigation equipment have resulted in wet greens, and where someone has forgotten to cut back fertilizer schedules to accommodate to the hot weather, by giving only light frequent feeds. Revising the management should reduce the Pythium threat in the months that follow an attack. It would be good practice though, to use a couple of follow up preventative sprays to reduce the amount of inoculum growing in the thatch. If you are good at weather forecasting, use your preventative sprays a few days before a heat spell.

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