



## Oh, Boy. Here It Comes!

By David Oatis, director, Northeast Region

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The weather is always a topic of discussion in our business, and with all the cold temperatures and rainy weather lately, we have had some pretty uncomfortable Turf Advisory Service visits. In fact, it seems we have been in our rain suits just about every day for several weeks. Fortunately, most of the turf has been performing well, and the only disease we have seen consistently in recent weeks has been cool-season brown patch (*Rhizoctonia cerealis*). For the most part, it has not been tremendously damaging, and if temperatures warm up and the rain quits, no treatment will be needed in most cases. However, some courses have had the disease with enough severity that treatment was most definitely required.



Observations earlier this morning clearly indicate that this season is well under way. We saw our first bit of *Hyperodes* weevil damage at a golf course in south central New Jersey earlier today along with our first dollar spot. Neither the dollar spot nor the weevil damage was very extensive, but it is a reminder that the season is upon us.

For those of you who are experienced with *Hyperodes* weevils, the damage is not surprising and it is very easy to diagnose. For those of you who have not been so "fortunate" to have come in contact with this pest, be prepared. It seems to travel a bit farther every year and it is regularly being experienced in areas and at courses that have never experienced it before. If you haven't had weevil damage at your course, it is probably just a matter of time before you do.

In terms of control, thatch penetrating insecticides would be appropriate if damage shows up, but watch for the adults as they reemerge and look to control them at that point as well. The adults do very little damage, but they lay a tremendous number of eggs, and their populations can build up very rapidly very quickly. Damage that can almost go unnoticed from generation one might be extensive from generation two because of their rapid population increase.

Based on this observation, it looks as though the wave of damage from the first generation might be a week or two earlier than normal, so as always, please be sure to scout carefully for the telltale signs of *Hyperodes* weevil injury.

It is shaping up to be a very busy season so be sure to call us if you have a specific time frame that you would like your visit made in. As always, please call at any time throughout the year if we can be of assistance and best of luck for a successful season.

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