



Dear Mr. Gerber,

Enclosed is an article that I have written concerning the problem that has been encountered on Toronto Bentgrass. We have 47 Toronto greens on our F.P.D. golf courses and we have occasionally experienced infections of red leaf spot, however, we have always been able to control same in its first and secondary stages without turf loss!



Overall, C-15 has performed from fair to excellent varying only with soil composition and environmental location.

The information contained within was gleaned from my extensive experience in the turf management of Toronto, C-15 Bentgrass. Hopefully this informational perspective will help the golf course Supt. effectively manage the turfgrass species and control the ''fungus amlingus''!

> O. G. Miles C.G.C.S.

## IS THE GRASS GREEN, YELLOW, RED, OR DEAD?

It doesn't matter whether you're a Supt. catering to the golf turf requirements of the daily fee player or a private membership, an infection of "Helminth" sometimes prevents us from providing a green, healthy turf on which the game is played!

The present dilemma of Helminth (Red Leaf Spot?) infecting Toronto bentgrass greens or Helminth of any species attacking our turfgrasses is a serious and complex problem that usually can be resolved via a 4 step, ABC's - "Bite the Bullet" approach. Before this procedure is outlined it has been my experience that knowingly or unknowingly turf problems are quite often self induced; more turf is damaged or lost during the growing season from mechanical injury and wilt than any other cause - these are problems which the Supt. can prevent and control. Also diseases usually go through certain recognizable phases in their development: (A) primary infection (B) secondary infection (C) total - fatal infection. In the primary stage of red leaf spot a varying degree of yellowing occurs (chlorosis or lesions( and only the most trained and critical eye can spot it, diagnose it and outline a program for treatment and control; in the secondary or "big red" stage all Supts. will notice it, should be able to diagnose same and immediately outline a course of action to cure and control same; in the final "grim reaper" stage everyone will notice it but then it's too late, the damage has been done. You can only reduce existing pathogens, plug out damage or hope that enough life remains in the turf "mat" for natural recovery. By staying on top of the situation the problem will usually not progress beyond the primary and secondary stages (see outline of supt. daily routine).

## "Bite the Bullet" - Procedure

I. What Do We Know About the Disease?

1. Occurance - anytime during the growing season when wet overcast weather prevails.

2. Symptoms - yellowing of leaf tips or tissue progressing to brown and reddish leaf lesions then root and crown rot.

3. Vectors - water, equipment and any traffic.

4. Other factors affecting development - (a) Weak turf caused by low or unbalanced fertility, (b) Weak turf caused by mechanical bruising from excessive dragging, brushing, etc., or any other adverse practice such as an extremely low cut.

5. Factors affecting recovery - (c) Stimulate new growth via improved and balanced fertility levels, (d) Stimulate



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