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Yellow Ring on *Poa pratensis* caused by *Trechispora alnicola*

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ABSTRACT

Trechispora alnicola (Bourd. & Galz) Libertia is the causal agent of yellow ring disease of *Poa pratensis*. This is the first report of *T. alnicola* as a pathogen of *Poa pratensis*. The fungal infection of roots and crown tissues results in root necrosis and the destruction of chlorophyll in the leaves. The severity of the disease will vary within a growing season, but symptoms can be seen from May - October. The disease is associated with bluegrass turf that has accumulated about 2.0 cm or more of thatch.

At least 21 *P. pratensis* cultivars are susceptible to this fungus. The pathogen appears to be dispersed in water and by machinery. Infection by *T. alnicola* does not result in the death of bluegrass and infected grass can recover by producing new roots, rhizomes and leaves or by increasing the chlorophyll in previously yellowed leaves. The fungicidal chemical pentachloroantobenze, will reduce the severity of the disease and the rate of disease development, but will not completely prevent pathogenesis.

Yellow ring on *Poa pratensis* is a type of fairy ring quite different from those described by Filer, Redhead & Smith, and Smith. Yellow ring disease does not result in necrosis of grass plants and the disease symptoms are not always visible in the sward. The disease is unsitely, producing rings of yellowed grass which may appear each year during the months of May-October. Wilkinson described a fungus, *Trechispora alnicola*, as having a close physical association with grass plants displaying yellow ring symptoms. Jackson described a related fairy ring disease occurring on *Agrostis tennuis*, *Festuca rubra*, and meadowgrass turfs and identified *T. confinis* as the probable causal agent. The symptoms and progression of this fairy ring, however, are dissimilar to that of yellow ring. Yellow ring has been observed in Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Ohio.



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