Take-all Patch in the Upper Midwest

by R. T. Kane CDGA Turf Advisor

An unusually cold and wet May followed by a warm, wet June has given rise to some unusual turf diseases, or at least more noticeable problems than in recent years. Of special interest is take-all patch (formerly called Ophiobolus patch) which has appeared at 15-20 courses around Chicagoland. Take-all patch is a disease of bentgrass that is characterized by small solid patches or frog-eye type patches of declining turf. Diseased plants have a root and/or crown rot which leads to leaf tip dieback, yellowing and senescence of older leaves. Some shoots may be entirely killed, but more often the plants are just weakened, yellowed, and stunted.

I have seen this on newly constructed golf courses (tees, greens, and fairways), and on renovated fairways with predominantly bentgrass. Poa spp and ryegrass are not affected, and often fill in the center of the patch. There is very little information as to control of take-all patch with chemicals or altered management. Obviously, renovated bent fairways are not without their problems (damn, another theory shot to hell...), but this disease appears to be less severe in comparison to summer patch and other ills of Poa.

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Jerry Faubel, President GCSAA, presenting Dan Quast, Supt. of Medinah C.C. an appreciation plaque in hosting the 1990 U. S. Open



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