

Off The Fringe

Are You Stressed Yet?

SEMINARS ADDRESS SUMMER
STRESS OF TURFGRASS AS WELL
AS SUPERINTENDENTS

By David Frabotta

If you're not sure why your turfgrass is dying this summer, then it's probably because several factors are contributing to its decline. Poor growing environments, improper irrigation and mechanical injury are all primary causes for turf loss during

summer stress, and pathogens and chemical practices can contribute to turf loss under the right conditions.

Summer decline complex is appropriately named because a complex denotes two or more inter-related factors that contribute to a problem, which is why diagnosing maladies is so difficult amid summer stress, says Peter H. Dernoeden, professor of turfgrass management and pathology at the University of Maryland.

"About 30 percent to 40 percent of all samples are negative for a primary pathogen, and that's a conservative number," Dernoeden told superintendents and distributors during a regional Stomp Out Stress Seminar in Philadelphia hosted by Bayer Environmental Science, which conducted several of the regional events this year.

Superintendents commonly diagnose many summer stress manifestations as takeall patch, Dernoeden says. But the fungus *Gaeumannomyces incrustans* creates many of the same symptoms, and only a molecular test will diagnose its presence properly. Sometimes outbreaks could be hallmarks of underlying causes, Dernoeden says. For instance, anthracnose can be an indication of low nitrogen and mechanical injury.

If superintendents experience turfgrass loss due to any of summer's pressures, odds are good that they will be feeling the heat themselves. Managing the professional stress along with turfgrass can be a challenge, largely because stress comes from so many sources, including labor, employees, boards, committees, golfers and bosses.

Much of that stress can be alleviated if the management team is on the same page, organizational strategist Barbara Jodoin said. That might require a different organizational structure for the club, where members are the ultimate decision makers when it comes to operations instead of executive teams or boards of directors. "You need to serve the same master to operate a club successfully," says Jodoin, who is also general manager for Pinetree Country Club in Kennesaw, Ga. ■



The Turfco CR-10 makes it happen!



Whether you're top dressing your fairway, renovating bunkers or relocating material, the Turfco® CR-10, with a 4 cubic yard hopper, is the workhorse you've been looking for. Its patented three-position switch, cross-conveyor flow control and self-cleaning hopper make it the most effective material handler available. And now the CR-10 is available with WideSpin™ technology—allowing you to deliver light or heavy top dressing applications at unprecedented widths and depths. All this—plus a three-year warranty. The CR-10. Don't start a project without it.

Call 1-800-679-8201 for a
free on-site demonstration or video.

1655 101st Avenue NE • Minneapolis, MN 55449-4420 U.S.A.
(763) 785-1000 • Fax (763) 785-0556 • www.turfco.com



THE LEADER. SINCE 1961.