

# Disease Research: Bigger and Better in '99

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The Turfgrass Disease Diagnostic Lab has just completed the third year of snow mold control research and we are embarking on our best year of summer disease trials. There are over ten trials that will be conducted this year in addition to preparation of plots for the upcoming winter season and following summers. Be sure to mark your calendar for August 10, WTA Field Day at the Noer Facility, to tour some of the research plots described below.

## Summer Trials '99

### *Anthracnose*

This is the second year for an anthracnose trial to be conducted at the Noer Facility. This year we will be featuring 36 treatments, with over half of them being experimental fungicides. Come see what the future will hold.

### *Brown Patch*

Over 25 treatments will be included in the brown patch evaluation this year. Once again, the reduced-rate mixtures will be evaluated for the control of brown patch. Excellent results were obtained last year; and if the beginning of this summer is any indication of what is to come, it should be a favorable year for this disease.



### *Dollar Spot*

For the third year we will be evaluating the reduced-rate mixtures along with some product comparisons. In recent months some superintendents have informed me of their interest in the mixtures as they have proven to provide excellent control for 21 days or more.

### *Dollar Spot Carrier Volume*

In its second year, this study was initiated to evaluate the affect spray volume has on the length of efficacy. Ten fungicide treatments at three volumes each are included in this study and results from the first year proved to be encouraging.

### *Pythium*

The "houses of death" return from their 12-month hiatus to put another 18 treatments to the challenge. Great data from the first year resulted in an overwhelming response and we had to turn away fungicide treatments for this year's study. Who will survive the house?



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Only one way to find out - be at the Noer Facility on August 10th to see who will be the champion of the year!

#### *Summer Stress*

Can fungicides benefit the over-all health of turfgrass plants? We intend to find out by reducing the height of cut to 0.10" on a Poa/bent and applying traffic. Can these wonder tank mixtures meet the challenge?

#### *Sod Blend Evaluation*

Initiated in 1997, this trial is studying the role that soil preparation has on disease development. Already we have noticed the benefits of establishment methods on rooting and aerification on reducing melting-out development. Will this be the year that necrotic ring spot develops?

#### *Take-all Patch*

Two trials for take-all patch are currently being conducted. One was initiated in the fall of 1998 and another this spring. A total of 23 treatments are currently being evaluated. If you are battling this troublesome disease, this is one not to miss.

#### **Additional Projects**

##### *New Poa Green*

After the summer of '98 we realized the need for additional space for studies on controlling *Poa annua* diseases. This spring members of the TDDL have constructed an additional 5,000 sq. ft. green of the lovely

light green grass that everyone loves to hate. It will always be there and if you can't beat it, we will just have to learn how to keep it healthy.

#### *Dollar Spot Resistance Management*

Once again we will be evaluating the reduced-rate tank mixture against a resistant population of *Sclerotinia homoeocarpa*.

#### *Screening Techniques for Breeding Snow Mold Resistant Grasses*

The second year of this study will be seeded this summer at three locations around the state. This evaluation has already shown that fine fescues and colonial bentgrass have some tolerance to this disease. Additionally, a growth chamber study will be conducted in comparison to see if we can reduce the amount of time for this evaluation process.

#### *Snow Mold Sensitivity In Vitro*

This summer several isolates of different snow molds will be evaluated in the lab to see how sensitive they are to the different snow mold fungicides. You might be surprised as to what's required to control those tiny specks that you find on your brown turf every spring.

Come one, and come all. Find out what will cure your ailing grass. Take the time now to mark it on your calendar; August 10th is the big day for the 1999 Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Field Day.

SEE YOU THERE. ♣

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