



# Fee Changes for the TDDL for the 1999 Season

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In the early days of a new season, the TDDL is revising the charges for services provided. These changes are the result of increased involvement of lab personnel in research activities, but will not affect the quality of service. Over the past couple of years it has become evident that a majority of the commercial clients of the lab only require a verbal diagnosis. Without a written diagnosis, several hours a week can be redirected to the research efforts. Several options were discussed and the following fee structure was recommended by the Board of the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association at

their February meeting. In the following we hope to explain why these changes are coming about and what they will be.

## ***Why are research efforts important to the lab?***

As you may or may not know, the Turfgrass Disease Diagnostic Lab is a self-supporting entity. This means that we are responsible for generating funding to operate the lab (e.g., general supplies, postage, telephones, transportation, etc.), half of Jeffrey Gregos' salary and benefits, student hourly wages, and any other activities such as

snow mold field days, construction of greens, attendance at meetings, fungicide evaluations, etc. Currently the lab generates around \$23,000 from contracts and diagnosis fees; however this is not enough to operate the lab. Over half of our funding is generated through research gifts and grants.

Not only does research provide funding, but it is also important in helping us formulate our recommendations after completing a diagnosis. One prime example of this is the extensive snow mold control research that we conduct. Many of the turf managers in our state have



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been looking for the ideal replacement for mercury based products for snow mold control. Our program has provided some alternatives that perform even better than mercury fungicides.

Another important reason for research is the evaluation of new methods or chemicals for disease control. It is better that our turf is used as the "guinea pig" than one of your greens or fairways. For example, we are testing spray volume rates for applications of several fungicides, and also times of applications of fungicides and mixtures of fungicides.

***What services will the lab offer for non-contract holders, and what will the new fees be?***

- Turfgrass disease sample diagnosis with verbal confirmation and recommendations, \$50.00.
- Turfgrass disease sample diagnosis with verbal confirmation and recommendations plus a written report, \$75.00.
- Site visit following sample submission, \$150.00.
- Out-of-state processing fee, \$15.00.

**Sample Submission for Diagnosis:**

To help facilitate prompt turn-around on samples submitted to the lab, we recommend that you notify us when a sample has been sent. This will help us schedule appropriately. Also, any walk-in samples should be preceded with a phone call (phone: 608-845-2535; pager: 608-550-3888). This ensures that someone will be present at the lab when the sample arrives. NO DIAGNOSIS WILL BE PROVIDED VIA TELEPHONE WITHOUT SEEING A SAMPLE FIRST.

**Site Visits:**

Site visits will be conducted only after a sample has been submitted. A site visit will consist of a 4-hour visit and written report.

These visits will only concentrate on disease related problems.

**Out-of-state Processing Fee:**

This \$15 fee is additional to the other fees.

***How will this new structure affect services for contract holders?***

As a contract holder you will still receive the same number of samples diagnosed per contract level (1 @ \$100, 2 @ \$200, 5 @ \$500, and 10 @ \$1000). Written reports will be done on an as need basis, so be sure to request one if desired. There will be no additional charge for written reports.

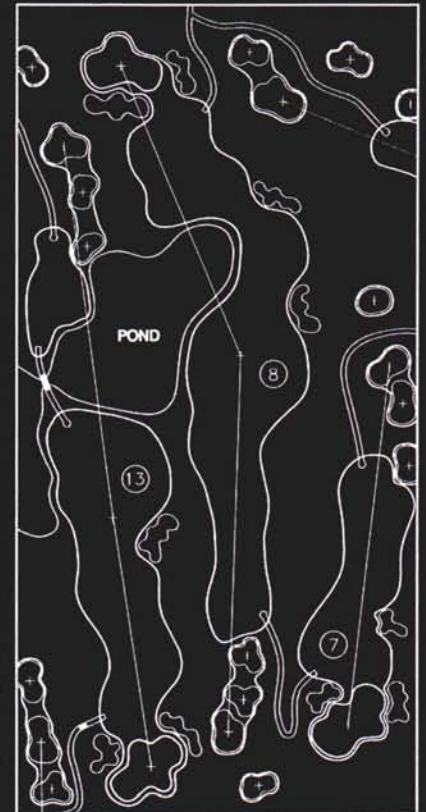
Site visits will be provided at \$100 for contract holders of less than \$1000. For non-contract holders, a sample must be submitted prior to site visit. As in the past, site visits are provided free of charge to \$1,000 contract holders.

These new adjustments should have no affect on the quality of service that you have come to expect from the TDDL. These changes were brought about due to the demands of our clientele for a fast "turn around time" and after a review of the available time for our lab personnel. If you have any questions pertaining to these changes or any of the services that the lab provides, please feel free to give the TDDL a call and talk with Jeff Gregos or Douglas Maxwell (phone: 608-845-2535 or email: [jsg@plantpath.wisc.edu](mailto:jsg@plantpath.wisc.edu); [dum@plantpath.wisc.edu](mailto:dum@plantpath.wisc.edu)).

We appreciate the feed back that we have received about the TDDL's operation this past season and look forward to serving you for another year.

*Editor's note: Both the author and the editor let a mis-spelled word get into this feature in the Mar/April 1999 issue of The Grass Roots. The word is "Strobilurin," not Stobilurin. Regrets. ♣*

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