

PERSONALITY PROFILE

A more controversial project involves a 2004 mower study that links greens mower type to putting green performance. Preliminary data indicated significant difference in turf quality and percentage incidence of anthracnose on putting green plots that were mowed by two brands of professional mowers. "It all had to do with floating vs. fixed heads, and how much difference an extra 0.15 of an inch makes in a green's susceptibility to anthracnose," said Rossi, who plans to expand the study in 2006.

Serving the needs of today's turf industry would not be complete without addressing the future of golf course managers. The undergraduate turfgrass programs at CALS addresses the increased interest in sustainable golf course development and management, both nationally and internationally. Rossi sees unlimited opportunities for turfgrass professionals in China, Vietnam, Thailand, and the Philippines, where thousands of people are taking up golf, and new golf courses are being built daily.

Bachelors and professional masters degrees in golf and environmental management at Cornell offer an alternative to traditional turfgrass programs. Rossi notes there are currently seven students enrolled in the program, but numbers are expected to grow in the next few years as environmental pressures increase and more turfgrass courses are available. CALS students will be able to function successfully in diverse arenas from legislative affairs to natural resource protection on golf courses," he says.

Rossi and the turfgrass team conduct their research at the 28-acre Turfgrass Field Research Laboratory adjacent to the Robert Trent Jones Golf Course at Cornell.

Editor's Note: This article about former Badger and UW - Madison faculty member Frank Rossi appeared in the Fall 2005 issue of Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences News, pp. 18 - 20. It is reprinted with permission.



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Chemical Control of Brown Patch Caused by *Rhizoctonia solani* on Bentgrass

By Dr. Geunhwa Jung, Paul Koch, Steve Abler, Jonathan Rivers, and Mark Manemann,
Department of Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Brown patch, caused by *Rhizoctonia solani*, is a major summer disease of cool-season grasses such as the bentgrasses, bluegrasses, fescues, and ryegrasses. Brown patch commonly occurs during extended periods of hot (days: >80F; nights: >68F) and humid weather. The fungus overwinters in the form of resting structures called sclerotia, either within infected plant parts or in the soil. The sclerotia can survive for several years without causing the disease on a susceptible grass. During the summer, periods of rain and 100% relative humidity significantly increase disease development. Turfgrass becomes more susceptible when they are maintained at high nitrogen levels during summer months, which make them more lush and succulent.

Plant stand symptoms, on the basis of individual plants, vary according to the height of mowing. On turf maintained above one inch, irregular gray or tan lesions with a dark brown border are observed on the

infected and colonized leaves. On close-cut turf (<one inch), no distinct lesions are readily observed, but the symptoms appear as general leaf necrosis.

Turf stand symptoms on high-cut turf are shown as brown or tan patches of diseased turf ranging up to several feet in diameter. In early morning, white mycelium of the fungus can be visible on infected leaves and stems. In most situations, the turf in these patches is thinned out rather than completely killed. No circular, distinct pattern can be seen, and disease appears as a diffuse blight. On tall fescue, symptoms can be observed on individual leaves as irregular tan or light brown lesions surrounded by dark brown borders and not necessarily in patches. On the other hand, when close-cut turf (<one inch) such as golf course putting greens and fairways becomes infected, brown patches are often surrounded by a dark brown, purplish ring called a "smoke ring" (Figure A, B, and

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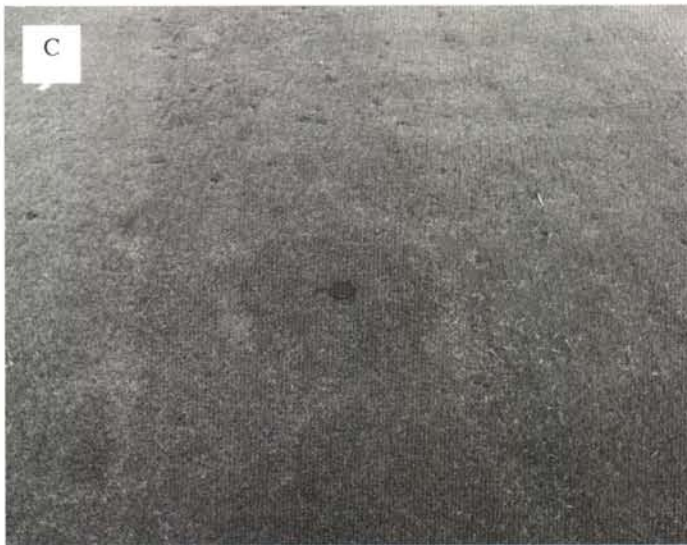
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Symptoms of brown patch on bentgrasses. Note A: light brown patches with dark brown borders/rings around the periphery of the patches, called smoke rings in various sizes, on creeping bentgrass on golf course putting greens. Smoke rings are more pronounced in the early morning hours, gradually dissipating by midday; B: a close-up of the small patch shown in Figure A; C: light brown patches without distinct smoke rings in various sizes on colonial bentgrass on golf course fairways, which are typical in shorter cut grass shown in the Figure A and B.



C). The smoke ring indicates evidence of active fungal growth for brown patch development and is more pronounced in the morning, gradually dissipating by midday. Brown patch typically does not result in damage to all stems and tillers within a developing patch; therefore, the turf may recover when disease pressure is reduced due to change in climate conditions or implementation of cultural and chemical control practices.

The objective of this study was to determine the efficacy of fungicides for controlling *Rhizoctonia* blight (Brown Patch) incited by *Rhizoctonia solani*, which was carried out under natural conditions at the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility in summer of 2005.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted at the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility on a stand of colonial bentgrass (*Agrostis capillaris* 'SR7150') maintained at 0.5 inch cutting height. Colonial bentgrass is more susceptible to brown patch than the other bentgrass species. The individual plots measured 3 ft X 10 ft and were arranged in a randomized complete block design with four replications. Individual treatments were applied at a nozzle pressure of 40 p.s.i using a CO₂ pressurized boom sprayer equipped with two XR Teejet 8005 VS nozzles. All fungicides were agitated



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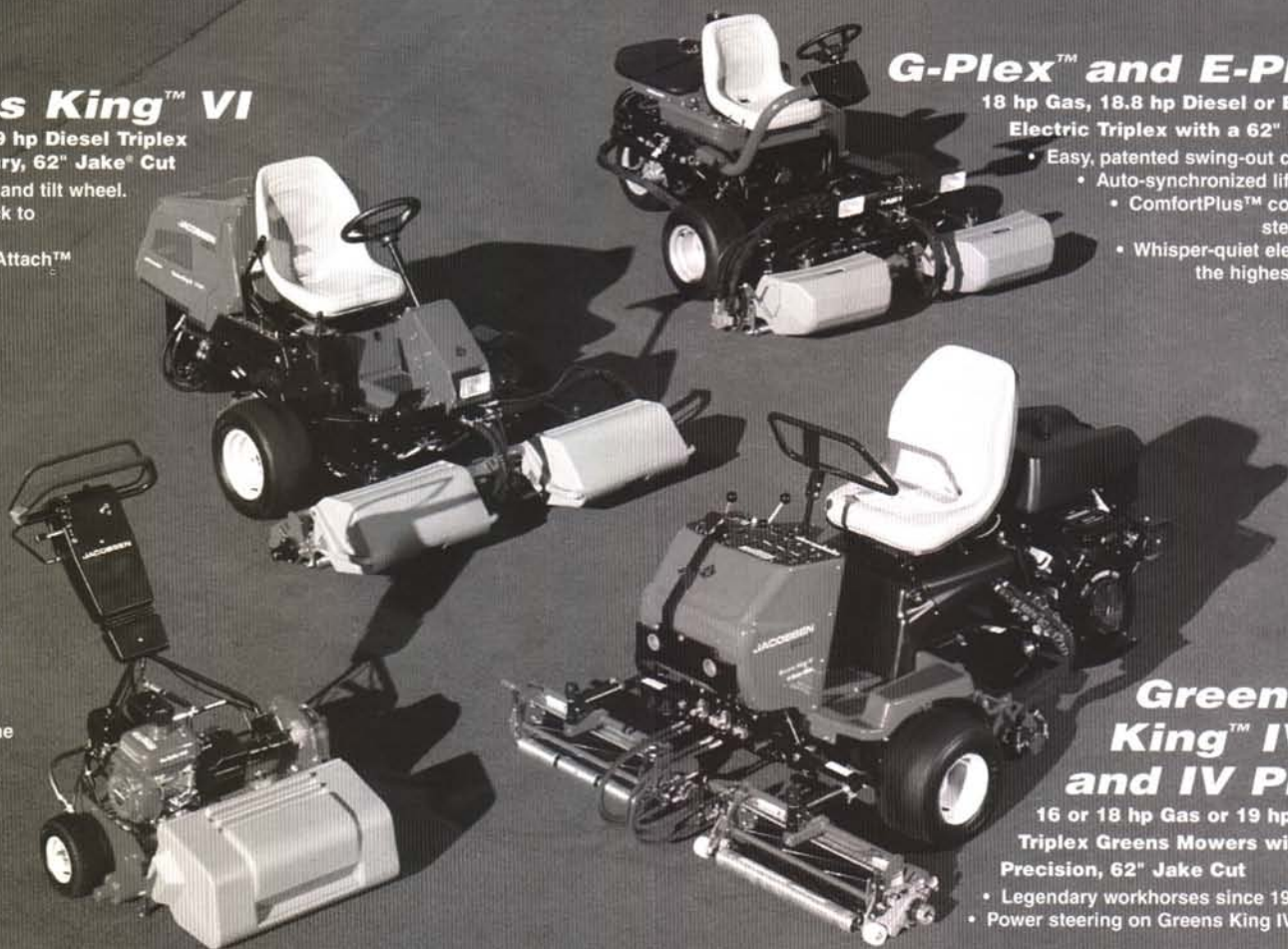
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by hand and applied in the equivalent of 2 gallons of water per 1000ft². Treatments were initiated on June 21st and applied on July 5th (14 Day), and July 19th (14 & 28 Day). Plots were not inoculated, however, plots did receive extra irrigation (200% evapotranspiration) and biweekly applications of 0.5 lb N/1000ft² when conditions were warm to induce disease development. Visual ratings of the percent brown patch per plot were recorded on June 28th, July 8th, July 18th, and July 25th. The data was subjected to an analysis of variance to determine statistically significant differences between treatments.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Most of the treatments tested significantly reduced disease severity when compared to the untreated control. It seemed that first and second applications of some (#2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9,20) of the treatments did not control the disease completely but the second (28 days interval with high rate) and the third (14 days interval with low rate) applications significantly knocked down the disease. The level of disease control by the strobilurin fungicides (Compass at 0.15 oz/M, Heritage at 0.2 oz/M, and Insignia at 0.5 oz/M) applied at low label rates every 14 days was not different from ones at high label rate applications (0.25, 0.4, and 0.9 oz/M,

respectively) every 28 days. Heritage and Insignia completely controlled the disease (0% damage). Prostar (1.5 oz/M) controlled the disease up to 0.5%. A combination of Banner MAXX (1 fl oz/M) and Heritage TL (0.5 fl oz/M) also had a very good control of the disease (1.3% damage). It seemed that a few applications (two and three times with 14 and 28 day interval, respectively) immediately after the onset of symptoms were sufficient to control the disease effectively. No significant differences in efficacy between Heritage and Heritage TL were observed in our trial. No phytotoxicity was observed for any treatments during the duration of the trial. ✓

*If difference in mean values of two treatments is more than LSD value, then the two treatments are significantly different from each other at P=0.05.

Treatment	Rate		Interval	Rating dates (percent disease areas)			
				6/29/05	7/8/05	7/18/05	7/25/05
1 Untreated Control				1.8	15	47.5	62.5
2 Insignia	0.9	OZ/M	28 Day	0	0	0	0
3 Insignia	0.5	OZ/M	14 Day	0	5	0.5	0
4 Banner MAXX	1						
Heritage TL	0.5	FL OZ/M	28 Day	0	0	6.3	1.3
5 Heritage TL	1	FL OZ/M	14 Day	0	0	1.3	1.3
6 Heritage TL	0.5	FL OZ/M	14 Day	0	1.3	3.8	0.5
7 Heritage	0.2	OZ/M	14 Day	0	1.3	1	0
8 Heritage	0.4	OZ/M	28 Day	0	2.5	1.3	0
9 Compass	0.15	OZ/M	14 Day	0	7.3	7.5	5
10 Compass	0.25	OZ/M	28 Day	0	2.5	19.5	6.3
11 Endorse	4	OZ/M	14 Day	2	8.8	10	11.3
12 26GT	4	FL OZ/M	28 Day	8	23.8	35	18.8
13 Curalan	1	OZ/M	28 Day	8.3	20	37	30
14 Medallion	0.5	OZ/M	14 Day	3.8	6.8	13	10.5
15 Banner MAXX	1	FL OZ/M	14 Day	10	18.8	30	28.8
16 Rubigan	1.5	FL OZ/M	14 Day	0	6.8	12.3	30
17 Eagle	1.2	FL OZ/M	14 Day	0	8.8	23.8	16.3
18 Bayleton	0.5	OZ/M	14 Day	3.8	8.8	9.3	13.8
19 Prostar	1.5	OZ/M	14 Day	0	7.5	1.3	0.5
20 3336F	4	FL OZ/M	14 Day	1.5	5	7.5	5
21 Spectator	0.37	FL OZ/M	14 Day	1.3	8.8	10	35
22 Spectator	0.72	FL OZ/M	28 Day	1.3	7.5	16.3	15
23 18 Plus	2	FL OZ/M	14 Day	5.5	9.3	20	12.5
LSD (P=0.05)*				NS	10.8	20.9	18.6

Percent brown patch ratings from O. J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility, Verona, WI



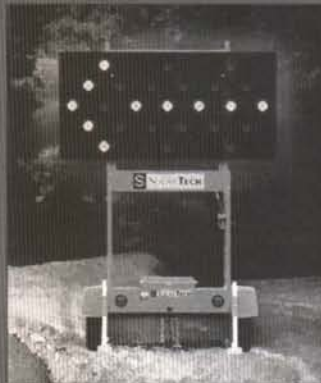
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A Meeting at the Crossroads



By **Monroe S. Miller**, Golf Course Superintendent, Blackhawk Country Club

Our first ever-monthly meeting at the new and heralded Crossroads Country Club generated more excitement and curiosity than any chapter event in quite a while.

A new course will do that; it's always been that way. The anxious feeling course superintendents have comes because golf is a business we love and our part of the business is the golf course. So it is no wonder the field was full and dozens more were driving up for dinner.

The location of the course is interesting to geographers and cartographers as well as to people associated with golf. Located at a spot in the seventh fairway is the exact intersection of the 45° 00' north latitude line and the 90° 00' west longitude line. A granite post marks the intersection, and the longitude/latitude readings are cut into it.

The post marks the exact halfway point between the equator and the North Pole, and one quarter of the way around the globe from Greenwich, England. It is quite a claim to fame for the small Wisconsin village of Poinatowski, 15 or so miles west of Wausau on County Road U.

"Not too hard to understand why they named the course 'Crossroads'" "Bogey Calhoun observed as he and I joined Steady Eddie Middleton and Tom Morris for the trip to the meeting. Over the years we'd frequently traveled together, but with the price of gas as \$3 a gallon, it was the only way to go now.

"I hope they don't serenade us with polka music," Bogey said, making reference to the heavy German and Polish heritage of that area.

"I hope they do," Tom replied, not so much because he liked the accordion and tuba music, but because he knew Bogey really didn't like it.

Actually, we were excited not only to see the course, but Vroman Orth was going to be presented the WGCSA Distinguished Service Award. Most didn't know about it, including Romy, but Tom had gotten wind of it and told us.

Romy doesn't go to a lot of monthly meetings because he is so busy with the Wisconsin Golf Course Museum. A lot of people come through during the season, and he keeps it open everyday. Plus, he has all of the grounds, the research area and the grassed area for the annual statewide mowing contest to keep in tiptop shape. Romy was a perfectionist, and to him, every day at the Museum was the same as our member/guest days. And he and his sons always have

equipment they are working on restoring down in the shop.

He has often told us about how long it takes to design and execute new display plans. We all know that it really is a lot of work. Romy has always grumbled, in a fun sort of way, about how much work it is keeping his workforce of volunteers motivated and moving in the right direction. Since most either are or were (but now retired) superintendents, each one has his own ideas on how things are to be done at the museum. It takes time for them to acknowledge the concept of "Romy's way or the highway."

Romy's contributions to golf have become legendary, not only within our state borders but around the country as well. Other than a small historical display at Golf House once in a rare while, Romy is the foremost keeper of our greenkeeper heritage. As we



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think about it, we kind of wonder why it has taken so long to honor the man.

The DSA committee was able to get Romy so far from home because they told him they had a number of nice pieces that guys wanted to donate to the museum. Of course, that would get the old boy halfway around the world! They wouldn't tell him any specifics, other than the items ran from books to equipment to toys to GCSAA collectibles.

"I love it up nort'," Steady Eddie mused in a serious moment. The ride through the beautiful Wisconsin countryside was inspiring, occasioning a deep sigh from one of us every few miles.

"I cannot believe I am getting paid to make this trip," said a grateful Tom Morris.

"The thing I've noticed over the years about people from 'up north' is that they have a great sense of humor, and they love to play off of the stereotype of the outdoorsy, insular, inbred drunken Packer fan. The truth, which they know, is that they are wiser and more shrewd than the downstaters who actually believe their country bumpkin image."

"Well, since we'll be north of Highway 29, let's keep our eyes open for 'dat turdy point buck!'" Bogey joked.

We were only a few minutes out of Wausau, it seemed, and arrived at the course as the guys were finishing up golf. We snagged a couple of golf cars and gave ourselves a quick tour of the course. I took a picture of my three friends at the granite pedestal marking the course's namesake.

We returned to the clubhouse and joined our colleagues. There was a huge crowd and people seemed to know something was up. I found Romy, shook hands and asked him what the donations to the museum were.

"No clue," he said, but pointed to the corner of the dining room. "I'll bet that has something to do with it."

Off in the corner, left of the head tables as you faced them, was something tented with tablecloths. They were draped over it generously, and a young wait staffer was posted there to keep the nosy people away.

"It's got to be some kind of mowing equipment," Tom Morris speculated.

Calhoun said, "It's another tractor. It's gotta be."

We enjoyed a fabulous meal of pot roast, potato pancakes and mixed vegetables after a crispy spinach salad. Desert was a choice between rhubarb pie and ice cream or apple pie and cheddar cheese.

After the prizes for golf were handed out and other business details were handled, we came to the exciting part of the evening. Romy was called to the podium to accept the newly donated items for the museum.

Frank Knebel came forward and presented Romy with the crystal ashtray given to all who attended the

GCSAA 50th anniversary celebration at the Sylvania CC in Ohio. Included with the ashtray (which was in the original box) was a program autographed by the keynote speaker, none other than Arnold Palmer. His father, Herman, who had attended the event in 1976, gave it to Frank. Romy was absolutely thrilled.

Next came Harry Cowe. Harry helped his assistant carry an old Webb Witch 12" ground driven putting green push mower to the head table. It was made in England and in great condition although in need of paint. Harry decided to leave it to Romy to decide if original condition on this antique was best. We were all amazed and wondered how long it would take to mow a green with a reel less than half of the width we now use. And all agreed it would be hard to push.

Romy was in total awe of the mower. "I've never even seen one," he said as he gave it close inspection.

Rod MacDonald was next; his donation was a restored toy Tonka 1954 Ford pickup truck, about 1/12 scale. It was a real beauty and Romy was really glad to have it for the museum. "More than a few Wisconsin golf courses had this vehicle as a golf course truck 50 or so years ago."

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Finally, Gene Vance came to the podium at the head table. Gene was near retirement and at an age when tractors played a pivotal role in the operation of a golf course. And, as Gene pointed out, Ford made the absolutely best tractors, from the 2N and 8N up through the models made in the 1970s.

"My grandparents farmed in southwest Wisconsin," Gene said as he started his remarks. My grandfather died at a very young age in the early 1950s, and right before he died he had purchased a new 1953 Ford NAA tractor. This tractor was called the 'Golden Jubilee' tractor in honor of Henry Ford's 50th anniversary in the car business.

"My dad's older brother took over the farm, but my grandmother wouldn't allow him (or anyone else) to use Grandpa's new Ford tractor. It was stored in the granary under a heavy old canvas.

"Even after Grandma died, my uncle wouldn't use the Golden Jubilee, out of respect for her wishes. Maybe once a year he put a little gas in it, started it and let it run for a while, just to keep it operating.

"I was at the farm last year when my uncle was getting ready to start it, and we got to talking about the tractor and what would happen to it. I told him about Romy Orth and the WGC Museum, and just like that, he said 'you can have it.'

"So, Romy, here are the keys to this wonderful old tractor." The tablecloth tent was removed and revealed the mint condition tractor.

The clubhouse building was dead quiet. Then, suddenly, everyone started to clap. Romy hugged Gene and said to the crowd, "I'll do my best to take care of her."

We knew he would.

Once the commotion subsided, Romy was called to the podium again. Mike said, "We've got one more thing to give you, Romy."

With that he started his speech about Romy Orth and his importance to Wisconsin golf. Mike spoke about his contributions to the UW - Madison's turf program and the interns he'd employed over the many years he had been a superintendent. He spoke to tournaments he'd hosted, offices he'd held, and careers he had advanced. After his retirement, of course, was the birth and development of the famous Wisconsin Golf Course Museum.

"For all these things, Romy, and more, we present you with our highest honor, the DSA."

Romy was stunned. When a man of few words anyway is speechless, like Romy, he doesn't have much to say. But those few words he uttered, with big tears rolling down his weathered cheeks - "Thanks a lot guys; this means a lot to me" - were all we needed to hear.

There wasn't a dry eye that night at the Crossroads Country Club in Poniowski, Wisconsin. ♣



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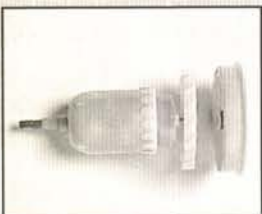
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