

## Those Dog-Days in August

There are times I wonder why I ever got into this business, and the last two weeks in August (those dog-days) are one of the times when I wonder most.

I don't have to look at a calendar to know when the August dog-days are here, all I have to do is go to work. I know it's dog-days when there has been 40 to 50 90° plus days (mostly in a row), and there has been at least an inch of rain in the past 45 to 60 days, unfortunately it all came in five minutes. Also during dog-days greens tend to get a little firm on the mounds (it takes dynamite to set a cup) and a little soft (the greens mower needs pontoons) in the swails.

The low areas in the fairways also tend to get a little on the damp side. They team with water fowl, and possibly reptiles, plus there is speculation that a drag line should be employed to look for last year's men's club champion and his cart, believed somewhere on the back nine. Fortunately there are just as many dry areas in the fairways as wet. I figure that about the time these dry areas are too hard to drive in a 16 penny nail it's time to try and talk one of my employees into dragging a hose over and running a little extra water. That is assuming 1) I have water, 2) I have an employee.

Speaking of employees, they often highlight dog-days with items like—all the night watermen quitting the same week, all the intellectuals deciding they need to leave for school two weeks before it starts, and all the unintellectuals caring less whether they work or get fired, as welfare and unemployment pay about the same; and don't try to hire anybody during dog-days, there isn't anybody.

The golfers are also happy to add their two cents to dog-days by pointing out little items that are out of line. You know those items, like greens which have been chewed up by thousands of golfers leaving their ball marks and dragging their feet; fairways which have been beaten into prairie roads by thousands of golf carts and tees that look like the Lowry Bombing Range thanks to these observant and helpful golfers.

Last but not least, are the dog-days equipment dulldrums. Dog-days are here the day the stunt driver you've been threatening to fire all summer wraps one

cushman around a tree (he lives, the cushman and the tree are both killed) and the wiring harness burns up in another. Persons unknown let the tee mower run out of oil and the engine freezes up, and a greensmower breaks a hydraulic line. But that's not all, it takes longer to get the rotaries started than it takes to mow, there are no new aerating tines in town, in fact there are no new parts for anything in town, the belts are broken on the top dresser, the roller bearings are shot in the fairway unit and the mechanic is gone to Iowa for his annual family reunion.

Yes, these August dog-days make me wonder if I might not be better off sorting mail at the bulk mail center, but then again with what the federal government pays, I wouldn't know what to do with the extra money.

Denny Lyon

Editor - Rocky Mountain Reporter

## Update on Cool Weather Brown Patch - A Continuing Problem

H. Cole, Jr., L.L. Burpee and P.O. Sanders

### A Brief History

For years Brown Patch has been recognized as a warm temperature, humid weather disease of colonial bents and the older mixed creeping bentgrasses of greens and tees. Typically the disease would smolder causing patches of brownish discolored grasses until the weather became especially "muggy" and warm when smoke rings and active patches would appear overnight.

Older writings about golf courses diseases contain references to winter Brown Patch but these brownish rings or patches were little more than curiosities. In the mid 1970's, however, persistent reports of brown rings or yellowish brown rings or patches were being made from golf courses throughout the East. Often these symptoms occurred when temperatures were in the 50's, 60's, or 70's. Superficially, they resembled typical Brown Patch, but in many instances symptoms were not controlled by the common Brown Patch fungicides or at

(continued on page 4)

**MOORE GOLF  
INCORPORATED**



GOLF COURSE  
INSTRUCTION  
IRRIGATION  
RECREATIONAL  
FACILITIES

P.O. DRAWER 916 • CULPEPER, VIRGINIA 22701 • 703/825-9211

# SEEDS

## TURF GRASSES

BULK ROOT MULCH  
TERRAGREEN PRODUCTS

FERTILIZERS & HERBICIDES  
EASY MARKER PAINTS

PHONE (Area Code 301) - 752-3415

## WM. G. SCARLETT & CO.

608-632 PRESIDENT STREET  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202

## Brown Patch

(continued from page 3)

best were checked for only a few days. As the reports filtered in, we were about to blame the disease on fungicide resistant low temperature strains of *Rhizoctonia solani* and we were going to publish a note about the resistance problem. Fortunately, Dr. Robert Sherwood of the U.S.D.A. Pasture Research Laboratory asked a most important question: How do you know the fungus is *Rhizoctonia solani*, the cause of the common warm temperature Brown Patch? To make a long story short, we didn't and it wasn't. The fungus superficially looked like *R. solani*, but there the relationship stopped. After much literature and laboratory searching the fungus turned out to be a *Ceratobasidium* sp., a *Rhizoctonia* relative to *R. solani* but completely different in temperature requirements and fungicide sensitivity.

(continued on page 5)

.....  
*People have a built-in hunger for genuine friendship and enduring relationships.*

*In our mobile society it seems more difficult to establish the finest, deepest friendships for they require time—considerable time. Being a friend means making one's self available to another. Really good friends work out reasonable ways of coping with each other's supply and demand.*

(continued on page 8)

# Ground Management

Billy Goat  
Hustler  
Yazoo

Howard  
Goodall

- Sales
- Parts
- Service
- Supplies

**Lyons & Lyons**  
SALES CO. INC.

Glen Arm Road ■ Glen Arm, Md.

**665-6500**

# PRO4

Diamond  
Shamrock



Everything you need to control diseases and weeds in turf and ornamentals.

Ten turf diseases and almost 100 kinds of weeds yield to the Diamond Shamrock Pro-4 turf system. One broad-spectrum fungicide. One preemergence herbicide. One postemergence broadleaf herbicide. One postemergence grassy weed herbicide. That's Diamond Shamrock Pro-4. DACONIL 2787\*. The new chemistry fungicide. And now it's a flowable, as well as a wettable powder.

DACTHAL® preemergence herbicide controls *Poa annua*, crabgrass and 15 other weeds. Available in two formulations: wettable powder and granules.

DACAMINE® postemergence herbicide. Non-volatile 2,4-D. Kills more than 70 broadleaf weeds.

DACONATE® 6 postemergence herbicide. The organic arsonate with a high-quality surfactant already mixed in.

Regional Office Three Commerce Park Square  
23200 Chagrin Boulevard  
Beachwood, Ohio 44122 216-464-5620

**Diamond Shamrock** Ask for our Product  
AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS DIVISION Information sheets.

**TORO**

**ADAMS EQUIPMENT, INC.**

**TWO LOCATIONS**

8001 Newell St.  
Silver Spring, Md. 20910  
Tel.: (301) 585-1322

2205 E. Joppa Rd.  
Baltimore, Md. 21234  
Tel.: (301) 668-0500

**Baltimore to Silver Spring Toll Free: 792-0456**

DISTRIBUTORS OF QUALITY LINES OF TURF EQUIPMENT



**FOR THE PROFESSIONAL TURF MANAGER**

BORDEN INC./5100 VA. BEACH BLVD.  
NORFOLK, VA. (BOX 419-23501)

G.W. "Junior" Ruckman, Jr., Rt. #1, Box 390J.  
Middletown, Va. 22645 — Phone: (703) 869-2628

# Guest Editorial

In our profession, problems are often put on the shelf in hopes that they will rectify themselves or simply be forgotten. Fortunately, in many cases this is true. But when a problem occurs time after time and it appears that nothing is being done about it, it is time to look for an answer. This problem is unique in the golf course superintendents' business in that it is common to us all and occurs regardless of location, budget, expertise, experience, or capital investment. I'm speaking of parts availability.

If anyone in our association has not had a problem in getting urgently needed parts, please let us know. I've heard unbelievable stories from superintendents about delays and snafus. Parts ordered, and two weeks later you may receive a back order notice. Must we buy a new Greensaire to complete our aerification? Is it really an ingenious selling ploy? The cost of parts versus the entire machine can be astronomical. Must we beg as well as pay through the nose for them? I realize turf equipment is "custom made," but with escalating costs wouldn't it be economical to produce an overabundance of parts which could be sold (and quickly) at ever higher prices? According to the computer list of available parts most equipment becomes obsolete in 5 years in Florida. Is this true in the northern states with the short seasons or are all the parts held back for those that have the winter to repair at leisure?

I've had two pieces of equipment in the shop awaiting back ordered parts for over 2 months. Who pays the storage cost? (One more reason parts are more and more expensive). I ordered a new piece of equipment with options. After three weeks it became apparent that the options would be back ordered. The basic item was subsequently delivered and several months later we are still awaiting these options—the total bill has been paid! The situation is so bad that salesmen and partsmen will put us off in hopes that we will forget or make other arrangements. Who pays for the \$6000 machine, idled for weeks by a commonly worn or broken part?

Often we are at fault for expecting the instant communication of television or the simultaneous copy of a teletype. Sometimes we read the wrong part number, or because of incomplete information or not reading the manual, order the wrong part. This editorial does not wish to blame the manufacturer, transporter, distributor, serviceman, or salesman. However, we would like to hear the problem in each area and what can and is being done to alleviate some of the bottlenecks. Can we as superintendents help? How? We would like to see responses from each area (including superintendents) in the newsletter.

George Reid

Florida West Coast Newsletter Editor

---

## Brown Patch

(continued from page 4)

### The Current Situation

As more samples and reports of disease occurrences rolled in, it became apparent that we were not dealing with a curiosity but with a problem of consequence of golf turf. Symptoms have been reported on fairways, greens, tees, and aprons.

We could isolate the *Ceratobasidium* fungus from many of these turf areas; from some we could isolate neither *Ceratobasidium* nor *R. solani* but still other unidentified fungi. At present we believe that the disease is not going to become the scourge of turfgrass but merely another problem to be solved on the way to qualify turf. It would appear that humid, cool weather is most favorable for disease development.

### Where did the problem come from: Why *Ceratobasidium* now and not 10 years ago?

Any new problem always stimulates the question of why now? and not before? Answers have ranged from: the discontinuance of growing season use of mercury to the introduction of the benzimidazole systemic fungicides in wide use. Others have blamed shifts in the weather towards cooler, wetter summers. At this point there is not correct answer and there may never be one. The best we can do is speculate based on the facts on hand. Our best estimate is that the same shift towards cooler, wetter summers that has brought on increased

Red Thread prevalence and severity has also brought Cool Weather Brown Patch to prominence. Fungi respond to their environment. Those that are favored by a change in the environment become more common; those that are less favored become less common.

### Where do we go from there?

The major practical problem that the turfgrass manager faces is disease control to a level compatible with the uses of the area in question. At present we just do not have enough information about the disease to make clear recommendations for either cultural or fungicide control. Environmental manipulation does not seem to offer promise, especially for the golf course superintendent who is locked into a multitude of other concerns dealing with irrigation and culture. From a fungicide view the best recommendation would be to stick with success. If Cool Weather Brown Patch does appear and your current program is not holding it, then try shifting to other fungicides labeled and registered for Brown Patch until you meet with at least partial success. We are attempting to work out the fungicide situation. Dan Loughner, who is working on his M.S. in Plant Pathology with us, will be evaluating fungicides in the laboratory, green house, and with luck, in the field. We will be screening both the *Rhizoctonia solani* warm temperature Brown Patch group as well as the *Ceratobasidium* cool temperature group of fungi.

From The Keynoter, Penn. Turfgrass Council