

Turf Grass TRENDS



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How canopy density affects hyphal growth & moisture

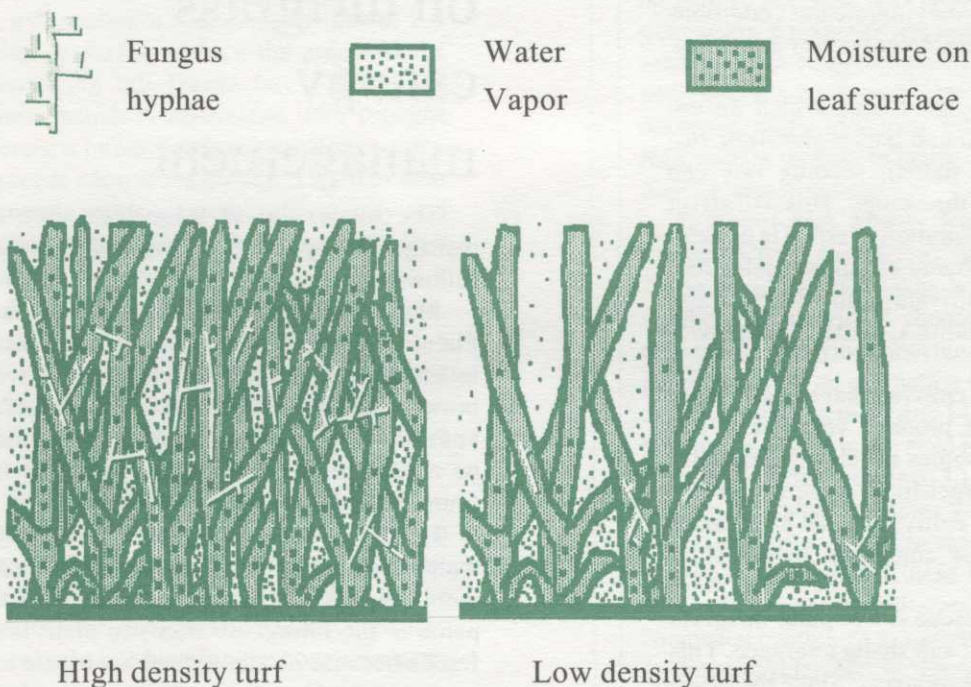


figure by Loren J. Giesler

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The turfgrass canopy and its environment

by Loren J. Giesler and Dr. Gary Y. Yuen
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

A canopy is often thought of as the leafy portion of a tree or shrub, but turfgrasses can also be thought of as having a canopy. Picture yourself in a typical forest canopy. You are surrounded by living plant tissue. Notice how cool, dark, and damp it is within the canopy even though it may be a hot, dry, sunny day. The forest foliage influences the environment within the canopy (the micro-environment) and causes conditions within the

canopy to be greatly different from outside of the canopy, or the ambient environment.

In a similar manner, the turfgrass canopy is formed by overhanging foliage. Micro-environmental conditions within the turf canopy can vary markedly from ambient conditions and can greatly affect the activity of organisms (i.e. turfgrass diseases). Little is known, however, of what effects turfgrass management practices have on the canopy environment.