

TurfGrass TRENDS



GREEN SECTION LIBRARY
DO NOT REMOVE

Volume 5, Issue 6

June 1996

Enhancing Turfgrass Disease Control with Organic Amendments

by Eric B. Nelson
Cornell University

The management of turfgrasses, particularly on golf courses, represents perhaps the highest level of plant management practiced on any agricultural or horticultural commodity known today. Proper turfgrass management involves a number of rather complicated mechanical, physical, chemical, and bio-

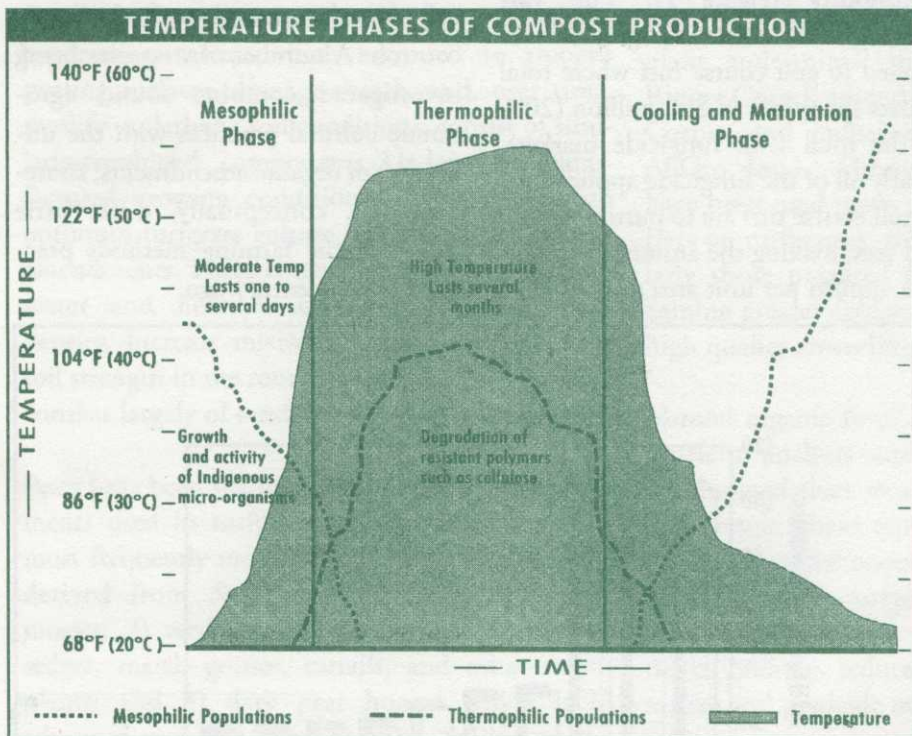


Figure 2.

- PHASE I - Initial heating takes place and readily soluble components are degraded.
- PHASE II - Cellulose and hemicellulose are degraded under high (thermophilic) conditions. This is accompanied by the release of water, carbon dioxide, ammonia and heat.
- PHASE III - Curing and stabilization are accompanied by a drop in temperatures and increased humification of the material. Low temperature (mesophilic) microorganisms, including populations of microbial antagonists, recolonize the compost during this final cooling and maturation phase.

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Enhancing Turfgrass Disease Control with Organic Amendments** 1

The use of organic amendments in turfgrass management

Turf management with natural organic fertilizers

The nature of the composting process

Suppressiveness of compost amendments to turfgrass diseases

Mechanisms of disease suppression with composted amendments

Microbial communities and disease suppression

Disease suppressive activity of compost microbes

The future of organic amendments for turfgrass disease control

■ **In Future Issues** 16