

Table 2. Comparative incidence of dollar spot (*Sclerotinia humaeocarpa*) assessed as number of spots per 3.5 sq. m. plot for 17 bentgrass (*Agrostis* spp.) cultivars in 1993. Torino, Italy.

Cultivar Treatment	Date Evaluated					
	6/11	6/18	6/25	7/9	7/23	7/30
Astoria	6.3	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Seaside	6.5	3.0	5.5	0.0	0.0	2.6
Pennlinks	6.3	10.3	11.0	18.0	8.0	24.3
Penncross	11.0	18.5	23.5	22.3	7.0	28.6
Providence	9.3	13.5	12.0	18.0	13.3	30.8
National	7.3	20.0	26.0	25.8	15.0	38.0
Penneagle	17.3	17.5	26.5	28.0	20.0	42.3
Cobra	19.3	16.5	18.8	23.8	16.5	44.5
Putter	25.5	30.0	33.5	38.8	25.0	48.6
Southshore	0.3	1.3	9.5	37.5	35.0	80.3
SR 1020	46.5	57.0	64.3	90.0	71.5	97.0
Emerald	96.3	93.0	59.3	105.3	59.8	119.3
LSD value*	31.46	31.79	35.05	44.22	30.43	37.55
PSU DF1	5.5	4.0	4.5	0.0	4.5	4.5
PSU A1	0.5	1.0	1.0	6.0	1.5	14.5
PSU G2	19.0	22.0	26.5	11.5	16.0	32.0
PSU G6	11.0	15.5	19.0	19.0	14.5	33.0
PSU G1	4.0	6.5	12.5	23.5	13.5	44.0

Among the commercially available creeping bentgrass cultivars assessed, Seaside exhibited the best season-long dollar spot resistance. Other cultivars with low susceptibility to dollar spot were Pennlinks and Penncross; followed by Cobra, Providence, and National. In contrast, Emerald and SR 1020 proved very susceptible to dollar spot. Among the Pennsylvania State University (PSU) bentgrass selections, two exhibited low susceptibility to dollar spot, DF1 and A1.

Certain genotypes exhibited a distinct seasonal pattern involving low susceptibility to dollar spot disease during the first half of the growing season up to early July, but then showed an increased incidence of dollar spot after July 1, with Southshore being a prime example and to a lesser extent PSU A1. While Southshore had a large number of dollar spots, each infected spot of dead turf was quite small compared to the much larger size of individual dollar spots for such cultivars as SR 1020 and Emerald.

SUMMARY

The dollar spot susceptibility of 17 creeping bentgrass cultivars grown under putting green conditions was evaluated near Torino, Italy. The experimental area was constructed of a well drained, high-sand root zone. The turfs were in the second full growing season at the time of the assessments. No fungicides were applied for dollar spot control during the growing season. Great variability in susceptibility of dollar spot was observed among the 17 *Agrostis* cultivars. Astoria and Seaside proved the most resistant, followed by Pennlinks and Penncross.

The cultivars Emerald and SR 1020 proved especially susceptible to dollar spot, with from 20 to 30% of the turf area lost to the disease. Two advanced experimental selections from Pennsylvania State University exhibited minimal susceptibility to dollar spot, with DF1 being particularly noteworthy among the *Agrostis stolonifera* cultivars.

The most serious, continuing disease on bentgrass putting greens is dollar spot, which also is the disease most commonly treated with fungicides. Thus, bentgrass cultivars with a low susceptibility to dollar spot are desired in terms of (a) less potential turf damage, (b) less cost for fungicides, and (c) improved environmental quality strategies. Thus, it is of concern that some of the newer bentgrass cultivars possess increased susceptibility to the dollar spot disease. This dimension must be considered when selecting a bentgrass (*Agrostis* spp.) cultivar for planting on golf courses.

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References:

- Beard, J.B. 1982. Turfgrass Management for Golf Courses. Macmillan Company, New York, N.Y., USA. 642 pp.
- Croce, P., M. Mocioni, V. Merlo Pich, and J.B. Beard. 1994. Bentgrass (*Agrostis* spp.) cultivar characterizations for 1993 in Torino, Italy. Italian Golf Federation, Green Section - Research Progress Report No. 301. 13 pp.

DO THINGS EVER CHANGE?

The fairway is cut too high!
Records at a golf club in the Scottish Highlands reported a member's complaint about the poor condition of the fairways. The member suggested that "the next sheep purchased should have teeth." 1700's.