

Spring Diseases

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Red Thread (*LAETISARIA FUCIFORMIS*)

Columbus is experiencing seasonably cool weather. Once the hot, dry weather gets here we should see a reduction in the activity of this disease. Turfgrass areas more prone to red thread are low quality, nutrient deficient soils, which can be improved by sound management practices and a balanced fertilizer program. As with any disease, if it occurs every year, a timely preventative fungicide application can be applied. For example, an application of Bayleton, Accost (Triademefon), Endorse (Polyoxin D zinc salt), or Heritage (Azoxystrobin) made in late March or April may supply spring-long suppression. Once the disease is present, it takes time for turfgrass re-growth to fill in affected or bare areas.

Leaf Spot (*HELMINTHOSPORIUM*) is Active

Most common leaf spots on fields at this time of year are associated with one of the *Bipolaris* or *Drechslera* spp. In the past, these were lumped together and referred to as *Helminthosporium* leaf spot. This fungal disease of turf is wide spread at this time of year on susceptible grasses. Check for brown spots and lesions on the leaf blades. Cool wet weather will keep this disease active and increase severity. Older fields with common Kentucky bluegrass are often the most severely affected. If there are turf areas with a history of this problem, manage to minimize damage.

Proper mowing is important to maintain turf health. If the lawn is cut too short the disease will cause extensive damage and be much more severe than if mowed high. On newer fields, there are usually more resistant grasses and cultivars to this disease.

In extreme cases, consider the use of fungicide application(s). Remember the recent changes in fungicide labels that restrict the use of some fungicides. Some products to consider are Heritage, Mancozeb, and Endorse. The iprodione (Chipco 26GT, Iprodione Pro, and 18 Plus) and vinclozolin (Touche and Curalan) products are the most effective but new products can not be used on residential turf. ♦

April 20, 2004 4th Annual Spring Field Day Recap



Dr. Henry Inkyk, SFMANJ Advisor and GSI Sports Field Consultant describes the steps in installing drainage.



Ken Mathis(left) introducing George McCarthy(right), SFMANJ board of director and president of Spring Irrigation who spoke on Irrigation systems and "How you make it work".



Jim Hermann, SFMANJ Vice President and President of Total Control. Discussing safety issues and getting the best out of skinned infield maintenance.