

Green Industry Book Report

Diseases Of Turfgrasses, by Dr. Houston B. Couch, Professor of Plant Pathology, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

The author, Dr. Houston B. Couch, has substantially updated the text of his first book in this popular second edition. Those who have the first printing will find the new book as refreshing and authoritative as the one in their collection. Those less fortunate now have an opportunity to purchase one of the best and most comprehensive texts in print today.

As a whole, *Diseases Of Turfgrass* is excellent. It is written in easy to understand yet specific style. A superintendent or grounds keeper knowing little about plant pathology would benefit from having this text in his personal library. In a deeper sense, however, the book is complete in detail to serve as a handy reference or text for the plant pathologist.

There are basically five chapters to the book. Organization is one of the keys to knowledge and the author has developed a system throughout this work which is easy to understand. Chapter one serves as introduction into the concept of plant disease, its causes and history.

Chapter two discusses diseases of turfgrass caused by pathogenic fungi. Chapter three lists diseases of turfgrass caused by pathogenic nematodes. Chapter four is a discussion of diseases caused by viruses and mycoplasma-like organisms. The last chapter should be read first, especially by those concerned with environmental protection chemicals. It is a highly interesting analysis of fundamentals of turfgrass disease control.

Convenience in organization is best shown in the way fungi, nematodes and viruses are presented. Sections are arranged in this order: 1. symptoms; 2. the pathogen 3. hosts; 4. disease cycle; 5. control. The reader can quickly locate any disease.

Another special feature of this text is the appendix tables which comprise roughly a third of the book. Cross-indexing of diseases according to grass species affected, common names, grass species susceptible to turfgrass pathogens by common name, and grass species susceptible to turfgrass pathogens by technical name provide a quick and easy reference.

Speaking of references, Dr. Couch has cited 364 literature references to help the reader understand more about a specific disease.

Diseases Of Turfgrasses is published by Robert K. Krieger Publishing Co., Huntington, New York. \$17.50

Poison Treatment Chart Available

An excellent chart which quickly details the necessary actions in cases of acute pesticide poisonings is now available.

"Emergency Medical Treatment For Acute Pesticide Poisoning" lists for insecticides, rodenticides, herbicides and solvents, chemical basis, commercial products and generic names, pharmacologic action or site of toxicity, toxicity rating, symptoms, treatment, and laboratory tests. It is all contained in this 17-inch by 21-inch chart which can be mounted on a wall.

For a copy of the chart, write: Disease Vector Ecology And Control Center, United States Navy, U.S. Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Florida 32212.

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