

# Turfgrass Pathology

Internationally recognized turfgrass pathologist Houston B. Couch of Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, takes charge of the pen for this part of the Turf Management Series. Dr. Couch wrote the following history for the Turfgrass Disease Symposium held in Columbus, Ohio, in 1979. The proceedings of the seminar will soon be available in book form from Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc., Book Department, One East First Street, Duluth, Minnesota 55802.

Disease on fine turf has been a major problem since the late 19th Century. Piper and Oakley broadly termed most symptoms as "Brown Patch." Monteith took this information and refined it further. Today, the identity of many diseases is still less than exact. There are arguments over terminology and nomenclature. But much more is known and a great portion of damage by turf disease has been prevented through resistant turfgrass cultivars and maintenance practices.

Knowledge of turfgrass disease will play a vital role in integrated pest management in the future. Relationships between disease and maintenance practices will be clarified. Effects of herbicides, aerification, soil pH, insects, and traffic on turfgrass will be better understood.

Certainly, a basic level of information on turfgrass pathology is vital for the manager of any fine turf area.



Houston B. Couch

*Bruce F. Shank*

Bruce F. Shank, Editor