

LANDSCAPE LOG

by the Editorial Advisory Board, *Weeds Trees & Turf* magazine

July presents turf disease challenge

Southwest and Southeast landscape managers should be on the look out for turf disease symptoms beginning in July. Kent Kurtz at Cal Poly Pomona suggests aerification, light verticutting, and fertilization of bermudagrasses in July. Diseases may crop up late in the month with summer rains.

Bruce Augustin of the University of Florida says brown patch on St. Augustine and leafspots on bermudagrass develop in Florida in July. Webworms, cutworms, and chinchbugs are also in high gear during the month. Augustin recommends curative rather than preventative insecticide treatments due to problems with resistance.

In the Great Plains, conditions are drier says Robert Shearman of the University of Nebraska. Irrigation should be utilized to avoid drought stress and fertilizer should be withheld from cool-season grasses. Summer patch, brown patch, and pythium are potential threats in July.

Armyworms, bluegrass billbug larvae, white grubs, and greenbug aphids are active at this time. Spider mites may be damaging ornamentals. Elm leaf beetles, peach tree borers, and pine needle scale are also active.

Roses should be sprayed at regular intervals for

blackspot control. Junipers should be sprayed with copper fungicides for cercospora twig blight.

Midwest and Northeast landscape managers are also on guard for signs of drought stress says Martin Petrovic of Cornell. Trees and shrubs can be mulched to keep root zones moist and cool.

July is the right time to trim or shear evergreens says Petrovic. Watch for mite infestations.

Harry Niemczyk of the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, urges golf course superintendents to check for damage by *Ataenius spretulus*. Cutworms, grubs, chinchbugs, billbug larvae, greenbug aphid, and sod webworm are also insect concerns in July.

Mid-Atlantic landscape managers should aerify, verticut, irrigate, and fertilize warm season grasses says VPI & SU's Jack Hall. Postemergence weed control and treatment for dollar spot are appropriate in July. Warm season turf repair is recommended.

Hall says cool-season turf may need to be limed and treated for emerged weeds. Sod webworms, chinchbugs, and billbugs can be problems. Brown patch, dollar spot, Fusarium, and pythium diseases may attack in July.

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