

[PLANT DIAGNOSIS]

Two months ago, we asked readers what problems they've had the hardest time diagnosing. Diseases seemed to be the most frequent response.

The best diagnosticians and horticulturists learn something new every time they go on a landscape, it has been said. If such is the case, there's a lot of learning going on in the green industry on a daily basis.

Art Snarzyk, for instance, once thought a problem with some brown turf was a disease, only to find out it was an insect problem.

"I had previously diagnosed and treated fusarium blight symptoms in late summer," Snarzyk wrote, "only to find grubs feeding in these areas in later months."

Snarzyk of Turf Specialists, St. Peters, Mo., changed his approach not much later.

"I now have customers begin intensive irrigation programs and I recheck the turf. Water



Fusarium blight appears as completely killed circles in bluegrass turf. It attacks the root, crown and leaf.

keeps the grubs near the surface where they can be detected if present."

Walter C. Chastain of Gibbs Landscape in Smyrna, Ga., had a similar problem on the



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If grubs are killing the turf, they'll be easy to find once you pull back a section of turf.

2.5-acre fescue lawn at the main entrance to the Ravinia complex in Atlanta.

"Over a three-day period in May of this year, 90 percent of the turf lost all color," writes Chastain. "Irrigation was running at 100 percent, and no disease was present. It is a Class A+ property, a six-figure yearly contract and a big-time stress factor."

What did he do? He sought help.

"We conducted a soil profile diagnosis. It indicated extreme compaction. So we used a soil-injected 'Grow Gun' application of a special polymer and microbial spores on a 24-inch grid. Now, at the end of August, the turf is beautiful."

Leslie Wing, grounds supervisor at Central Washington University, Ellensburg, Wash., had problems with fairy ring.

"When I started here, the grounds crew tried everything to get rid of the fairy rings on the infield of the varsity baseball diamond, to no avail," he writes. "They had even tried some detergent to help the water penetrate the area."

"So back in my memory, I pulled out a fact that the rings never cross and if they do cross or get too close to each other, then they die out."

"So if you take part of one colony and put it into another colony, they will wipe each other out. Hey—don't laugh!"

"At the start of baseball season, we cut out the sod and replaced the sod and I took chunks from each of the several circles and traded them around. We now have no fairy rings two years later. Try it if you like; it certainly costs less than fungicides."

For their cooperation, each of the three people mentioned here will get official "Landscape Management" caps.

Events

OCTOBER

All month: Golf Course Superintendents Association of America has series of one- and two-day seminars in many U.S. locations. For information, phone: (800) 472-7878.

16-20: International Turf & Ornamental Distributors Association annual conference, Naples, Fla. Phone: Jim Hartnett, (313) 331-7739.

19-21: American Society of Landscape Architects annual meeting & Expo, Los Angeles. Phone: (202) 686-2752.

23-24: Western Nursery & Garden Expo, Las Vegas. Phone: (800) 517-0391 or (916) 567-0200.

26: Women in Horticulture Conference, Seattle, Wash. Phone: Kim Hayes, (206) 367-1836.

27-30: National Institute

on Park and Grounds Management conference and show, Minneapolis, Minn. Phone: (414) 733-2301.

NOVEMBER

17-21: Green Industry Expo, Cincinnati (Ohio) Convention Center. Phone: (770) 973-2019.

17-21: ALCA Landscape and Grounds Maintenance Conference, Omni Netherland Plaza Hotel and Cincinnati (Ohio) Convention Center. Phone: (800) 395-2522.

17-21: PGMS Annual Conference, Westin Hotel at Fountain Square and Cincinnati (Ohio) Convention Center. Phone: (410) 584-9754.

17-21: PLCAA Annual Conference, Hyatt Regency and Cincinnati (Ohio) Convention Center. Phone: (800) 458-3466.

'REAL WORLD' I.P.M. WORKSHOPS

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT's "Practical Turfgrass IPM" workshop is scheduled for early February in the Columbus, Ohio area. The workshop is designed to give front-line managers the knowledge they need to understand and implement "integrated pest management" at their sites.

Run by "real world" turf managers and IPM implementation specialists, workshop attendees will gain:

—understanding of what Integrated Pest Management is, and isn't;

—how IPM techniques are relevant to a turfgrass management environment;

—how those techniques are implemented to control weeds, insects and diseases.

Interested turf managers may call (800) 225-4569 x709. More details on the workshop will soon be available in future issues of LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT.