

# Nemesis 'numero uno' on lawns: brown patch



**Brown patch: a frequent summer killer of turf**

According to a survey of turfgrass disease diagnostic centers across the U.S., brown patch is the leading killer of grass across three frames of reference: frequency of occurrence, intensity of damage and estimated economic impact.

"There are some surprises

here," says survey originator Chris Sann of the Turf Information Group, Wilmington, Del. "Conventional wisdom holds that dreschlera and dollar spot are the most common turfgrass diseases, rather than fifth and third, respectively.

"That brown patch is first is a mild surprise, but that anthracnose is second and pythium root rot is fourth is a huge surprise." Sann says that *bipolaris* coming in sixth is also a "moderate surprise."

The survey numbers indicate the number of specimens tested by labs. *However*, many turf managers can often diagnose the most common diseases themselves, simply

by symptoms and cultural factors—including weather patterns—and thus do not send specimens to labs.

"These results indicate that labs are more sophisticated than thought, and that management practices, product use and plant breeding are having an effect on disease occurrence," says Sann.

The survey was part of a future project being conducted cooperatively by the Turf Information Group, *LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT* magazine and *American Cyanamid*. Forty-eight questionnaires were mailed, and 27 were returned. Here are the complete results:

## 'Day on Hill' features Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., will be the guest speaker at PLCAA's 8th Annual Legislative Day on the Hill in Washington D.C., Feb. 3-4, 1997.

Also participating will be Edward A. Grefe, chairman of International Civics Inc., who will be conducting a classroom session entitled "Strategic Management of Political Issues & Grassroots Politics." Grefe specializes in coalition building and crisis management.

PLCAA says all lawn and landscape professionals are encouraged to attend its Legislative Day on the Hill and help influence legislation. One-on-one visits with legislators on Capitol Hill are the highlights of the event. There is no registration fee, and most meals are included.

For more information on Legislative Day, contact PLCAA Director of Government Affairs Tom Delaney at (800) 458-3466; fax is (770) 578-6071; e-mail: [plcaa@atcom.net](mailto:plcaa@atcom.net).

### TURF DISEASE SURVEY

Disease	Frequency of occurrence	Intensity of damage	Est. economic impact
Brown patch	4.08 (1)	3.48 (1)	3.59 (1)
Anthracnose	3.26 (2)	2.89 (4)	2.74 (4)
Dollar spot	3.22 (3)	2.56 (6)	2.48 (7)
Pythium root rot	3.07 (4)	3.30 (2)	3.00 (2)
Dreschlera diseases	3.04 (5)	2.56 (7)	2.37 (8)
Bipolaris diseases	2.96 (6)	2.56 (8)	2.56 (6)
Red thread	2.96 (7)	2.33 (9)	2.04 (12)
Pythium blight	2.67 (8)	3.07 (3)	2.80 (3)
Rust	2.63 (9)	2.11 (13)	2.30 (9)
Summer patch	2.63 (10)	2.70 (5)	2.74 (5)
Pink snow mold	2.30 (11)	2.33 (10)	2.04 (13)
Gray snow mold	2.26 (12)	2.04 (14)	1.81 (14)
Necrotic ring spot	2.19 (13)	2.26 (12)	2.19 (11)
Take-all patch	2.15 (14)	2.30 (11)	2.30 (10)

NOTES: Numbers are average of all responses (5=most frequent, 1=least frequent). Numbers in parentheses are rank in group. Responses based on best estimates of personnel at participating diagnostic centers.