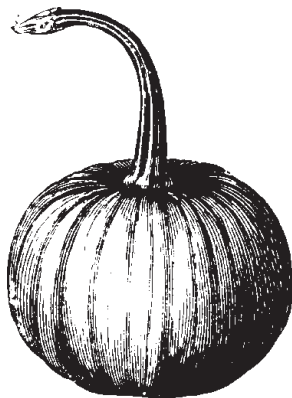


PLANT & PEST ADVISORY

LANDSCAPE, NURSERY & TURF EDITION \$1.50

OCTOBER 5, 2006



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Diseases of Turfgrass

Bruce B. Clarke, Ph.D., Specialist in Turfgrass Pathology

New Strobilurin Fungicide Approved by EPA

The EPA has just approved Disarm 480SC, a new strobilurin (QoI) fungicide for use on turf. The active ingredient in Disarm is fluoxastrobin. Like azoxystrobin (Heritage), pyraclostrobin (Insignia) and trifloxystrobin (Compass), fluoxastrobin is very effective against a broad range of diseases including anthracnose, brown patch, gray leaf spot, pythium blight and summer patch.

PCNB Reregistration in Doubt

The EPA has recommended that turf uses of PCNB be considered ineligible for reregistration. Interested parties had until October 2, 2006 to submit comments in support of retaining PCNB for use on turfgrasses. If the proposed ban is upheld, then PCNB could no longer be sold for the control of snow mold diseases on golf courses in the United States. The final decision from the EPA is expected later this year.

Pink Snow Mold

This disease, caused by the fungus *Microdochium nivale* (*Fusarium nivale*), will develop soon on golf and landscape turf. To prevent pink snow mold from developing on susceptible turf this fall, avoid excessive nitrogen applications, continue mowing turf until dormancy, and apply Armada, Banner, Chipco 26GT, chlorothalonil, Compass, ConSyst, Eagle, Headway, Heritage, Insignia, Instrata, Medallion, PCNB, Spectro, Tartan, thiophanate-methyl, or vinclozolin. For best results, apply any of these fungicides now and then repeat in late-January if the snow cover recedes. Do not, however, reapply PCNB after January 15 due to the possibility of phytotoxicity during warm weather next spring.

Stripe Smut

Stripe Smut is apparent on susceptible Kentucky bluegrass varieties at this time. This disease is caused by the fungus *Ustilago striiformis*. Symptoms appear as long black streaks (striations) between the veins of infected blades. These areas eventually rupture releasing abundant black smut spores. One well-timed application of an appropriate fungicide now will provide excellent control and is, therefore, far superior to multiple applications in the spring (mid-May). For best results, apply Armada, Banner, Bayleton, Eagle, Rubigan, Tartan, or thiophanate-methyl now per manufacturer's recommendations.

SEE TURF DISEASES ON PAGE 2

The Season is Fall: Control Your Perennial Weeds!

Patrick E. McCullough, Program Associate in Turfgrass and Ornamental Weed Science and Stephen E. Hart, Ph.D., Specialist in Weed Science

Perennial plants are the most difficult weeds to control in turfgrass and landscape beds because they have belowground reproductive structures that are difficult to remove by hand or completely kill with herbicides. These belowground structures have potential for regrowth to produce new plants in subsequent growing seasons.

Several of these weeds, including **thistles, dandelions, ground ivy** and **mugwort** reduce aesthetics and functionality of these plantings. Fall is the most effective seasonal timing for non-selective herbicides such as glyphosate as well as selective turfgrass herbicides such as 2,4-D, triclopyr, dicamba and clopyralid used for broadleaf weed control. *However, all herbicides should be applied prior to a hard frost.* As day length becomes shorter in the fall, perennial plants begin to allocate sugars and reserves to belowground structures such as rhizomes, tubers, and bulbs. Physiologically, this allocation of plant reserves may improve the translocation of herbicides to belowground tissue to more effectively control perennial weeds. □

Take-all patch

This disease, caused by the root and crown infecting fungus, *Gaeumannomyces graminis* var. *avenae*, has been reported on several bentgrass greens and fairways in the tri-state region. Although this disease is most prevalent from April through June, late-summer and fall outbreaks are not uncommon. Infection takes place during cool, wet weather and symptoms are most striking after stress. Infected grass first appears bronze to reddish-brown in color and then fades to a dull brown. Patches are usually circular or ring-shaped and range in size from several inches to two feet or more in diameter. The centers of affected turf are frequently colonized by bluegrass (*Poa* spp.), fescue (*Festuca* spp.), or weed species. Upon close examination, decaying roots and leaf sheaths appear black and dark strands of mycelium often develop parallel to the root axes. The disease is enhanced by poorly drained, light-textured, and high pH soils.

Although take-all is difficult to control, best results have been achieved through the use of acidifying fertilizers (e.g., ammonium sulfate) during cool weather and preventive applications of Banner, Bayleton, Headway, Heritage, Insignia, or Rubigan in October and November. If the disease has been particularly severe, fungicides should be reapplied twice next spring at 21 to 28-day intervals beginning in early April. Chemicals should be applied in 4 gal water/1000 sq ft or lightly irrigated into the root zone (1/8 to 1/4" of water) for maximum effectiveness. Whenever practical, overseed infested areas with less susceptible grasses such as fine fescue, Kentucky bluegrass, or perennial ryegrass to mask symptom expression. Maintain soil pH at approximately 6.0 since the disease is enhanced in alkaline soils. Manganese, applied as a foliar spray (@2 lb Mn/A) containing manganese sulfate or another water soluble source, can reduce the severity of take-all patch on sites deficient in this nutrient.

Turf Expo

This year's Turf Expo will be held at the Trump Taj Mahal Casino/Resort on December 5-7, 2006. This is an excellent opportunity to receive the latest turf management information from nationally renowned speakers. For additional information, please contact Michelle Rickard at (215) 757-6582 or njtadirector@yahoo.com, or Marlene Karasik at (732) 932-9400 ext. 339 or mkarasik@aesop.rutgers.edu.

Turf Symposium on October 13, 2006

On Friday, October 13, 2006 the Ralph Geiger Turfgrass Symposium Series will hold its inaugural seminar entitled "Challenges to Maintaining Golf Courses in the 21st Century." The program, which will feature five world renowned experts in the field of turfgrass science, is co-sponsored by the Ralph Geiger Endowment in Turfgrass Science, the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science, the Rutgers Office of Continuing Professional Education, and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey. The symposium will be held in the Cook Campus Center, Multipurpose Rooms B and C. There is no charge for this program, but space is limited so *advance registration is required by October 6.* For complete program information, please visit the Rutgers Turf Center website (www.turf.rutgers.edu). To register, go on-line to www.cookce.rutgers.edu, or fax completed form from the Turf Center website to (732) 932-8726, or call (732) 932-9271. Refer to course code AT0303HA07. □

Please note corrected date

S. Jersey Landscape Conference and Trade Show to be held on November 29, 2006

This year's conference and trade show will be held on Wednesday November 29, 2006 from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. at Masso's Crystal Manor in Glassboro.

The conference promises to be bigger and better. More time and space has been dedicated to visit with exhibitors between sessions.

Registration will include both a continental breakfast and buffet luncheon, as well as a comprehensive educational program. A diversified program on both business management and plant science will be presented. Esquire Anthony Francioso will discuss written contracts and their legality for landscapers. Mr Bob Bruch of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture will lead a discussion on the the new NJ taxes on landscape and green services. Detailed examples of taxable situations will be presented.

Jim Willmott of Rutgers Cooperative Extension will discuss major pest problems and the effect of turf nutrition on their management. Steve Rettke also of RCE will discuss the problems of controlling armed scales on landscape plants.

The popular landscape business panel on *Ideas to Make your Business more Successful* will be led by landscape leaders Joe Cugliotta of J Cugliotta Landscape Nursery, Inc. and Tom Fitzsimmons, Chux Landscaping, Inc and Artesian Pools. Both Joe and Tom are Certified Landscape Professionals sharing their ideas with other landscapers. Other local landscapers will also participate.

One Core Unit will be given as well as NJ pesticide units will be given to all New Jersey Pesticide Applicators. Certified Nursery and Landscape Professionals will also receive 5 credits for attendance.

Regular information is posted on the web at <http://gloucester.rce.rutgers.edu> including a detailed copy of the program. Pre-registration is required. Contact Jerry Frecon or Alice Rogers at (856) 307-6450 Ext. 1 for more information. □



Plant Diagnostic Laboratory Highlights

Richard J. Buckley, Laboratory
Coordinator

Turf

Unfortunately, everybody's lawn looks pretty good right now. After a brutal summer for many turf managers, regular rains and cooler temperatures since late August brought about vigorous growth and recovery for area turf stands. Core aeration and seeding on damaged putting greens and a little fall fertilization on the lawn and everything is green and good for most people. Certainly is a tough situation for any turf pathologist to handle!

Landscape

Late-September brought several samples of deciduous shade trees with leaf diseases into the Plant Diagnostic Laboratory. Samples of oak with **anthracnose**, **oak leaf blister** and **actinopelte leaf spot** were common. These fungal diseases were identified on samples originally submitted for bacterial leaf scorch testing. On that note, red oak and pin oak with **bacterial leaf scorch** continue to be submitted to the laboratory at a rapid pace. Numerous samples from central and southern New Jersey counties have tested positive. We also continue to get various conifers with different degrees of needle browning, needle drop and twig dieback. Presumably this damage is from **temperature and moisture extremes** over the last year or two. Pruning, careful attention to site related stresses, and solid horticultural practice are the best bet for these trees and shrubs. □

Weekly Weather Summary

Keith Arnesen, Ph.D., Agricultural Meteorologist

Temperatures averaged near normal, averaging 57 degrees north, 60 degrees central and 61 degrees south. Extremes were 77 degrees at several locations on the 29th, and 39 degrees at numerous locations on the 30th. Weekly rainfall averaged 0.99 inches north, 0.40 inches central, and 0.55 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 0.60 inches at Newton on the 28th to 29th. Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 89 percent north, 74 percent central and 75 percent south. Four inch soil temperatures averaged 59 degrees north, 62 degrees central and 62 degrees south.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending 8 am Monday 10/ 2/ 6										
WEATHER STATIONS	R A I N F A L L			TEMPERATURE				GDD BASE50		MON %FC
	WEEK	TOTAL	DEP	MX	MN	AVG	DEP	TOT	DEP	
CANOE BROOK	1.37	29.59	-.57	76	41	59.	1	3224	587	100
CHARLOTTEBURG	.75	33.16	2.68	71	39	57.	2	2731	647	90
FLEMINGTON	.60	34.70	5.94	77	39	57.	-1	3057	354	94
NEWTON *	1.26	39.10	11.09	72	39	56.	1	2479	139	100
FREEHOLD	.38	31.08	3.16	76	44	61.	1	3188	303	79
LONG BRANCH	.44	30.49	2.24	76	44	60.	-1	3132	302	76
NEW BRUNSWICK	.49	28.37	-.03	76	40	60.	-1	3312	297	91
TOMS RIVER	.25	25.51	-3.40	76	40	60.	0	3236	406	61
TRENTON	.45	27.53	.67	76	41	60.	-1	3387	247	71
CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE	.38	18.91	-6.17	75	43	61.	-3	3333	439	79
DOWNSTOWN	.69	25.15	-1.10	77	39	60.	-2	3153	-8	85
GLASSBORO	.83	28.34	.67	75	43	60.	-1	3593	471	92
HAMMONTON	.47	26.99	-.63	77	40	61.	0	3525	397	81
POMONA	.40	27.89	3.02	76	41	61.	1	3400	495	67
SEABROOK	MISSING									
SOUTH HARRISON	.75	30.72	3.65	76	44	62	NA	3436	NA	NA
WES KLINE — GDD BASE 40 PINEY HOLLOW LAST WEEK 182 (Ending 9/25/06) THIS WEEK 141 (Ending 10/2/06)										
* SOME CUMULATIVE VALUES ESTIMATED DUE TO EARLIER MISSING DATA										

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