

Rapid Blight: a new disease of cool season turfgrasses. (C05-stowell002736-Oral)

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Abstract:

A new disease of cool season turf was first diagnosed in California in 1995 from *Poa annua* putting greens. Since that time, the disease has been observed in 11 states and in addition to *Poa annua*, has caused serious damage to large expanses of *Poa trivialis* and *Lolium perenne*. The disease has also been observed associated with salinity-stressed *Agrostis palustris*. Symptoms include severe yellowing of turf and a water soaked appearance to the diseased foliage. Football-shaped structures (4-6 μ m x 10-12 μ m) similar in appearance to sporangia of chytridiomycete fungi can be observed inside leaf cells of symptomatic plants. All attempts to isolate a fungus from infected tissues have failed. However, the disease was reproduced in *Poa trivialis* seedlings grown in pots containing soil from a golf course green that contained diseased *Poa annua* plants. Preliminary field trial results indicate that the fungicides mancozeb, trifloxystrobin or pyraclostrobin provide some measure of prevention or control.

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