

June 6, 2008

K-State Turf June 6 2008

Hot and humid

We have had some hot and humid weather lately, with lots of rain on top.

My backyard turned into a lake for awhile yesterday evening and the raised flower beds were more like waterfall features. The K-State greenhouses (= GLASS houses) took a beating from the hail so that is big fun around here today.

But, back to the point. The warm, wet conditions are conducive to diseases. A couple of days ago I heard that there is already some brown patch brewing in fescue lawns near Wichita. As you know, brown patch is most active when nighttime lows are above 70 and the grass is wet for at least 8-10 hours. I checked the KSU weather archive and found a few recent nights in eastern KS with lows right around 70. Night temps have been cooler farther west.

Pythium blight is also favored by these conditions, especially in compacted and poorly drained areas (like my backyard!).

So, you might want to be scouting for disease problems.

After tomorrow it looks like much of the state will get a break from the hot temperatures, though, so hopefully these pathogens will roll over and go back to bed.

In addition, dollar spot is definitely still firing up in putting greens, and large patch of zoysiagrass is still active. The large patch areas in one of my research trials have grown by a factor of about 1.5 since last week. I thought the warm temps might slow it down, but all the water is definitely keeping the fungus happy and growing.

Speaking of large patch, we could still use a few more samples for our research so if you can send some in let me know.

Finally, to check YOUR recent weather you can always check the KSU weather data library at <http://av.vet.ksu.edu/webwx/> and use the menu to select a station near you. There are some gaps in the map, though.

There is a lot of great weather info from the National Weather Service online, too.

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/top/> is the front page for Topeka, for example. You can choose your own home city and dig around to find lots of helpful weather info.

Two more quick items that I forgot:

- 1) The wet soils can make it all-too-easy to scalp the turf when wheels sink into soggy ground. So be cautious.
- 2) Check out the weed-whacker tree damage at this website, from Michigan:

<http://www.ipm.msu.edu/cat08land/106-06-08.htm#5>

A dramatic example of the importance of paying attention to what you are doing. If you have seen worse, send a photo in and we can have our own challenge here.

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