



**K-State turf: July 17<sup>th</sup> 2009**

### **Sweet relief from high temps**

The forecasts around the state for the next few days show highs in the 80's or low 90's, and lows in the lower 60's or even upper 50's(!!!). This will be a big relief for overall turf stress in the cool-season grasses. In addition, brown patch and foliar Pythium pressure will be lower with the reduced humidity and lower temperatures overnight. On the other hand, the cooler temperatures will favor dollar spot. In the past 2-3 days dollar spot has re-emerged in some of our research plots where it was absent last week.

### **Trying to get brown patch?**

Yup, contrary to all of you out there, here at KSU we sometimes try to get plant diseases on purpose. To help increase the chances of brown patch for a study, we planted a dense row of sorghum-sudangrass around a tall fescue area to block winds from the south and west to *reduce* air flow. The sorghum-sudangrass is growing like mad. In addition to the wind-blocking action, and the novel visual interest added to the relatively 2-dimensional look of the turf center, our "windbreak" is turning out to be the favorite place for green June beetles to hang out.



Brown patch made an appearance at Rocky Ford earlier this week but it already seems to be fading. Meanwhile, plots that were dollar-spot-free last week are showing some dollar spot symptoms after a couple of days of cooler temps.



Sorghum-sudangrass windrow is growing nicely, and is the hang-out spot of choice for beetles.

### **Diagnostic lab slow/closed in a few weeks**

I'll be out of town July 28-August 5, then will be at the turf field day on August 6<sup>th</sup>. The national plant pathology conference is August 1-5<sup>th</sup> in Portland, OR, and I need to attend that. *(As for July 28-31 I'm taking an unprecedented couple of days off for some R&R in the Pacific Northwest before the conference. Depending on how slammed with work I am upon return, this may be the last time I ever take time off in midsummer! I'm already feeling the pain of missing one day from illness this week. D'oh!)*

Judy O'Mara (director of the KSU diagnostic lab, [jomara@ksu.edu](mailto:jomara@ksu.edu)) will be here to handle turf samples from July 28-31. During the APS meeting the lab will basically be closed, though. You can send stuff, and the main office can check it in, but I won't be able to deal with it til the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup>.

If you need a sample looked at urgently on Aug 3, 4, or 5 you can send them to Dr. Curt Swift in Colorado. His email is [Curt.Swift@mesacounty.us](mailto:Curt.Swift@mesacounty.us), the mailing address for the clinic is P.O. Box 20000-5028, Grand Junction, CO 81502-5028. The phone number is 970-244-1834. Most diagnosticians in the region will be at the plant path conference (I checked around), but Dr. Swift will be at his lab and said he could look at KS samples if needed.

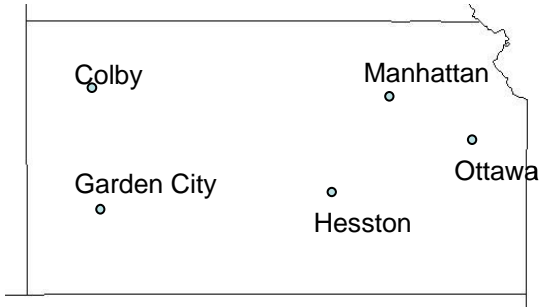
In addition, the lab at Oklahoma State will be staffed part-time that week:  
127 Noble Research Center  
Stillwater, OK 74078  
405.744.9961 phone

I don't know why the plant pathology meeting is always held in mid-summer when many field researchers are so crunched for time. Someday, a turf pathologist will be president of the organization, and we'll make a change!

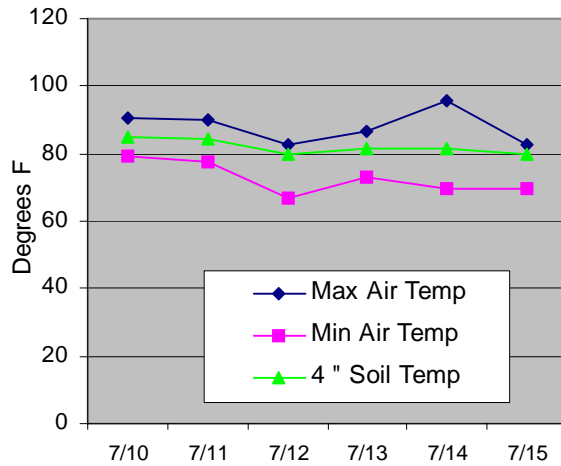


**Weather summary for July 10-16:**

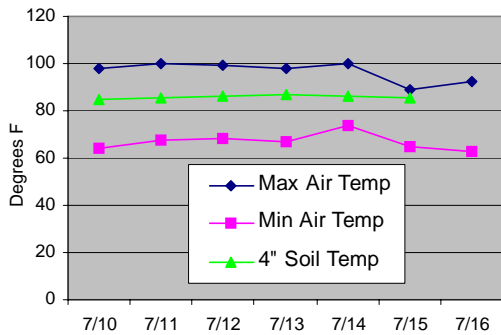
Information from Kansas Weather Data Library, <http://av.vet.ksu.edu/webwx/>



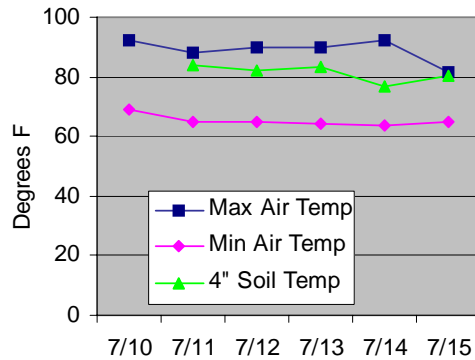
Manhattan. June 18-24 total precip = 1.3 inch



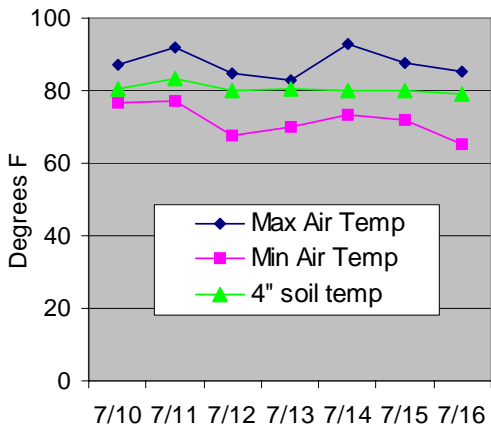
Garden City : total precip = 0.03 inch



Colby June 18-24. Total precip = 1.3 in.



Ottawa: total precip = 0.34 in



Hesston: total precip =0.06 in

