



The Mountain State Greenletter

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West Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

Board of Director's Message

This month seems to have been filled with early morning shifts to beat the heat and late nights of dragging hoses to water after the sun goes down. High temperatures and drought are some of the hardest challenges we face in our region, and I hope that you and your teams are hanging in there.

During these times, I try to remember to be grateful for the resources that I have, especially my people. As superintendents, we ultimately carry the responsibility, but good crews take that on, too. If you have a team that cares about what you do and takes pride in a job well done, then you are blessed. I certainly do, including my 94 year old uncle and 84 year father who show up every day to keep an eye on things. Remember them when you are tired and worn down during a stretch like this. They are often exhausted and thirsty, too.

Stay cool and hopeful that rain is on the way.

**See you soon,
Mitch Roush
President, Riverside Golf Course**

Upcoming Events:

Fall Meeting ~ Pete Dye Golf Club ~ October 15, 2024

***WVGCSA Turf Conference ~ Coonskin Park &
Mardi Gras Casino ~ November 12-13, 2024***

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We are proud to announce that William C. Campbell Scholarship Winner, Philip Webb, Assistant Superintendent at Guyan Golf and Country Club has graduated from Walla Walla Community College with a BAS in Ag Systems. He is now going to attend Auburn University for his Masters in Crop, Soil, Environmental Science with Turf irrigation design. He has been a recipient of the scholarship program and would like to thank all those who have supported and donated through the years!

Accurate Identification Allows for an Effective Response

By Brian Gietka, agronomist, East Region

Many areas of the Northeast have seen higher-than-normal temperatures over the past several weeks. During July and August, it's common to experience weeks of stressful weather, but this year the high temperatures settled in early. High humidity and isolated severe storms were also an issue. High temperatures, high humidity and heavy rainfall is not a good recipe for turf health. Recently in my travels, a plethora of diseases and maladies have been observed including anthracnose, brown patch, dollar spot, Pythium, leaf spot and more. Not all fungicides give complete control, even if the disease is on the label, so multiple applications and rotating chemistries may be necessary along with prioritizing plant health over optimal playability. An excellent resource to navigate the efficacy of fungicides on different diseases is "Chemical Control of Turfgrass Diseases 2024."

If you're not sure which pathogen or pathogens are causing an issue, a turfgrass diagnostic lab can help. Each lab has recommendations on how to take, package and send samples, so be sure to follow instructions prior to collecting the sample. For the best chance of an accurate pest identification, take samples before making plant protectant applications. The technicians in the lab likely won't know anything about your golf course, so help them with diagnosis by including information about recent cultural practices, environmental conditions, location of sample and any other information associated with the problem. Photographs and other clues that can point lab techs in the right direction are also helpful. There are many turfgrass diagnostic labs throughout the Northeast and across the country. For a listing of university-based plant diagnostic labs in the U.S., visit the National Plant Diagnostic Network website.

Keep in mind that it is common for no pathogens to be found in a sample of damaged turf. This typically indicates that the turf is simply weak and struggling to survive the environmental stresses of summer. If pushing your turf too hard is the root of your problems, implementing more-conservative maintenance practices and knowing what not to do will help you successfully navigate this stressful summer.

Northeast Region Agronomists

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