



*Force*_{of}
Nature

Summer Stress on Turf

Critical Practices

Summer-injury, or summer-kill, of turfgrasses will be reduced if the turf manager considers all management practices that will maximize turf resistance to heat and drought.

In order to help turfgrasses survive summer stress conditions, an effective maintenance program is necessary; but, it is especially important to AVOID those decisions that will lead to maintenance errors during those periods when turf health is in jeopardy.

Helping turf survive summer stress is achieved by AVOIDING those practices that are destructive to turf. Many summer-kill incidents involve some form of catalyst that has been erroneously unleashed by the turf manager. Unlike the prevailing weather conditions, human errors can be controlled before they become catalysts. These catalysts, or practices, are summarized in the following list —

The Ten Critical Practices to be Avoided During the Summer Stress Periods of Turfgrasses

1. Mis-judging or ignoring sensitive turf situations.
2. Performing untimely mechanical interventions.
3. Providing excessive amounts of water.
4. Setting mowers for cutting heights that are too short.
5. Choosing improper fungicide programs on the golf course.
6. Mis-understanding the safe use of liquid fertilizers.
7. Using broad-leaved weed controls in liquid form.
8. Mis-diagnosing insect damage for drought stress.
9. Implementing an inadequate nitrogen fertilization program.
10. Establishing turf species that are unadapted to the prevailing conditions.

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The information presented in this Report is for preliminary planning only. Before making a final decision, the turf manager is expected to obtain trusted expert advice from extension specialists, local distributors and/or agronomists. All decisions must take into account the prevailing growing conditions, the time of year, and the established management practices.

All products mentioned in this Report should be used in accordance with the manufacturer's directions, and according to provincial, state, or federal law. For the official advantages, benefits, features, precautions, and restrictions concerning any product, the turf manager must rely only on the information furnished by the manufacturer. The mention of trade names does not constitute a guarantee or a warranty.

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Force Of Nature is the brainchild of William H. Gathercole and his entourage. Mr. Gathercole is a principal founder of the Modern Professional Lawn Care Industry in both Ontario and Quebec. He holds a degree in Horticulture from the University of Guelph, and another pure and applied science degree from McGill University. He has worked in virtually all aspects of the Green Space Industry, including golf, professional lawn care, and distribution. Mr. Gathercole has supervised, consulted, programmed, and/or overseen the successful execution of hundreds of thousands of management operations in the urban landscape. He has trained, instructed, and advised thousands of turf managers and technicians. Mr. Gathercole has also been an agricultural agronomist. Mr. Gathercole is personally credited for crafting the Exception Status that has allowed the Golf Industry to avoid being subjected to the prohibition of pest control products. He is also the creator of the signs that are now used for posting after application. Mr. Gathercole is now retired from Force Of Nature, although his name continues to appear as the founder.

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