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Turfgrass Management Report - April 16, 2012

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This is the 3rd edition of the "Turf Management Report" sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and it is for the week of April 16 - 23, 2012.

PLEASE NOTE: The following Pesticide Recommendations are meant for excepted uses (e.g. golf courses and sod farms) under the Cosmetic Pesticides Ban. Only the active ingredients listed under Class 11 pesticides in Ontario Regulation 63/09, can be used on home lawns, sports fields and other non-excepted uses.

Weather

It is finally raining. The forecast in Guelph is calling for 2-4 mm's of rain between today (Sunday) and tomorrow. I am not sure what kind of a dent that will make on the dry conditions so far, but it is certainly welcome nonetheless. As you well know, conditions have been very, very dry and this has slowed turf growth this spring. Some golf courses have been irrigating greens for almost a month now. One good thing about the dry, cool, conditions is that they are promoting deep roots this spring. Hopefully there will be a payback for this dry weather once summer comes when we need the deep roots to help the turf get through summer drought.

Temperatures for the next week, with the exception of Monday are going to be seasonal. That means the daytime highs are going to be in the high single digits to low teens. Night time temperatures are going to hover around the freezing mark.

Soil temperatures have not risen much this week. Soil temperatures at the GTI are ranging from 10 - 12°C at the 2 cm depth, depending on soil type.

Diseases

The rain will do a couple of things. It will increase the risk of yellow patch and *Microdochium* patch developing and it will help mask the symptoms of take-all patch that were brought on by

the dry conditions. Don't forget the GTI Turf Diagnostics service. Information on this service is available at the related link below on the GTI web site. You can also email them at diagnostics@guelphurfgrass.ca or telephone at (519) 824-4120
begin_of_the_skype_highlighting (519) 824-4120 end_of_the_skype_highlighting x 58873.

Insects

We had an opportunity last week to do a post-treatment count on a grub trial that went in last fall. One thing I can share with you about what we found was that the grubs are stratified in the soil. Some are up near the surface of the thatch, but we also found some as deep as 4 cm down in the soil. This has an impact on any nematode treatments that you want to make this spring. If you are contemplating applying nematodes for spring grub control, it is too early. All of the grubs are not up high enough in the soil. If a nematode treatment was applied now, it would probably only reach the grubs that are near the soil surface and the ones that are deeper would escape. Secondly, the nematodes that are being marketed for spring grub control *Steinernema glaseri* (*S.g.*) do not work if soil temperatures are much below 15 °C. The literature reports that they are most effective when soil temperatures range from 16-25°C, but do have some efficacy just below 15 °C. Our soils are still way too cold as well, so be patient.

Forsythia development has progressed very little again this week. I have seen a few shrubs that are starting to show some green, but most are still in the gold stage. Again, this is a good indication of what is happening with the annual bluegrass weevil migrations. Keep monitoring for annual bluegrass weevil now with Richmond linear pitfall traps. There are two excellent resources on the internet that describe monitoring techniques see related links below. The other technique that is easy to do is the soap flush technique. This works best in the shorter mown turf in the fairways, tees and greens.

In most areas there is probably still a window in which to apply an adulticide to control the annual bluegrass weevil adults as they migrate into the turf from their overwintering sites. This assumes that you control the adults (females) before they lay their eggs. The timing for this is when forsythia is in the half green/half gold stage. The only insecticide that we have in Ontario labeled for this is chlorpyrifos (see related links below for order information for OMAFRA Pub. 384, Turfgrass Management Recommendations).

The second approach is to target the early larval stage of ABW. The products that can be used for this application in Ontario include clothianidin and chlorantraniliprole. I would say that there is less know about the ideal time for the larvaecides, mainly because they are newer chemistry and there has been less research conducted on them. They are systemic in the turf plant and more persistent than the adulticides so the timing is not as crucial. We probably have a 3 weeks to a month before you need to consider a larvaecide for ABW. If anyone has any updates on how the migrations are going, I would love to hear from you. My email is pamela.charbonneau@ontario.ca.

We continue to monitor leatherjacket development here at GTI. Leatherjackets are an insect that really loves moist conditions. They are surviving in spite of the dry conditions. We are finding large numbers per cup changer - 10-12 which translates for 100 -120 per 0.1 m². We

are not seeing any damage yet. In trials that we have conducted in the past, we have had roughly 30% control of leatherjackets using either *Steinernema carpocapse* or *Heterorhabditis bacteriophora*. The same holds for nematode treatments against leatherjackets as with grubs. The soil needs to be moist and soil temperatures need to be in the in the 20°C range.

Common crane fly adults will probably begin to emerge sometime in the next couple of weeks. This is an insect that I am interested in tracking and would appreciate hearing from anyone that is seeing adult crane flies this spring. Remember that they have two generations per year. Adults fly in the spring (May) and also in the late summer/early fall (mid-August to mid-September).

Weed control products and timing

Some literature reports that crabgrass germinates when soil temperature at 2 cm is 13-14.5°C for 4-5 days. Other shows the optimum to be 16.5- 18°C. Still other research shows that crabgrass will continue to germinate for up to 12 weeks during a typical growing season in the Northeast United States (excerpts from Cornell University Turfgrass Times, CUTTS). That being said, in the home lawn market here in Ontario we only have corn gluten meal to use and it has to be applied as a pre-emergence herbicide. So, we are coming up to the ideal timing for pre-emergence herbicide applications. The timing for a product like corn gluten meal is full to late bloom of forsythia. For best results either apply corn gluten meal when rain is expected or water the product in within 2 days of application. On golf courses, pre-emergence herbicides can be applied now as well.

Dandelions are now flowering in some urban areas near sidewalks and so on. There isn't wide spread flowering yet. Some of the slower to emerge weeds are showing up now such as narrow and broadleaved plantain. There is no need to panic about applying the post-emergence herbicide Fiesta. It works best on a broad spectrum of weeds if two applications are made in the spring and then two in the fall.

Fertilizer Applications and Cultural Practices

We traditionally recommend that the first application of fertilizer for the season go down around the end of May. Conditions have been good for aeration, because it has been so dry. Now is also a good time to overseed any thin areas.

Feedback

If you have any feedback for me or if you have seen something in the field that you want to share with me so that I can share it with others, please feel free to email me at pamela.charbonneau@ontario.ca.

Related Links

[Turf Management Update subscription](#)

[OMAFRA Publication 384, *Recommendations for Turfgrass Management*](#)
[GTI Turf Diagnostics](#)

[Annual Bluegrass Weevil Monitoring Factsheet](#)
[Richmond pitfall trap description](#)

[Annual bluegrass weevil - 2011, Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Centre](#)

[Ontario IPM Accreditation for Golf Courses and Ontario IPM Certification for Public Works](#)

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