

A Look At ...



**FON**

*force of nature*

A LOOK AT ... FROM AN INDEPENDENT PERSPECTIVE from  
National Organization Responding Against H<sub>2</sub>O E that seek to harm the Green Space Industry (NORAHG)



# Summer Stress on Turf

## A Look At Localized Dry Spot

Kentucky State University

Selected and adapted excerpts

LOCALIZED DRY SPOT is a dry spot of turf and soil, surrounded by more moist conditions, that resists re-wetting by normal irrigation or rainfall; it may be associated with excessive thatch, *Basidiomycetes* fungal activity, shallow soil over buried material, compacted soil, or elevated sites in the terrain. [ Beard, 2005 ]

Check out the photo below —



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Along with compromised root-zones, localized dry spot / hydrophobic soils can sneak up fast in hot and dry weather, and cause wide-spread turf damage in a short time.

HYDROPHOBIC SOIL is a soil that is water-repellent, usually as irregular-shaped patches caused by dense fungal mycelial mats or as a broad area of occurrence caused by hydrophobic substances. [ Beard, 2005 ]

In the photo, the upper inch or so of the profile is fine — the water drops were absorbed instantly, and you can see how the soil is wet.

And, from 2-inches down, the root-zone is okay too.

Unfortunately, there is a stubborn layer of hydrophobic soil from about 1 to 2-inches down.

I put the water droplets there, took the photos, then went to work on some other samples.

When I glanced over again 30-minutes later, they still had not been absorbed.

If you have known hot spots of hydrophobic soils, it is critical for you to keep an eye on them as long as the heat continues.

Get a soil probe and use it.

When you water, take some plugs out, and make sure the water is actually getting down where it needs to go — use a wetting agent, and water it in, following all label instructions.

In hot and dry conditions soil aeration is dangerous, but if we get a stretch of cooler days, you could use solid tines.

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A LOOK AT is a report presented by National Organization Responding Against Hujer that seek to harm or misinform the Green Space Industry (NORAHG).

A LOOK AT is a series of reports destined for the green space industry, nationwide across Canada, the United States, and overseas, and has been developed for the education and entertainment of the reader by providing TECHNICAL INFORMATION WITH COMMENTARY.

A LOOK AT is TOTALLY INDEPENDENT and NON-PROFIT. Don't thank us. It's a public service. And we are glad to do it.

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The information presented in A LOOK AT 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 A LOOK AT 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.

A LOOK AT, and its various incarnations, is the brainchild of William H. Gathercole and his colleagues.

Here is a brief summary of Mr. Gathercole's career —

Fields of study — Horticulture/Agriculture, Mathematics, Physics

Alma mater — McGill University • University of Guelph • the first person ever to obtain university degrees and contribute to both the professional lawn care and golf maintenance industries

Expertise in — environmental issues and environmental terrorism • turf and ornamental maintenance and troubleshooting • history of the industry • sales and distribution of seeds, chemicals, fertilizers, and equipment • fertilizer manufacturing

Notable activities — worked in virtually all aspects of the green space industry, including golf, professional lawn care, distribution, environmental compliance, government negotiations, public affairs, and workplace safety • supervisor, consultant, and programmer for the successful execution of hundreds of thousands of management operations in the golf and urban landscape, as well as millions of pest control applications • advisor, instructor, and trainer for thousands of turf and ornamental managers and technicians • pesticide certification instructor for thousands of industry workers — founder of the modern professional lawn care industry • prolific writer for industry publications and e-newsletters • first to confirm the invasion of European Chafer insect in both the Montreal region and the Vancouver/Fraser Valley region • with Dr. Peter Dernoeden, confirmed the presence of Take-All Patch as a disease of turf in Eastern Canada • with Dr. David Shetlar, confirmed the presence of Kentucky Bluegrass Scale as an insect pest in South-Western Ontario, and later, in the Montreal and Vancouver regions • the only true reliable witness who intervened in the development of prohibition in the town of Hudson, Quebec

Special contributions — creator of the exception status that has allowed the golf industry to avoid being subjected to the prohibition of pest control products • creator of the signs that are now used for posting after application • co-founder of annual winter convention for Quebec golf course superintendents • the major influence in the decision by Canadian Cancer Society to stop selling for profit pesticide treated daffodils • retired founder of FORCE OF NATURE and A LOOK AT e-newsletters

Notable award — man of the year for contributions leading to the successful founding of Quebec professional lawn care industry, which served as a beach-head against activism in the 1980s and 1990s

Legacy — for fifteen years, the strategies designed and implemented by Mr. Gathercole and his colleagues ensured the control of environmental activists, providing peace for the entire modern green space industry across Canada • orchestrated, with his colleagues, legal action against activists in the town of Hudson, Quebec

Mr. Gathercole is now retired, although his name continues to appear as founder of A LOOK AT and FORCE OF NATURE e-newsletters.



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