

Turfgrass Management Report - May 22, 2012

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This is the 7th edition of the "Turf Management Report" sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and it is for the week of May 22-28, 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. In addition, always consult each product label before you use a pesticide.

Weather

There is some more summer like weather in the forecast for the next 7 days. The highs are in the high 20's but thankfully temperatures are cooling down at night. There is a chance of thundershowers on May 26th and 27th weekend, but at the moment the risk is low. It is still very dry in many areas of southwestern Ontario. The Provincial Low Water Response Team has issued a Level II Low Water Response for the Upper Thames River and the Grand River Conservation Authority has issued Level I Low Water Response. This is unprecedented for this time of year and tells you how dry conditions are. There are links below to describe what those Low Water Response levels mean. Just walking around and observing conditions it looks more like mid-July than May.

Soil temperatures have been climbing quickly now. Soil temperatures at the GTI have really ramped up in the last few days and are in the 17 °C range.

Diseases

The soil temperature information is important for summer patch prevention. If you have a history of summer patch, preventative fungicide applications need to be made when the soil temperature at the 5cm depth is over 16 °C for 4 consecutive days. It is probably a good idea at the moment to take daily soil temperature readings at that depth to properly target your preventative summer patch application.

As far as the GTI Turf Diagnostics is concerned they have seen samples of Pythium root dysfunction and what looks like yellow patch or Waitea patch. On the topic Waitea patch, Syngenta has just announced that it has added Waitea patch to the Heritage MAXX label. For the updated Heritage MAXX label see the related links below. Research has also shown that nitrogen can help reduce Waitea patch symptoms.

I have been emailing Dr. Brenda Nailor about her prediction for the onset of dollar spot this season. Based on the weather forecast she is predicting that dollar spot will start next week (May

21-25th). The plant phenological indicators that predict the start of dollar spot are late bloom of lilac and full bloom of iris. These plants are at these stages now in the Guelph area.

I encourage you to visit the new GTI website (link below) and look at the Diagnostics tab for some changes to the diagnostic services. There is no longer an option to get a written comprehensive report. They have replaced this with a Turbo Report format and they also offer turfgrass identification. Information is available at the related link below for GTI web site. You can also email them at diagnostics@guelph-turfgrass.ca or telephone at (519) 824-4120 begin_of_the_skype_highlighting (519) 824-4120 end_of_the_skype_highlighting x 58873.

Insects

There is a lot insect activity to report. During scouting late last week we were still finding the odd ABW, but let's hope the end is in sight. We are quickly reaching the end of the window to apply a larvaecide treatment for ABW. Either chlorantraniliprole or clothianidin can be used to control this pest but applications should be done sooner than later.

Black turfgrass ateanius are on the move. There have been many reports, especially on the sunny warmer afternoons earlier this week of adult flights. The plant phenological indicators for peak adult flights and peak egg laying of BTA are full bloom of bridal wreath spirea and full bloom of horse chestnut. These plants are in full bloom in the Guelph area now. Many superintendents have noticed BTA flying intermittently for anywhere from the last 4 weeks to now and they are getting antsy about when to spray for them. Now is the time for the preventative control for BTA, if you haven't already sprayed. You should get good control of the larvae that will result from the adults that are flying now. There have been questions about the BTA that were flying earlier. My opinion is that a well timed spray now will most likely give you control of the larvae that are developing from the earlier adult flights. The temperatures after those first adult flights were cool and that may have delayed or slowed egg hatch and early larval development. Also, that first wave of BTA migration probably only represents a small portion of the population that is out there so even if some of those eggs hatch and the larvae develop a bit earlier than usual, there will still probably not be widespread damage. The insecticide registered for BTA (imidacloprid) is systemic in the plant and residual, so timing is not as critical as it was in the past with the curative products. There is a link to an excellent factsheet on BTA put out by Dr. Shetlar and Dr. Niemczyk from Ohio State at the related links below. The timing does not match completely with the lifecycle in Ontario however.

Another golf course insect pest that has just started to be active is the turfgrass ant. Most ant control programs suggest that early control is important in keeping this pest at bay.

There have been lots of calls and emails about leatherjacket damage in many areas of the province. The one that surprised me most though was the email from the North Bay area reporting leatherjackets. Our latest research trials show that fall is the best time to treat leatherjackets with nematodes. We were achieving 50-70% control with a mixture of *Steinernema carpocapse* and *Steinernema feltiae*. Trials that we have conducted in the past in late spring have demonstrated roughly 30% control of leatherjackets using either *Steinernema*

carpocapse or *Heterorhabditis bacteriophora*. These trials were conducted in the third week of May.

I have not had any new reports of common crane flies emerging over the last week. 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).

June beetle adults have been flying now in many areas for a couple of weeks now. I expect that they will be emerging for another two to three weeks at least. In general, they are larger than European chafer and also a bit darker in colour. The only definitive way to determine if it is a June beetle or a European chafer though is to look at the tarsal claw. The June beetle has an extra tooth on all of the tarsal claws that the European chafer does not have. The OMAFRA "Grubs in Lawns" factsheet has a photo of the tarsal claws for June beetle and European chafers. See the related links below. Another way of distinguishing them is their behaviour. June beetles fly all night and are attracted to light. European chafers only fly at dusk. European chafers will be starting to pupate soon and expect the start of adult flights to be around mid-June, unless the warm temperatures speeds things up. I will try to keep you posted on this.

Lastly, I saw a hairy chinch bug adult on the move last week, migrating from its overwintering site. It will be interesting to see if the hairy chinch bug population is earlier this year because of the early hot weather. Again, I will try to keep you posted on this.

Weed control products and timing

On golf courses there is still time to apply Dimension as a pre or early post emergence crabgrass control. We have not seen any crabgrass yet, but if we do get some thundershowers, there could be a flush of crabgrass germination.

On the topic of Fiesta, there was a new label approved by PMRA earlier this spring. It is now posted on the PMRA website. The Fiesta label states not to apply when turf is drought stressed. Unless lawns are irrigated, it is probably wise to suspend Fiesta applications at the moment until there is sufficient rain to relieve the drought stress. In addition, later this week the daytime high's with the humidex will be higher than 30°C, so another reason to suspend Fiesta treatments.

Fertilizer Applications and Cultural Practices

Cultural practices should be suspended over the next week because of the high temperatures. Only irrigated turf should be fertilized in the next week or two.

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.

Upcoming Events

The Guelph Turfgrass Institute and the GTI Solutions Group are presenting a one day "Turfgrass Communications" workshop on Wed. June 6, 2012. Using a combination of lecture modules and interactive exercises, the program is designed to provide superintendents and assistant superintendents with an overview of modern communications skills, tools and expectations to enhance their careers and improve their relationships and overall effectiveness as turfgrass professionals. For the complete program and registration details see the related links below.

Related Links

[Ontario Low Water Response](#)

[New Heritage MAXX Label](#)

[GTI Turf Diagnostics](#)

[New Fiesta™ Label](#)

[Black Turfgrass Ataenius and Aphodius](#)

[Grubs in Lawns Factsheet](#)

[GTI Solutions Group "Turfgrass Communications Workshop"](#)