

K-State turf Sept 4th

The word of the week last week was Whammy. My word for this week is stymied, as in, I have been stymied (thwarted, blocked, stumped, etc) by several frustrating situations. The main one is that now my hard drive is officially fried (= dead). Thank goodness most of my files were in a backup copy on an external hard drive, but I'm still dreadfully behind, and some files are lost. Back up your important files! This could happen to you! Our IT guy said that he has seen people lose EVERYTHING, including PhD students who lost all the data and writing for their dissertations. Ouch.

Interestingly, stymied has a meaning in golf: "A situation in golf in which an opponent's ball obstructs the line of play of one's own ball on the putting green." Apparently, back in the day, instead of placing a ball marker, you had to chip over an opponent's ball, or go around it. I think this needs to be reinstated, to allow intentional interference with your opponent's shot, including knocking it out of the way. Golf needs more opportunity for mischief.

Large patch

Large patch season is fast approaching.

Large patch is a fungal disease of zoysiagrass, primarily in golf courses. I have seen it once or twice in home lawns, but it is rare. The overall appearance of the patch is often tan with an orange-tinted margin (*see photo*) when disease is active.

Large patch develops when the turf is going in and out of winter dormancy.

The disease is favored by cool, wet conditions. And, low-cut zoysia is more susceptible than higher-cut zoysia. In previous studies at KSU it was determined that zoysia mowed at 0.5 or 1.0 inches was much more susceptible than at 1.75 or 2.0 inches.



Hey, look at that... a *large patch*, caused by large patch



But, the patches can be small, too

For areas with a history of large patch and demand for high quality fungicides are an option. In Kansas, the 3rd or 4th week of September is the usual time for control but in cool/wet years like this it might be wise to apply a little earlier. We are doing some fungicide timing trials in our research plots but I don't have data to report yet.



Patches can have a diffuse appearance

In research trials across the US, azoxystrobin (Heritage), flutolanil (Prostar), and triadimefon (Bayleton) have provided excellent control. Triticonazole (Trinity, Triton), propiconazole (ex: Banner Maxx), pyraclostrobin (Insignia), and myclobutanil (Eagle) have provided very good control.



Faded patch

With some exceptions, large patch often occurs in the same areas from year to year. I've heard this anecdotally many times, and we've seen this in research trials where we've mapped individual patches over time, including season to season.

Large patch tends to occur in areas that are wetter, like with poor drainage. In one of our experiments we are examining whether summer aerification can reduce large patch.

Aerifying when the disease is active is not a good idea. This is another anecdotal type of thing, but I also recently saw some work from Arkansas where they were mapping some patches, and it looked like aerification when disease symptoms were apparent really spread the disease around.



Large patch is also visible in dormant turf