

## **June 13, 2009 Scouting Report – Upon further review...Foliar anthracnose on bentgrass**

**Chicago/Northern Illinois Update:** *DSettle@cdga.org ...reporting from Chi*

**Foliar anthracnose, *Colletotrichum cereale*, found occurring on bentgrass fairways (rare).** Upon further review of samples that were taken at two courses this past week on Tuesday and Wednesday, it is determined to be an outbreak of foliar anthracnose on bentgrass fairways. This is unusual. Signs of foliar anthracnose black hair-like setae (10x magnification) on bentgrass is frequently secondary (a saprophyte) and is disregarded. In this case the bentgrass foliar outbreak was confirmed by incubating samples. This allowed development of mycelium, visible signs of sporulation (setae), and a profuse production of single-celled crescent-shaped conidia. The fungus was consistently isolated on agar media from surface sterilized leaf blades. Anthracnose is opportunistic and related to plant stress. Undoubtedly, the current pattern of cool, wet weather is to blame. Additionally, mowing during overly wet conditions is associated with anthracnose – mowing height unintentionally shifts downward and/or the usual mowing frequency is delayed.

**Symptoms.** In both instances the pattern of blight is patchy and results in an off-color thin effect. The foliar anthracnose outbreak is limited certain bentgrass genotypes – probably older varieties less tolerant to overly cool and wet conditions. On one fairway the variety affected is probably Penncross. Penncross greens with limited nitrogen fertility are known to be highly susceptible to anthracnose foliar outbreaks during hot summer periods – something I learned during 2005 under Dr. Lee Burpee. Initially oldest leaves become water-soaked. The leaf discoloration progresses to a bronze color. The youngest leaves and growing point remain green, but may also show lesions. Crowns and stolons remain white and healthy and allow recovery. Together, cultural practices (e.g. N fertilization) along with preventive fungicides application are recommended to suppress anthracnose. see <http://www.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/ppa/ppa1/ppa1.pdf>



Foliar anthracnose blights bentgrass in patches on a mixed Poa/bentgrass fairway. *Settle 6-9-09*



Foliar anthracnose blights bentgrass in large areas on bentgrass areas of a fairway. *Settle 6-10-09*  
Disease was not immediately found. Further lab work indicated anthracnose disease was active.



Foliar anthracnose affecting Penncross creeping bentgrass on an experimental green in Griffin, GA. The leaf lesion symptoms are a reddish-brown to bronze color (left). Early infections are associated with lower senescing leaves which look water-soaked and gray (right). *D. Settle, 2005*  
For more details see <http://apsnet.org/education/LessonsPlantPath/anthracnoseturf/default.htm>