Quarterly PTRC update: April-June 2023

As we begin 2023, we're happy to announce a new member to our board of directors, Jordan Joye, superintendent, Glenlea golf club, and VP of the Manitoba Golf Superintendents Association. Jordan brings experience and representation of the MGSA to the research boardroom, as the are among Association members of the ATRF. Jordan is joined by 2023-2024 board members & long standing president Travis Matijevich (Silver Springs Golf Club), past president Travis Unger (Brett Young), Treasurer John Faber (City of Calgary Golf), and directors Peter Krebs (Professional Gardener), David Misfeldt (City of Calgary), Ben Tymchyshyn (Stantec/Sportsturf Canada), Leanne Nadwidny (City of Edmonton), Peter Boss Sr (Boss Sod), and Kyle Redfern (Eagle Lake Sod).

We are proud to acknowledge all provincial golf superintendents associations that now belong to the ATRF: Manitoba Golf Superintendents Association, Saskatchewan Turf Association, Alberta Golf Superintendents Association, and British Columbia Golf superintendents Association! We thank all of you for your ongoing support.

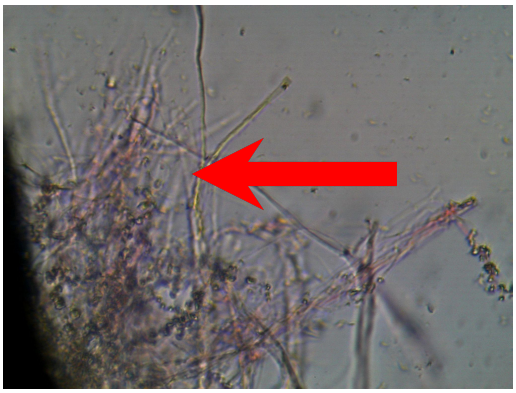
Spring Diseases & Diagnostics:

2023 has brought some early season disease into the lab. Many occurred before irrigation systems were even up and running! *Pythium root dysfunction* was identified at several clubs, a rapid decline shortly after the snowmelt was masked by the usual poa "shock" each spring. With April temperatures in the high 20's, we skipped spring and started right into summer…..again. Hot and dry in April fires and smoke started early, reminding us of the start to 2021 which also brought early season pythium to many.

When spring heat and smoke lowered our atmospheric ceiling, we began irrigating and hand watering to avoid localized dry spot and managing high temperatures. *Pythium* spp. - outbreaks began occurring throughout the Western provinces.

(right) Early Season Pythium, coastal BC

It's always fun to get some different diseases into the lab - we were “lucky” enough to get a little *waitea patch* (right) as well. See the bulbils at the base of infection, we can confirm by the tell tale “Y” shaped hyphae. Similar but different to R*hizoctonia spp*. Which show a 90 degree branching hyphae, *waitea patch becomes* identifiable. Waitea can be managed by most broad spectrum DMI’s, brought on by low fertility. Many golf operators are down to just 2lbs/N/1000ft²/yr on greens. Maybe its time we throw a little N!



Left - low pressure Waitea Patch

Right - “Y” shaped hyphae and bulbils of Waitea patch

Last fall, Alberta also experienced a shortened fall hardening period, with unseasonably warm fall temperatures throughout October. Daily highs in October were in the mid-high twenties, then temps dropped dramatically to just 6’C; with under a week for the plant to harden and brace for permanent snowfall. Faced with a narrow window to apply final fungicide applications, tarps, etc., we lost our typical 2-3 week fall hardening period, which we feel played a role in overwintering strength.

Pink snow mold breakthrough after 168 days under cover of snow (right)

Low ambient temperatures may have played a role in reduced translocation, but more research is required to confirm such assumptions. Using the 3-way mode of action as final snow mold treatment, a contact, the penetrant, and systemic mix is quite literally the safest approach in terms of preventative control. However, we found several clubs that had break through after 160 days under cover. (image top right) The ATRF are actively preparing a snow mold research project to test several theories.

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Current Projects:

This summer we have seven active trials which will be explained further at our field day. As an overview, we have several herbicide trials, a drought avoidance trial, and a thatch reduction product trial. The long awaited Poacure, is an exciting study for our golf operators, a potential game changer against annual bluegrass battles. Another trial is exploring the widely misunderstood biostimulant market, as we evaluate how to enhance & maximize thatch degradation with microbes. For Ontario and BC where organic matter accumulation is a major issue, we hope to produce some applied solutions.

Membership:
Our April renewal invoicing has seen another strong start to the year. Thank you to all who have renewed their membership, individual clubs and associations. Your ATRF have delivered several CEU's this spring, specifically to the City of Calgary and City of Edmonton, soon traveling to Whistler for the BCGSA. Its wonderful to see the energy in our municipal centers, who are actively improving their construction specifications, adding quality to their sportsturf assets. As mentioned all western provinces superintendents associations now belong to the research foundation. With building representation by our municipal centers, your ATRF is stronger than ever. Thank you all for your ongoing support.

Announcing August 24th, the Alberta Turfgrass Research Foundation biennial Field Day

Welcome ATRF members and guests for a day of learning, as we present pesticide continuing education credits, and project presentations including herbicide trials, thatch reduction (biostimulant), a drought avoidance experiment and more. The afternoon welcomes several equipment and product demonstrations and display.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided throughout the day. We are expecting between 150-200 attendees, and lecture theaters have a limited space - so please sign up, first come first serve!

https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/671189585117

See you soon,

Alberta Turfgrass Research Foundation

Coffee and Lunch Sponsored by:

Project investors:

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