

Dollar spot pressure rapidly increasing May 18, 2021

Dollar spot is a challenging disease for golf and sports turf managers. Older varieties of creeping bentgrass and perennial ryegrass are highly sensitive to this pest. The recent and continued high humidity, light rain, limited sunlight and warmer night temperature have created an environment that is highly conducive to the development of this pest. The extended dew periods provide an ideal growth media for these pathogens to attack our turf. While cultural practices such as low growth rate or nitrogen fertilization can favor this disease, chemical control will likely be required to provide acceptable control on highly maintained turfgrasses.

While dollar spot can sometimes be damaging to lawns, it is usually much less severe than it is on bentgrass putting greens and fairways. Treatment on lawns should be made preventatively if the damage is unacceptable. We are also seeing other diseases on lawns including powdery mildew and minor leaf spot diseases.

Date	Predicted Risk	Interpretation
5/17/2021	12%	Medium
5/18/2021	26%	High
5/19/2021	45%	Severe
5/20/2021	56%	Severe
5/21/2021	58%	Severe
5/22/2021	58%	Severe
5/23/2021	56%	Severe
5/24/2021	53%	Severe

Figure 1. Current dollar spot risk, generated from the Smith-Kerns Dollar Spot Model in GreenKeeper App, in Lincoln, NE.

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Figure 1. Differences in dollar spot disease severity based on growth rate. The turf in the middle is growing significantly faster than the plots around it. While it had significantly less dollar spot in this picture, that plot had higher levels of brown patch disease later in the summer.