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The Disease Profile

spring 2017 / www.ohiolawncare.org

OLCANNEWS

IT PAYS TO BE GREEN



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
OLCA FIELD DAY
OARDC, The Arden Shisler Center,
Wooster, OH

The Ohio Lawn Care Association will hold the 15th Annual Northeast Ohio Lawn Care Seminar and CEO Forum on Thursday, June 15 at The Ohio State University/OARDC, The Arden Shisler Center in Wooster, OH.

OLCA invites those involved in lawn and landscape maintenance to attend. Registration will begin at 8:30 am. Continuing education sessions will begin at 9:00 am and station rotations to begin at 11:30 am. This year, the first station will begin before lunch. The last station will finish by 3:00 pm.

A complete list of continuing education sessions and online registration is available at www.OhioLawnCare.org. If you have any questions, please contact OLCA at 800-510-5296.

A MESSAGE from your President, Brett Garrard, Residex/Turfgrass



Although it doesn't feel like it at times, Spring is officially here in Ohio! Hopefully all of you have gotten off to a great start to your year. I wish you all the most fulfilling and profitable year yet in 2017!

I am honored to serve as President of the Ohio Lawn Care Association and am very much looking forward to serving all of you with my fellow Board members. I would like to thank Mark Slavik for his service as President of OLCA in 2016. He provided excellent leadership and I am looking forward to continuing the momentum OLCA has built under his leadership.

In 2017 OLCA will continue to focus on meeting your needs as well as providing value for our members and this great industry. Our continued partnership with our Executive Director, Mark Bennett, as well as the rest of the Board has us well positioned to do just that.

I'd like to thank the entire OLCA board for all of their hard work and dedication to making this association a great success. We have been very hard at work planning our two upcoming field days. A special thank you goes out to Joe Rimelspach for his tireless work coordinating the schedules of the two days as well as lining up our guest speakers. We truly have two great days of education lined up this year!

I thank you all for your dedication to this great industry and for your membership to OLCA. Here's to a great 2017!

Workers' Compensation Group Rating Program

The average member saves \$2,500 a year on their annual workers' compensation premium.

Technical Training Programs

Attend an OLCA Field Day geared toward lawn and landscape professionals while earning ODA Pesticide Applicators license re-certification credit.

Business Opportunities

Improve your lawn care company's bottom line by joining OLCA and taking advantage of small business tools.

FROM YOUR Executive Director, Mark Bennett, CAE, IOM



The mild winter should pose interesting lawn challenges for the warmer days of summer. Hopefully your business is busy keeping lawns and grass across the state lush and green. As part of your summer activities, we invite you to mark your calendars and plan to attend

OLCA's two outdoor Field Days where you will learn the latest in pest and turf research.

The first will be held on June 15 at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center at the Ohio State University Wooster campus. Online registration is open now and space is limited, so reserve your spot today. The second will be on August 8 at the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Research & Education Facility at OSU in Columbus. These days are a great opportunity to learn the latest in industry research as well as help grow your business and enhance your company's lawn care operations and services. Plus you can earn pesticide recertification credit.

As a member of the Ohio Professional Applicators for Responsible Regulation (OPARR), OLCA is abreast of the latest legislation which has been introduced in the Ohio General Assembly that has a direct effect on your daily business operations. We continue to lobby with OPARR for a business environment friendly to professional applicators. I participated as one of OLCA's representatives at the Green Industry Advocacy Day on February 22. We heard from many of the state legislators in leadership as well as potential legislation and regulatory changes the industry may see this year.

Did you know that OLCA members who are part of the Association's Worker Compensation Group save an average of more than \$2,500 annually on their workers compensation premium? That's earning \$20 back for every dollar you spend on your annual OLCA membership dues. Contact our office for more information.

Be sure to mark your November 4 where OLCA members will help beautify the hallowed grounds at the Dayton National Veterans Cemetery in Dayton and the Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery in Rittman. This annual event is Ohio's lawn care industry way to give back by winterizing the grounds of the cemeteries with fertilizer. This is OLCA's community outreach project and is reliant upon volunteers just like you. Watch for upcoming details or sign up at one of our Field Days this summer.

As always, feel free to contact me at 614-501-1100 x 3187 or mbennett@offinger.com with your questions or concerns.

15TH ANNUAL NORTHEAST OHIO LAWN CARE SEMINAR

Thursday, June 15, 2017 • The Ohio State University/OARDC

The Arden Shisler Center • Wooster, Ohio

Everyone involved in lawn and landscape maintenance is invited to this informative event. To allow for hands-on instruction and personal interaction, registration will be limited to the first 200 participants.

The group will be divided into sub-groups that will spend 30 minutes at each station. The format allows for hands-on instruction followed by questions and answers. The seminar will feature presentations covering the following topics:

8:30 am

Registration

9:00 am

Welcome!

Value for Your OLCA Membership
Grateful Embrace Update
OLCA President Brett Garrard

9:15 am

Pesticide Update: Proper Use, PPE, Following the Label, the Ohio Law, Q&A

Jim Belt, Ohio Department of Agriculture
(ODA Core, 0.5 hours)

9:45 am

Mosquito and Vector Management

Arnold Ramsey, FMC Marketing Specialist
(ODA Category 10d, 0.5 hours)

10:15 am

Perimeter Pest Management

Arnold Ramsey, FMC Marketing Specialist
(ODA Category 10a, 0.5 hours)

10:45 am

Soils & Fertility Programs for Healthy Lawns & Sports Fields

Pam Sherratt, Turfgrass Specialist, OSU Dept. of Horticulture and Crop Science
(No ODA Credit, 0.75 hours)

Station Rotations (11:30 - 12:00 pm;

12:45 - 1:15 pm; 1:20 - 1:50 pm;

1:55 - 2:25 pm; 2:30 - 3:00 pm)

12:00 - 12:45 pm LUNCH

STATION 1: Tree and Shrub Disease & Pest Management Update

Nancy Taylor, Director, OSU Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic
(ODA Category 6A, 0.5 hours)

STATION 2: Lawn Weed Control & Sedge Management Update

Ken Hutto, FMC Professional Solutions
(ODA Category 8, 0.5 hours)

STATION 3: Supplier and Equipment Show Case

Vendors will provide a five minute highlight of what's new in the industry

STATION 4: Lawn Diseases and Diagnostic & Current/Future Lawn Problems

Joe Rimelspach, Program Specialist/Turf Pathology, OSU Dept. of Plant Pathology
(ODA Category 8, 0.5 hours)

STATION 5: Proper Calibration and Accurate Applications - Key Points!

Zane Raudenbush, Assistant Professor, Turfgrass Management, ATI
(ODA Core, 0.5 hours)

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Ohio Department of Agriculture Pesticide Applicators License Testing

If you are planning to take the Pesticide Applicators Licensing Test, you need to schedule with the ODA by calling 800-282-1955 or online at www.ohioagriculture.gov. Select Regulatory Programs, and then Schedule an Exam. You must bring a photo ID with you to the test.

Registration is available online at www.OhioLawnCare.org or by contacting OLCA at 800-510-5296.



A GRATEFUL EMBRACE

On November 4, OLCA will partake in the annual community service of beautifying the hallowed grounds at the Dayton National Veterans Cemetery in Dayton, OH and Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery in Rittman, OH.

Mark your calendar now! More information is available by visiting the OLCA website at www.OhioLawnCare.org. If you have any questions, please contact OLCA at 800-510-5296.



Ohio Lawn Care Association Lawn Care Technician of the Year Nomination Form

Mail your completed nomination form and required documentation by November 17, 2017 to:
OLCA Lawn Care Technician of the Year • 1100-H Brandywine Blvd • Zanesville, OH 43701 • Fax: 740-452-2552

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Rules and Regulations:

- Must be a member company of OLCA
- Must be recommended by company owner, manager or supervisor
- Can only win the award one time
- 1 employee submission per company
- Must have proof of State of Ohio License
- Minimum 2 years experience

This year's winner of the Lawn Care Technician of the Year award will receive a \$500 Visa Gift Card!

Nominated By:

Company Name, Person and Title _____

Name of Manager (if nominating self) _____

Company Address _____

Company Phone _____

Applicators Name, Years of Experience _____

Applicators License _____

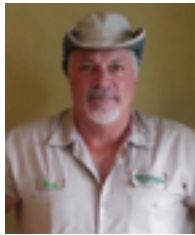
Describe why you think this person deserves the honor and recognition from his/her peers as Ohio Lawn Care Technician of the Year? (Leadership, Customer Relations, Knowledge of Job, Job Performance, Problem Solving)

Greatest Achievement? _____

Best Customer Comment: _____

Attach any customer letters if available.

LAWN CARE TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR – Bradley Wickersham



Nominate someone today for Lawn Care Technician of the Year by visiting the OLCA website at www.OhioLawnCare.org under the Lawn Care Technician of the Year button on the Home Page. Nominate an Applicator online or print and return the nomination form by November 17, 2017. This year's recipient will receive a \$500 Visa Gift Card.

The 2016 Ohio Lawn Care Association Lawn Care Technician of the Year was awarded to Bradley Wickersham of Grass Master, Canal Fulton, OH. Bradley was presented the award during the OLCA Annual Meeting on December 6, 2016 at the Columbus Convention Center.

For a complete listing of past recipients, visit the OLCA website at www.OhioLawnCare.org. Nominate someone for 2017. An application is located in this issue and also available on the OLCA website.

TURFGRASS WEED CONTROL FOR PROFESSIONALS (TURF-100)

2017 EDITION

A.J. Patton, Purdue University

J.W. Rimelspach, The Ohio State University

This excellent publication from Purdue University turf program is available to professional turf managers. A regional collaborative publication with input from Cornell U., U. of Illinois, Iowa State, Kansas State, Michigan State, U. of Minnesota, U. of Missouri, U. of Nebraska, The Ohio State U. (David Gardener) and U. of Wisconsin. The 130 page publication includes content on:

- Turfgrass Culture
- Weed Types
- Weed Life Cycles
- Developing a Weed Control Program

- Indicator Weeds
- Herbicide Information (use, nomenclature, classification, mode of action, movement, resistance, etc.)
- Control of Tough Weeds
- Frequently Asked Questions and Answers About Weed Control with Herbicides
- Nonselective Herbicides/Fumigants for Turfgrass Renovation
- Nonselective Herbicides for Turfgrass Border Maintenance (Edging)
- Preemergence Herbicides (weed control ratings for preemergence herbicides, turf tolerance information, and more instructions for each product)
- Postemergence Herbicides (weed control ratings for postemergence broadleaf herbicides and turf tolerance, and more instructions for each product)
- Commonly Used Broadleaf Herbicide Combinations for Turfgrass
- Active Ingredients in Commonly Used Herbicide Combinations
- Sedge Control Herbicides (sedge control and turfgrass tolerance ratings, turf tolerance information, and more instructions for each product)
- Plant Growth Regulators for General Turf Use
- Preemergence, Postemergence and PGR Options for Putting Greens
- Postemergence Weed Control in Creeping Bentgrass Putting Greens
- Common and Trade Names of Registered Herbicides and Plant Growth Regulators (264 different products and 98 unique herbicide ingredient combination are discussing in this publication)
- Herbicide/PGR Common Names, Chemical Families, and Modes of Action
- Herbicide Math

This is truly a comprehensive guide for those using herbicides in turfgrass regardless of whether you manage athletic fields, a golf course, lawns, cemeteries, sod farms, parks, or other turf areas.

The publication is available at from The Purdue Extension Education Store. **To order by phone, call toll free (888) EXT-INFO – \$20.00 Each Hardy Copy.**

This item is available in bulk pricing and as a \$12 electronic download.

GREEN, SLIMY, JELLY-LIKE BLOBS OF GOO IN LAWNS

J. W. Rimelspach & T. E. Hicks
OSU Turfgrass Pathology,
Department of Plant Pathology

“What is it?” This strange-looking organism is called *Nostoc*. It is a primitive “plant-like organism”, *Nostoc* sp., a genus of cyanobacterium formerly classified as blue-green algae. Cyanobacteria like *Nostoc* used to be called blue-green algae, but it’s now known that they are not algae at all, though they perform photosynthesis the way algae and plants do. So although *Nostoc* looks like some kind of green slime algae, it’s actually some kind of green slime bacteria. At the microscopic level, *Nostoc* forms long strands of individual cells that multiply by dividing. Colonies can grow large enough to form “blobs” and mats like in the photos.

Following a period of rain or during wet periods, it may appear suddenly in lawns, pastures, paved surfaces, roofs or stones. It can be hazardous on paved surfaces as it is very slippery when wet. When found in lawns, it is generally on a site where the grass is growing poorly due to severe compaction, overwatering or both. It does not caused the lawns to decline; but simply colonized areas of thin turf and where it has favorable conditions to grow. Wet, poor drainage and compacted soils create a favorable environment for colonies of *Nostoc* to grow and expand.

Nostoc sp. can be difficult to get rid of. From its gelatinous, green state, it dries to a black crust that comes back to life when there is sufficient water. To discourage its growth, improve drainage and in lawns improve the over-all growing conditions of the turfgrass to maintain a dense healthy lawn. Products that contain potassium salts of fatty acids may be used to kill it in lawns. Use products carefully according to label directions, or damage to turfgrasses may occur. Core aerating the lawn to reduce compaction may help, but tilling

the soil will merely break up the organism and spread it. For paved surfaces and small patches in lawns, scraping it off the surface or shoveling it up and discarding it may be an option. But this may be a short term solution if wet conditions are not remediated.



Nostoc Balls and weeds – in a gravel driveway.
(Photo – courtesy of Don Gallagan.)



Nostoc – green slime bacteria.
(Photo – courtesy of Don Gallagan.)

RED THREAD IS HERE AGAIN - A DISEASE PROFILE

J. W. Rimelspach & T. E. Hicks
OSU Turfgrass Pathology, Department
of Plant Pathology

The following is a disease profile of the turfgrass disease red thread. There is detailed information about the fungi that causes the disease, what turfgrasses are affected, environmental conditions (weather) that is conducive for development, symptoms, the disease cycle and management strategies.



Active red thread – in a perennial ryegrass lawn, March 2017, Columbus, Ohio. (Photo courtesy J.W. Rimelspach)



Note the reddish/pink sclerotia and pink cottony floccs of mycelium of *Laetisaria fuciformis*. (Photo courtesy J.W. Rimelspach)

PATHOGEN:

Laetisaria fuciformis / *L. fuciformis* is a Basidiomycete. Mycelium is multinucleate and do not typically have clamp connections.

HOST:

Occurs on a wide variety of turfgrass species (mostly cool season) over a wide geographical distribution. Mostly seen in Ohio in the transition from spring to summer. Especially severe under prolonged misty (wet) cool spring weather. However, the disease has been seen in every month of the year in Ohio and can be active whenever conditions are right for the fungi to grow.

Cool-Season Grasses:

- Fine Fescues – severe
- Tall Fescue – moderate to light
- Perennial Ryegrass – severe
- Kentucky Bluegrass – moderate
- Bentgrasses – moderate to light

Warm-Season Grasses:

- Bermudagrass – moderate to light

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:

Cool to mild temperatures; heavy dew, light rain, fog (wet leaves) and slow turf growth is ideal for disease development. *L. fuciformis* may be active over an extremely broad range of temperatures ranging from 32-85 F. Red thread is most severe under low N, P, K, and Ca fertility. The disease may occur year-round, but is generally most severe for no more than several months in any given location. In Ohio, red thread has been recorded as being active in every month of the year.

TRIVIA:

This is the first reported disease of a turfgrass species. First observed on ryegrass in 1873 by Berkeley in Australia and Wallis in England.

SIGNS and SYMPTOMS:

Circular or irregular shaped tan-colored patches of blighted grass 2 inches to 3 feet in diameter. The tan color of the dead leaf blades may be the initial symptoms observed.

continued on page 8

continued from page 7

The patches often appear diffuse or ragged as they contain both infected necrotic and healthy green tissue. Small patches may coalesce to form larger patches.

Primarily a disease of that affects leaves and sheaths. Infection typically begins at the leaf tip and moves towards the crown. The fungus typically produces pale pink, web like mycelial growth that surrounds and connects leaf blades in close proximity to one another. The color of the mycelium can vary from pinkish to red.

Under humid environmental conditions, the pathogen produces fine pink-pale red-orange antler like mycelial growths called red threads or sclerotia. Pink cottony tufts of mycelial growth are also typical.

May be confused with Pink patch or Dollar spot; especially when mycelial growth is absent.

DISEASE CYCLE:

Survival: The fungus persists during unfavorable environmental conditions as sclerotia (red threads) on infected leaves or in the thatch. These threads / mycelial fragments may remain viable for several years.

Dispersal: Dissemination of sclerotia and arthroconidia occurs via wind, rain, animals, and equipment.

Infection: Growth and Reproduction: Growth and establishment of the pathogen occurs rapidly under optimal environmental conditions. Leaf death may occur as soon as two days post penetration. Prolonged periods of high humidity favor rapid disease development. Free water on the leaf surface appears to be required for germination of sclerotia and arthroconidia. Basidiospores may be produced, but their role in the disease cycle is not clear.

INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT STRATEGY:

I. Cultural / Maintenance

- In general any practice that encourages optimal growth of turf should be employed such as maintenance with a balanced fertility program, good drainage, adequate light, etc.

- Increased Nitrogen (N) and Phosphorous (P) fertility has been correlated to decreased red thread susceptibility. Fertilizers alone may not eliminate red thread but can be a valuable maintenance approach to reduce the disease severity and for faster recovery.
- The bottom line is to think about and know the fertility needs of lawns for optimal health. Soil testing can be a tool to help determine fertilizer needs and rates.

2. Genetic Resistance

Home lawns, golf courses, or athletic fields: Plant less susceptible grasses if given the opportunity. For example, Kentucky bluegrass or Tall Fescue versus Perennial Ryegrass. Check state recommendations and NTEP (National Turfgrass Evaluation Trials – ntep.org).

3. Chemical

- Red thread is more easily managed using a preventative spray program rather than via curative chemical applications. Once the disease is active and patches are present, control is a two-step process
- First, stop the growth of the fungi (use of an effective fungicide) and Second, grow the turfgrass to have new healthy leaves replace the diseased and damaged leaves.
- There are many fungicides that are effective on red thread the key is to select one that is labeled for the site you are using it on. Many fungicides are NOT LABELED for RESIDENTIAL turfgrass areas. Read the label and follow instructions.

Protecting Workers from Heat Stress

Heat Illness

Exposure to heat can cause illness and death. The most serious heat illness is heat stroke. Other heat illnesses, such as heat exhaustion, heat cramps and heat rash, should also be avoided.

There are precautions your employer should take any time temperatures are high and the job involves physical work.

Risk Factors for Heat Illness

- High temperature and humidity, direct sun exposure, no breeze or wind
- Low liquid intake
- Heavy physical labor
- Waterproof clothing
- No recent exposure to hot workplaces

Symptoms of Heat Exhaustion

- Headache, dizziness, or fainting
- Weakness and wet skin
- Irritability or confusion
- Thirst, nausea, or vomiting

Symptoms of Heat Stroke

- May be confused, unable to think clearly, pass out, collapse, or have seizures (fits)
- May stop sweating

To Prevent Heat Illness, Your Employer Should

- Establish a complete heat illness prevention program.
- Provide training about the hazards leading to heat stress and how to prevent them.
- Provide a lot of cool water to workers close to the work area. At least one pint of water per hour is needed.



U.S. Department of Labor

For more information:
OSHA[®] Occupational Safety and Health Administration
www.osha.gov (800) 321-OSHA (6742)

OSHA 3154-06R 2014

OSHA[®] QUICK CARD[™]

- Modify work schedules and arrange frequent rest periods with water breaks in shaded or air-conditioned areas.
- Gradually increase workloads and allow more frequent breaks for workers new to the heat or those that have been away from work to adapt to working in the heat (acclimatization).
- Routinely check workers who are at risk of heat stress due to protective clothing and high temperature.
- Consider protective clothing that provides cooling.



How You Can Protect Yourself and Others

- Know signs/symptoms of heat illnesses; monitor yourself; use a buddy system.
- Block out direct sun and other heat sources.
- Drink plenty of fluids. Drink often and BEFORE you are thirsty. Drink water every 15 minutes.
- Avoid beverages containing alcohol or caffeine.
- Wear lightweight, light colored, loose-fitting clothes.



What to Do When a Worker is Ill from the Heat

- Call a supervisor for help. If the supervisor is not available, call 911.
- Have someone stay with the worker until help arrives.
- Move the worker to a cooler/shaded area.
- Remove outer clothing.
- Fan and mist the worker with water; apply ice (ice bags or ice towels).
- Provide cool drinking water, if able to drink.

IF THE WORKER IS NOT ALERT or seems confused, this may be a heat stroke. CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY and apply ice as soon as possible.

If you have any questions or concerns, call OSHA at 1-800-321-OSHA (6742).



U.S. Department of Labor

For more information:

OSHA[®] Occupational Safety and Health Administration
www.osha.gov (800) 321-OSHA (6742)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

JUNE 15: Northeast Ohio Lawn Care Seminar • OARDC, The Arden Shisler Center, Wooster

AUGUST 8: Ohio Lawn Care Outdoor Summer Seminar • OSU, Columbus

NOVEMBER 4: A Grateful Embrace

Dayton National Veterans Cemetery • Dayton, OH

Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery • Rittman, OH

**The grass is always greener on your side
with a little help from us.**



- Fertilizers • Athletic Fields
- Chemicals • Ice Melt
- Seed • Accessories

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3700 R Parkway Ln.
Hilliard, OH 43026
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9012 Cotter Street
Lewis Center, OH 43035
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Cleveland Area

6780 Southpoint Pkwy
Brecksville, OH 44141
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Phone: 859-283-1172

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Youngstown, OH 44509
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www.advancedturf.com

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OHIO LAWN CARE ASSOCIATION

Phone: 800-510-5296 • Fax: 740-452-2552 • www.OhioLawnCare.org

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