

NOTE: THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS OFFERED AS A GUIDE FOR PROSPECTIVE CHALLENGES TO MANAGING SEASHORE PASPALUM. ALL TURFGRASSES ARE SUBJECTED TO INSECT, DISEASE, AND WEED PRESSURES. PROPER MANAGEMENT IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS. YOU MUST CHECK ALL LABELS OF THE PESTICIDES TO BE USED ON THIS GRASS FOR LEGAL AND PROPER USE. MENTION OF A PARTICULAR PRODUCT IS NOT AN ENDORSEMENT OF THAT PRODUCT BUT REFLECTS WHAT IS KNOWN AT THE PRESENT TIME. ENVIRONMENTAL INTERACTIONS, INCLUDING SALINITY THAT IMPACT SPECIFIC SITES, MAY GIVE VARIABLE RESULTS IN THE USE OF SOME PRODUCTS.

MISCELLANEOUS DISEASES

Marasmiellus Blight

Thatch Collapse Disease

Paspalum White Leaf Phytoplasma Disease

Tar Spot or Black Leaf Spot

+++++

MARASMIELLUS BLIGHT

(Marasmiellus mesosporus Singer)

Symptoms: Circular patches of blighted grass ranging from 1-10 feet (30 cm->3 meters) in diameter. Initially chlorotic followed by reddish brown necrosis of leaves and leaf sheaths on fairways, tees, and roughs. Reddish brown-to-gray lesions on leaf sheaths are found during early stages of necrosis. Basidiocarps are produced on necrotic plant tissue during wet or humid weather.

Control program: Follow the guidelines for Type 1 Fairy Ring.

References: G.L. Miller, D.E. Desjardin, and L.P. Treadway. First report of *Marasmiellus mesosporus* causing Marasmiellus blight on seashore paspalum. *Plant Disease* 94(1):1374. Also found in: *Golf Course Management* 80(1):104-105. January 2012.

R. Singer. 1973. The Marasmius-blight fungus. *Mycologia* 65:468.

T.B. Warren and L.T. Lucas. 1975. Susceptibility of American Beachgrass and other dune plants to *Marasmiellus mesosporus*. *Phytopathology* 65:690-692.

S. Takehashi, T. Kasuya, and M. Kakishima. 2007. *Marasmiellus mesosporus*, a *Marasmius*-blight fungus newly recorded from sand dunes of the Japanese coast. *Mycoscience* 48(6):407-410.

++++
++++

THATCH COLLAPSE DISEASE

Caused by a basidiomycete: *Sphaerobolus* spp.

Symptoms: Unusual sunken patch symptoms with distinctive mushroom odor and the thatch layer is light brown to fawn-colored instead of dark brown. Turf is normally initially yellow or chlorotic and the area collapses due to apparent drought stress.

References:

M. Cushnahan. 2009. New thatch collapse disease identified. *Pitchcare Oceania Magazine*. [www.pitchcare.com.au /article/1360](http://www.pitchcare.com.au/article/1360)

J. Neylan. 2002. Thatch collapse fungi. *Australian Turfgrass Management* 4(4):25. TGIF #82124.

M. Hood. Diseases of turf—workshop. Proc. Third New Zealand Sports Turf Conference & Trade Show 3:69-74. TGIF#140924.

.....

Paspalum White Leaf Phytoplasma Disease

Symptoms: Browning of shoot tissue in random areas, extensive chlorosis, proliferation of axillary shoots, bushy growth habit, small leaves, shortened stolons and rhizomes, stunting, eventual death of plants.

References: C. Marcone, A. Ragozzino, and E. Seemuller. 1997. Detection of Bermuda Grass White Leaf Disease in Italy and Characterization of the Associated Phytoplasma by RFLP Analysis. *Plant Disease* 81:862-866.

S.K. Snehi, M.S. Khan, S.K. Raj, S. Mall, M. Singh, and G.P. Rao. 2008. Molecular identification of 'Candidatus phytoplasma cynodontis' associated with Bermudagrass white leaf disease in India. *Plant Pathology* 57(4):770.

Has also been identified on bentgrass, *Poa*, as well as bermudagrass as indicated in the references above.

.....

Tar Spot or Black Leaf Spot

(*Phyllacora paspalicola* Henn.)

Symptoms: Small, black, circular to oval, crusty, shieldlike (clypei) coverings over perithecia spots that occur on the upper and/or lower leaf surfaces. When the clypei coalesce, they form long, shiny, black stripes. Light, chlorotic halos may surround the smallest spots and heavily infected areas have an overall yellow-green mottled to bright yellow appearance with black lesions. The area around the black lesions often remains green longer than the healthy tissue (so-called green island effect). Symptoms are normally found on wet, shaded sites.

Control: None suggested. Often found in greenhouse pots and in plant quarantine facilities.