

June 17, 2019

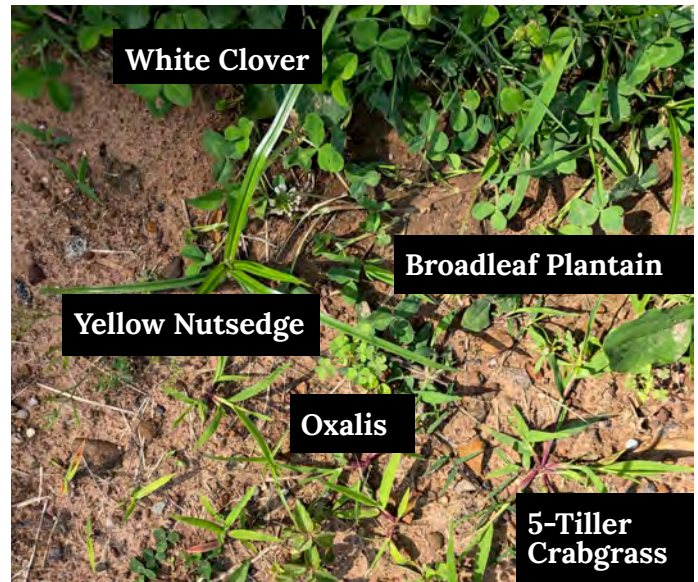
Gazing in the Grass

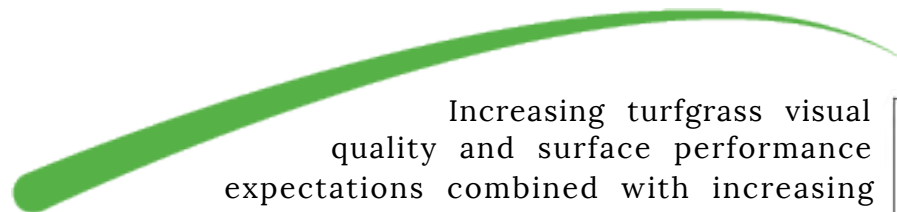
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The season continues to lag behind the 30-year normal temperature range North of NYC by about 7-10 days and ahead of normal by 7-10 days south of NYC into Philly and the Mid-Atlantic. It will finally feel like summer in many areas this week with warming temperatures with some widespread heat stress expected throughout the week. The lack of persistent warm temperatures to the North of NYC to date will leave plants much less heat stress tolerant and potentially susceptible to rapid warming and drying expected early and again later in the week.

Following some heavy rain at the end of last week in excess of 3-4" in some location, expect drying conditions for the week with passing chances of rainfall entering the Summer thunderstorm season. Soils are warming from mid-60's to mid-70's, and with it a growing number of summer pest issues such as; summer annual weeds that are emerging and developing, wet soils and grass leaves encouraging fungal pathogens, and annual bluegrass weevil damage continues in areas with poor control strategies.

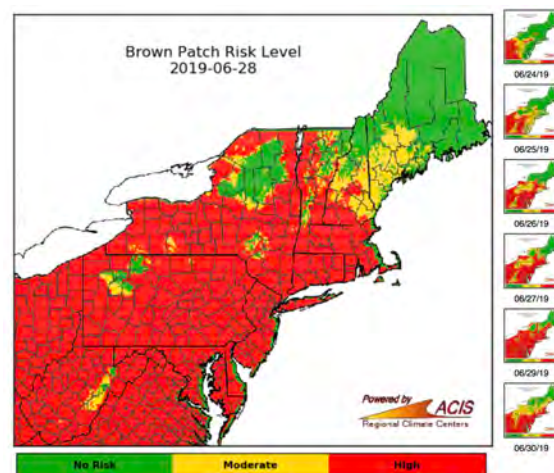
Yellow nutsedge is emerging in areas from sod or imported soil. It has historically been a challenge in wet areas, as the plant produces nutlets that lie dormant in the soil and then germinate following a rain event. The growth and success of yellow nutsedge is due to its ability to colonize and area, tolerate mowing, and reproduce via seed and underground nutlets. Successful control programs include avoiding the use of contaminated soil and a well timed application of Halosulfuron (Sedgehammer) applied with the appropriate crop oil for necessary absorption. However, some managers are reporting lack of control from halosulfuron. Basagran is still labelled for use in turf and offers a viable option when used with crop oil. The best timing for control of above AND below ground plant parts is in the next few weeks around the summer solstice when plants begin to translocate sugars for storage in the nutlets. This will burn back the existing foliage and translocate the herbicide to the nutlets for both post and preemergence control. Be sure the nutsedge is not under moisture stress when making the application. Be sure to read and follow all label directions, including those associated with use of crop oil concentrate. Warm weather increases the potential for injury to desirable cool season turf that might also be under moisture stress.



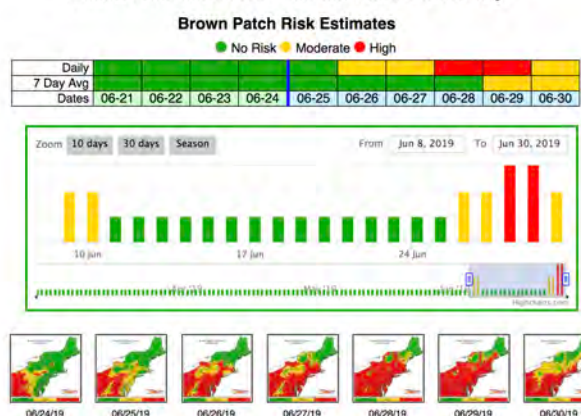


Increasing turfgrass visual quality and surface performance expectations combined with increasing pressure to reduce synthetic chemical, nutrient and water use will challenge the best managers. Anticipating stress and pest issues will allow for more flexibility and degree of response required to prevent turf damage and loss. The Cornell University Turfgrass Program has collaborated with Professor Art DeGaetano and the Northeast Regional Climate Center (@NortheastRCC) for the last decade to add precision to turfgrass management by knowing incidence and severity of pests (biotic) and (abiotic) stress across the region. Recently, with funding provided from Federal sources, the NRCC and the Cornell Turfgrass Program have revised the FORECAST website (<http://turf.eas.cornell.edu/app>) to provide the most detailed, historical and predictive information available to professional turfgrass managers in the Northeast US.

The above map depicts the current and predicted Brown Patch Risk for the northeast based on the model by Fidanza, et al. (1996). Below the historical and predictive risk based on location (zip code) that allows customized ranges to explore the data and determine need for preemptive action.



Robert Trent Jones Golf Course, Cornell University



What is clear from this data is that summer stress and disease conditions are expected for the week ahead. For upstate NY the maps show risk to be very high for several days and the historical image indicates it is the first significant high risk period experienced to date. Incorporating this pest risk with current turf growth rate, expected traffic and wear stress, as well as the presence of preventative cultural or chemical controls will aid in the decision-making process and determine a proportionate response (*sometimes that means not acting*). In this case for the RTJ course at Cornell the high risk is present for only a few days but moderate pressure for much of the week. This suggests that turfgrass micro-climates with poor air movement and poor drainage will be under high risk for longer periods of time and warrant intervention with fans, or preventative chemical treatments. Comparatively, areas with good growing conditions may not require treatment since pressure returns to moderate where turf can resist injury. Many have begun to use the Smith-Kerns Model for dollar spot risk, the website also has irrigation, soil temperature, rainfall, ET, and weed control predictions. We'd love your feedback on the changes!

Last week's rainfall caused postponement of Field Day!

So, June 27, 2019 marks the 10th year of the Central NY Golf Course Superintendents Field Day, now the **GCSAANY Field Day**, @Cornell and the RTJ Course. This year we will be highlighting our technological research with drone imagery, data-driven golf show design with FootJoy, autonomous mowing, clipping volume and playability, organic and traditional high grass area management, and a short walk and discussion about the pending renovation of the RTJ Course @Cornell University.

