

Dollar spot is costing turf managers in Arkansas this year

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Dollar spot (*Clarireedia* spp.) is the most common turfgrass disease worldwide. It is one of the few diseases that can affect **all turfgrass species**, and it has been a major problem on both cool- and warm-season turfgrasses (**Fig. 1**) so far this year in Arkansas.



Figure 1. Active dollar spot on a (a) creeping bentgrass putting green and (b) bermudagrass lawn as well as (c) dollar spot leaf lesions on a zoysiagrass leaf blade.

Why has dollar spot been noticeably more problematic this year? Like most diseases, conducive environmental conditions (e.g., temperature, precipitation, relative humidity) have been present. The weather conditions throughout most of Arkansas in May and June have been ripe for dollar spot development. Dollar spot is highly active when air temperatures are between 60-90°F and relative humidity is greater than 85% ([Source](#)). Additionally, leaf wetness durations of 10-12 hours and low nitrogen levels substantially increase disease pressure. Dollar spot risk levels can be monitored using the Smith-Kerns Dollar Spot Prediction Model freely available [here](#).

Management practices for dollar spot range from cultural to chemical practices. Common cultural practices deployed to manage dollar spot include nitrogen applications, morning dew removal (e.g., mowing, dew whipping, and dew suppressant applications), avoiding late morning

or afternoon irrigation, and increasing airflow. A little bit of nitrogen goes a long way in managing dollar spot (**Fig. 2**).

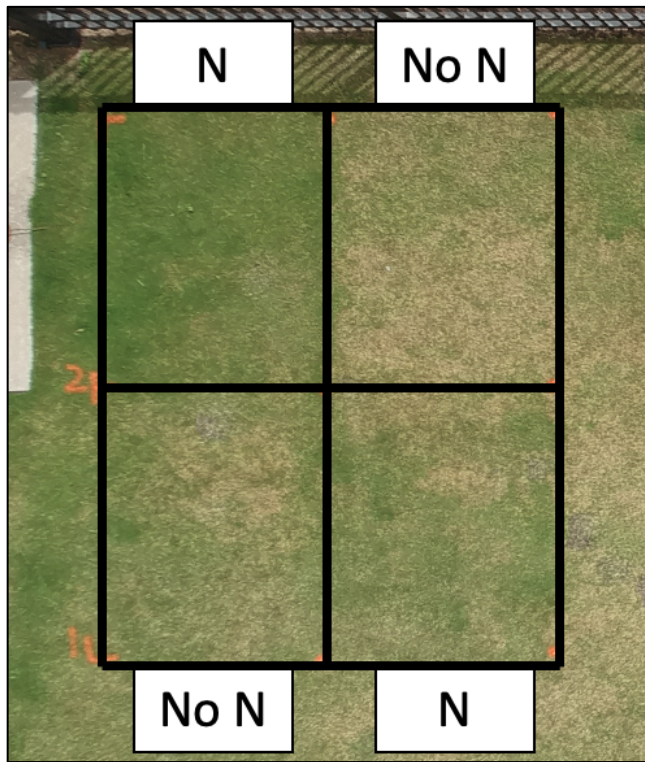


Figure 2. *Influence of nitrogen applications on dollar spot control in bermudagrass.*

Moreover, reducing the leaf wetness period through dew removal, proper irrigation, and increased airflow can substantially reduce dollar spot. Dew suppressants, such as DewCure, offer some curative control of dollar spot but not to the level of conventional fungicides (**Fig. 3**).

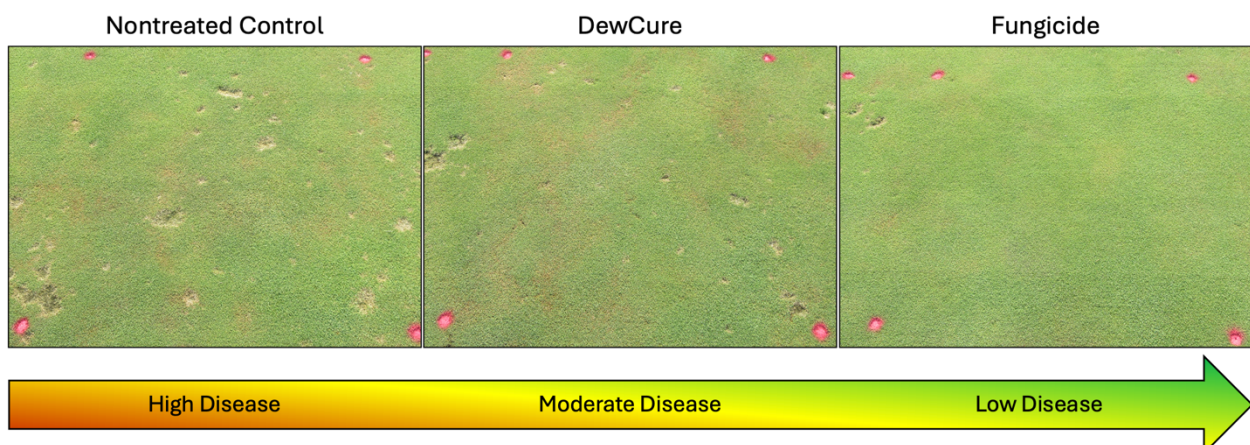


Figure 3. *The dew suppressant, DewCure, provided some curative control of dollar spot in a recent research trial by the University of Arkansas Turf Team.*

Beyond cultural management practices, chemical management practices are highly effective against dollar spot. Many fungicides suppress dollar spot, with Xzemplar (fluxapyroxad) being one of the best options labeled for lawns, sports fields, sod farms, and golf courses. Preventative fungicide applications (**Fig. 4**) are far superior to curative applications, but highly potent fungicides, along with good turfgrass growing weather, can allow for curative dollar spot control.

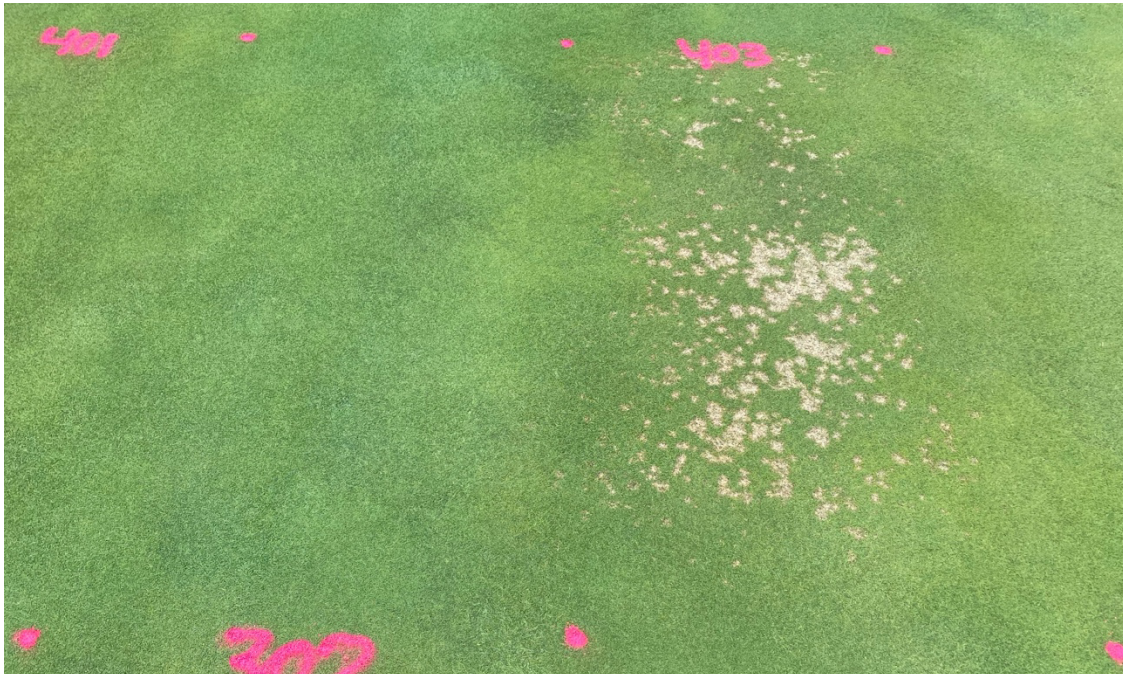


Figure 4. *Influence of an effective preventative fungicide program (left) compared to a nontreated control (right) for dollar spot management in a recent research trial by the University of Arkansas Turf Team.*

Keep an eye out for this challenging disease throughout the rest of the season and deploy the management practices outlined in this article to manage it. I hope this article was helpful, and please do not hesitate to contact me at wendellh@uark.edu for any follow-up questions about this research.