

# clippings

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# President's Message: Rob Johnson

*Rob Johnson*  
*NJTA President*



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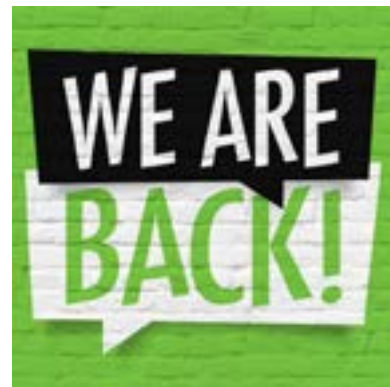
- MORE ARTICLES COMING... ADD MORE PAGES



## We are Back!

**Your Executive Director**  
Cece Peabody, MAT, CMP

So, really, what does ‘We Are Back!’ mean? We’ve made it through one year of COVID-19! Our planning committees have been meeting and we are planning to have our events ‘live’ this year! Yes, we are back (yet we are still being cautious)...but we are so looking forward to seeing each of our members at our events this year!



After months of social distancing, some people started to run out of shows to binge, skills to learn, and chores to do. Some came up with creative ideas:

- A ‘MasterChef’ finalist was making gourmet dinners for his elderly next-door neighbor every day and delivered them straight to his doorstep.
- A group of bridesmaids took pictures in their gowns to cheer up their friend who had to postpone her wedding.
- A man turned his living room into his favorite restaurant by making a sushi conveyor belt out of a toy train

Looking for a way to lift someone’s spirits? Sometimes all it takes is a few positive quotes or words of encouragement to immediately turn someone’s day around. Whether it’s your lifelong best friend or a stranger you pass on the street, taking a moment to deliver a positive message can have a long-lasting effect on the well-being of both individuals.

In addition to being a mood-booster, giving and receiving compliments has uplifting effects on both parties. As the giver, giving a compliment can boost your self-confidence as well as enhance your social skills and spark creativity. If you find yourself on the receiving end of a positive message, it may boost your self-esteem.

A positive message for you: *“You’re braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.”* A. A. Mine



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# Expo Returns...And We Can't Wait to See You!

by Chris Carson

For me, Expo is a celebration that marks the end of another season, and provides a chance to recharge my education batteries, do a lot of NJTA and Rutgers business with our strategic planning meetings, and rekindle the many friendships I've enjoyed through our business. When we were forced by the pandemic to cancel 2020's conference, there was a real void in my year in December, and I found that I really missed the chance to get away to the Borgata, have some fun and grow professionally. I suspect that many readers of this newsletter felt the same, and that they wished they could also get back to a more normal existence.

The Expo Planning Committee is back at work, developing a program for Expo 2021 that should not be missed:

-Our Education planning is well on its way toward completion, with several popular out of state speakers already committed. They said "yes" last year, and then committed right away to 2021 once we canceled. It's nice to know that we have world-class turf professionals and scientists who like coming to our show!

-Our Trade Show planning is moving forward as well, with a variety of contingencies being developed to ensure that all of our attendees and exhibitors feel comfortable and safe. We are not yet sure how we will handle some key issues, including serving meals and crowd sizes, but we've already been discussing logistics with our friends at Borgata and have solutions ready for all possible scenarios. Though we are moving ahead as if our world will be more towards the norm, we will be ready to go with whatever is needed to provide a great and safe experience for all.

-Our good friend Dr. Bruce Clarke is retiring in December from his position at Rutgers, and as this coincides with our Expo timing, we are developing plans to suitably acknowledge and celebrate all that he has done for us as an Association and as turf-grass professionals.



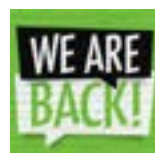
We are developing a special session where his career will be celebrated and where pertinent science will be passed on. NJTA - and I'm sure all reading this - want to make sure that we let Dr. Clarke know how much we admire his work and treasure his

leadership and friendship. We will let you know the details of this celebration as we develop our program, and we expect this session to be memorable.

-We can't plan this, but all of us who have missed the chance to talk face-to-face with old and new friends about the turf world understand that some of the great values of Expo are the random hallway and lunch meetings that just pop up when we are together. In many respects, these serendipitous moments of friendship are what many of us missed the most in our lost Covid year, and Expo 2021 will be sure to provide loads of these moments for all.

-The social activities that you've enjoyed in the past are being worked on as well, and there are even some possibilities that we might expand in that area. If, like me, you lamented the absence of the Grass Roots Mix 'N Mingle last year, for example, then you should be comforted in knowing that plans are afoot to make that cornerstone party bigger and better than ever.

More details will be passed along throughout the year, but for now we hope that you will circle the dates in your calendar: Expo 2021 will be held on December 7-9 at the Borgata in Atlantic City, and our plan is that it will be the best we've ever presented!



## PERSPECTIVE ON THE NJTA WINTER WEBINARS - “Let’s GROW Virtually”

Public outreach and offering/earning credits during this pandemic would have been way more difficult if not for the ‘webinars that the NJTA offered this year. The webinars started out small in the beginning (Dec 2020). After a few, the word got out. The last webinar (Mar 2021) had over 150 registered. The topics ranged from lawn and landscape/Insect control, and Golf industry webinars. Some of the speakers

*by Ken Mc Peek, Seasons Matter Landscapers*



Each presenter was well versed and knowledgeable in their profession. They were willing and able to give their time to share their years of experience and knowledge.

After each webinar, we sent out a survey to see how we can make them better and what topics attendees were interested in for future webinars. We received excellent topics and suggested speakers.

We were able to offer a community ‘feel’ virtual gathering space for our members and other professionals. A bonus was participants were able to earn credits toward their professional licenses. This was a huge help for them because in person classes were suspended due to the pandemic.

These webinars might become the way we all can earn our professional credits in the future. You can’t beat in person meetings, but taking classes in your PJ’s on the couch isn’t half bad either. Only time will tell.

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# Leadership Changes at Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science

*Announcement by Laura J. Lawson, Interim Executive Dean of the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences and Interim Executive Director of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. [Pages 8, 9, 12]*

**Dr. James Murphy** and **Dr. Stacy Bonos** have been appointed as the New Director and Associate Director of the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science, respectively, effective January 1, 2021.

The Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science builds on a distinguished history of research, education, and service to support the turfgrass industry in the state, nation, and world. Established in 1991, the center hosts annual symposia, field days, workshops, webinars, and other activities that are conducted by a team of approximately 30 faculty and more than 50 graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and staff. With its strong foundation and international recognition, the center is positioned for continued excellence that serves the turfgrass industry into the future.

Jim Murphy joined the Rutgers faculty in 1991 as an assistant extension specialist and was promoted in 2006 to extension specialist in the Department of Plant Biology. His research focuses on the development of environmentally-sound, best management practices in multiple turfgrass systems to improve stress tolerance, suppress disease, and reduce fungicide use. Jim is also well known for his studies on the traffic tolerance of turf and the long-term effects of root zone physical properties and topdressing practices on the performance of turfgrasses on golf courses, sports fields, and landscapes. He has served in leadership roles in the Department of Plant Biology, the International Turfgrass Society, and Crop Science Society of America (CSSA).

*continued on next page*

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# Leadership Changes...*continued from previous page*



He was elected a fellow by the American Society of Agronomy (ASA) and CSSA, which also honored him with the prestigious Fred V. Grau Turfgrass Science Award. His outstanding leadership at NJAES has been recognized with the 2019 Extension Specialist of the Year Award and the 2012 Outreach Excellence Award from Rutgers Cooperative Extension.

Stacy Bonos (GSNB '97, '01) joined the Rutgers faculty as an assistant professor in 2001 and was promoted in 2017 to professor in the Department of Plant Biology. Her research focuses on developing cool-season turfgrasses for enhanced stress and pest tolerance and environmental sustainability, as well as breeding switchgrass for use as biofuels. She is widely recognized for her work in classi-

cal breeding and molecular biology that have resulted in the release of hundreds of improved turfgrass cultivars over the past 20 years. In particular, she has had tremendous success developing cultivars of creeping bentgrass with dramatic improvements in dollar spot disease resistance. Well regarded in the turf industry, Stacy has been honored with the multi-state Plant Breeding Coordinating Committee inaugural Early Career Excellence in Plant Breeding Award, was named in 2010 by Sports Illustrated Golf Magazine to its "40 under 40" list, and was recognized by CSSA as its Young Crop Scientist in 2005 and a CSSA and ASA Fellow in 2016 and 2020, respectively.



Congratulations to both and welcome to their new leadership roles at the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science.

*continued on page 12*

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# 2021 Field Days is Being Planned 'Live'!



Save the dates of July 27th and July 28th! The **Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Days** is planning to be a LIVE! 2-day event at the Rutgers Hort Farm II in New Brunswick, NJ. *(Both days will be at Hort Farm II)*

Given the COVID-19 restrictions, we're exploring creative ways to have a safe event. Our goal is to offer a live, in-person educational event. A virtual event may be our only option in the end, but as time moves forward, we'll know more information pertaining to our event.

Last year, the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science (CTS) and the New Jersey Turfgrass Association (NJTA) offered the Rutgers 2020 Virtual Turfgrass Research Field Day Video Series with 31 informative videos available for viewing on the CTS YouTube Channel. Virtual Field Day was very successful given our ability to pivot and to provide the latest turf information in the midst of a global pandemic.

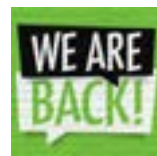
The NJTA would like to acknowledge and generously thank our Rutgers 2020 Virtual Turfgrass Research Field Day Sponsors: *A-List, BASF, Bayer, DLF Pickseed, Finch Services, Grass Roots, Helena Agri, Mountainview Seeds, and Syngenta*. We look forward to the support of ALL of our sponsors.

A big thank you to the supporters of our 2020 on-line Silent Auction. We will continue with our on-line Silent Auction this year. The Silent Auction Team is working diligently to provide an unusual mix of items for our on-line Silent Auction platform. We welcome your Silent Auction donation today! RutgersFieldDays-Logo\_final.png

**Join us for our 2-day event on July 27th and 28th at Hort Farm II for**

**Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Days.**

**Details to follow. Save the Dates!**



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# Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science Leaders

*continued from page 9*

Sincere thanks go to **Bruce Clarke**, extension specialist in turfgrass pathology, who has served as director of the center since July 1993, and William (Bill) Meyer, professor of turfgrass breeding, who has served as associate director since joining the faculty in 1996. Together, they have provided more than 50 years of combined and outstanding leadership of the center and its award-winning programs. Those who know Bruce and Bill already appreciate their contributions to making Rutgers' turfgrass program an international leader. A few words about each of these individuals illuminate highly successful academic careers that shaped the center's excellence and positioned its ongoing success.

**Bruce Clarke** (CC '77, GSNB '82) started his career at Rutgers as an undergraduate student and in 1982 joined the faculty as an assistant extension specialist. He never looked back, thriving as a researcher and taking on leadership responsibilities to advance the field. He held the Ralph Geiger Endowed Chair in Turfgrass Science from 2005 to

2011. His research focuses on the identification and control of biotic and abiotic diseases of cool-season turfgrasses. Bruce's work on the biology and control of anthracnose, summer patch, and gray leaf spot, and best management practices for the control of these diseases are cited as some of the most important achievements affecting the playing conditions of golf courses worldwide. He is a New Jersey Turfgrass Hall of Fame inductee, recipient of the John Morley Distinguished Service Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, and ASA and CSSA Fellow. His more recent accolades include the 2020 Nebraska Turfgrass Association Presidential Award and the 2016 USGA Green Section Award from the United States Golf Association.



**Bill Meyer** joined the center as its associate director in 1996 following a distinguished career in private industry as president of Pure Seed Testing, Inc. and vice-president of Turf-Seed, Inc. He is widely recognized as one of the world's leading breeders of cool-season turfgrasses. His efforts have led to remarkable improvements to turfgrass germplasm and ultimately improved turfgrass varieties that have been used extensively, both nationally and internationally. He has multiple industry honors throughout his long and distinguished career, including the 2009 New Jersey Turfgrass Association Hall of Fame Award, 2014 Impact Award from the National Association of Plant Breeders, the 2015 Lifetime Membership Award from the Turfgrass Breeders Association, the 2020 USGA Green Section Award, and ASA and CSSA Fellow. In 2016, Bill was named the inaugural C. Reed Funk Endowed Faculty Scholar in Plant Biology and Genetics at Rutgers.



**Thanks to Bill Meyer and Bruce Clarke, who have provided more than 50 years of combined leadership of the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science.**



# RUTGERS

## 30th Anniversary Turf Symposium

by Dr. Phillip Vines, Assistant Professor of Turfgrass Breeding

The Thirtieth Anniversary Rutgers Turfgrass Symposium was held on March 18, 2021, and live streamed as a virtual event. The theme for this year's Symposium was *Advances in Turfgrass Science: Looking to the Future*. Although the Turfgrass Symposium is an annual event, this was the first time it was offered in an online format. The Symposium was an overwhelming success, bringing together great speakers, discussions, and interactions. There were 374 participants from 18 countries and 34 states within the U.S who registered for the event. Dr. Laura Lawson, Interim Executive Dean of the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences and Interim Executive Director, New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, welcomed the attendees to the Symposium and shared some of the exciting news about the School and the Experiment Station.

The opening session focused on *New Technologies for Turfgrass Breeding and Management*; Dr. Bingru Huang served as the moderator for this session. Dr. Rong Di, a faculty member in the Department of Plant Biology at Rutgers University, was the first presenter with a presentation entitled "*Application of CRISPR-gene editing*

*tissue culture to improve creeping bentgrass.*" Dr. Josh Friell, a Senior Research Scientist at The Toro Company, gave the second talk on "*New technologies for optimizing turfgrass management.*" Dr. Phillip Vines, a faculty member in the Department of Plant Biology at Rutgers University, followed with his presentation discussing "*Applications of high-throughput plant phenotyping in turfgrass breeding.*" The final presentation of the first session, "*Decision support system - Collect, analyze, deploy, and integrate edge solutions for the food and beverage industry,*" was given by Mr. Naveen Singa, a Research Professional at Siemens Technology.

The keynote address was delivered by **Dr. Cristobal Uauy** (picture below), a Group Leader at the John Innes Center in the United Kingdom. Dr. Uauy's presentation was entitled "*Unlocking the polyploid potential in crops through genomics.*" Dr. Stacy Bonos served as the moderator for the keynote session.










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# RUTGERS 30th Anniversary Turf Symposium

A poster session followed Dr. Uauy's keynote address. There were a total of eighteen poster presentations given by faculty, staff, and graduate students from Rutgers University on a variety of topics related to turfgrass science. Presenting authors were Cathryn Chapman, Katie Diehl, William Errickson, Patrick Fardella, Glen Groben, Joseph Heckman, Sean McBride, Thomas Molnar, Bradley Park, Jeanne Peters, Stephanie Rossi, Anna Luiza Sousa, Trini Taccad, Christopher Tkach, Phillip Vines, Shidi Wu, Zhongqi Xu, and Pingyuan Zhang.

The closing session included four presentations focused on *Pest Management* and was moderated by Dr. William Meyer. Dr. Matt Elmore, a faculty member in the Department of Plant Biology at Rutgers University, started the session with a presentation entitled "*Goosegrass resistance to dithiopyr.*" Another goosegrass related talk, "*Identifying the mechanism of oxadiazon resistance in goosegrass and improved understanding of PPO-inhibitor mode of action*" was given by Dr. Scott McElroy, a faculty member in the Department of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Science at Auburn University.

The third presentation of the final session was from Pingyuan Zhang, a graduate assistant in the Department of Plant Biology at Rutgers University. Mr. Zhang's talk was entitled "*Interpretations of a logistic regression model for fungicide control of dollar spot on creeping bentgrass.*" The concluding presentation was made by Dr. Bruce Clarke, a faculty member in the Department of Plant Biology at Rutgers University, on "*Developing turf disease control programs that are efficacious and environmentally sound.*"

A special slide show tribute was presented at the conclusion of the Symposium to honor Dr. Bruce Clarke for his 40 years of contributions to education, research and service in turfgrass science at Rutgers University.

The Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science is extremely grateful for the participation of the many friends and colleagues at the state, regional, national, and international levels. The Rutgers Turfgrass Symposium was founded on the principles of sharing ideas and engaging in discussions pertaining to current and future research. The level of participation and interaction at this virtual event helped to ensure those traditions will be continued for future symposia. All oral and poster presentations from the Thirtieth Anniversary Rutgers Turfgrass Symposium were recorded and will be available for viewing at the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science website ([turf.rutgers.edu](http://turf.rutgers.edu)).

A great deal of appreciation is owed to the Symposium Organizing Committee, which was composed of Drs. Rong Di (Symposium chair), Stacy Bonos, Bruce Clarke, Matt Elmore, William Meyer, and Jim Murphy, as well as Dr. Phillip Vines and Ms. Barbara Fitzgerald (co-editors of the Symposium Proceedings). The committee assembled an excellent event, despite ongoing concerns centered around the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to the Symposium Organizing Committee, there are many other individuals to thank for helping to make the Thirtieth Anniversary Rutgers Turfgrass Symposium a success. Thanks to Mr. Bernard Ward and Ms. Alanna Perez for providing technical support, which was essential to enabling the live streaming of the event. Finally, special thanks to Dr. Bruce Clarke, Dr. Rong Di, Mrs. Anne Diglio, Ms. Barbara Fitzgerald, Dr. Jim Murphy, Ms. Casey Noon, Ms. Cece Peabody, Dr. Phillip Vines, and Mr. Phil Wisneski for their administrative and technical assistance in developing and advertising the event and publishing recordings of the video poster presentations to the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science website.



# UPDATE FROM THE NJ TURFGRASS FOUNDATION

Greetings NJTA Members,

2020 will certainly be remembered as a year unlike any other in our lifetimes. As a membership, we certainly have missed not having the Rutgers Golf Classic, the Rutgers Field Days and now the New Jersey Green Expo. Despite not being able to hold any of our fundraisers this year in person, I would like to share some great news with everyone.

WE WERE STILL able to fund some research projects that are vital to the continuing pursuit of great turf in the state of New Jersey and surrounding areas. As a result of the generosity of our many sponsors, the NJ Turf Foundation was able to fund the following projects:

Drs. Albrecht Koppenhofer and Matt Elmore's research titled "Optimizing the use of annual bluegrass weevil to control annual bluegrass in creeping bent grass fairways" will receive \$6,500 per year for the next two years. This project will provide crucial information necessary for the transformation of a major insect pest of golf fairways into a biological weed management agent.

The 2nd project funded is for Drs. Matt Elmore and Bingru Huang of Rutgers, and Dr. Aaron Patton of Purdue University titled "Understanding False-Green Kyllinga biology for integrated management in cool season turf." False-green kyllinga is fast becoming a serious issue in New Jersey and surrounding states on golf courses. This research will assist in aiding the understanding of managing this weed in cool season turf. The NJTF can fund research at the requested \$10,000 per year for the next two years.

The Foundation is currently working on the funding structure to support a Turfgrass Graduate Student on an annual basis for eternity. Thereby, giving the Turfgrass program another vital instrument to attract the best people in the world to continue their education at Rutgers.

Having the financial capacity to continue funding critical research at the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Research in a year with very limited revenues coming in is a testament to the many members and Allied Partners that have a vested interest in the program and research.

So, on behalf of the Board of Trustees for the New Jersey Turfgrass Foundation, THANK YOU!

Respectfully,

David Schell  
NJTF President



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# The 2021 Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic

by Shaun Barry, Golf Classic Chair

In the first 24 years of the Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic, the event was only postponed one time and that was because the course was unplayable due to flooding. It eventually moved from the original date in May to an August date. As expected, attendance was reduced because of prior commitments, and typical August stresses on turfgrass forced many registered attendees to cancel. That event however still provided every attendee the chance to enjoy a great day of playing golf with friends and business associates while actively supporting Rutgers's Center for Turfgrass Science. It still proved that even a major disruption like this wouldn't change our industry's belief that this was a fundraising event not to be missed.

Fast forward to the Spring of 2020. All of the preparations for the 25th Anniversary had been completed and sponsorships and registrations were on pace for a new record. In March we were introduced to COVID-19 and all of our lives were changed dramatically. The Classic committee quickly realized that we had to postpone our event. Fiddler's had an open date in early October and we chose that date thinking COVID would not be an issue. As everyone now knows, that event had to be canceled. A Classic in 2020 would not be possible.

The decision was made to go back to an early May date in 2021 and we would still celebrate our 25th Anniversary. We were starting from a great position. Every Premier, Eagle, and Birdie Sponsor had committed to 2021 right after we canceled the October 2020 event. Everyone was enthusiastic about knowing we finally were all going to get together. Unfortunately, COVID has proven to be an ongoing issue. Vaccines became available but it soon became apparent that keeping the May date was just too questionable. Many major companies were not allowing their people to travel or stay overnight and Rutgers University was not opening up until July. The May date would have kept away some sponsors that had been sponsors for 24 years. We weren't even sure how involved the Rutgers scientists and staff could be. It was a difficult decision but it had to be made. We needed a new date.

[www.njturfgrass.org](http://www.njturfgrass.org)

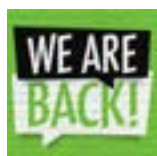
Fiddler's Elbow CC has hosted this event for most of those 24 years and they have been the perfect hosts. The courses are great, the food is always delicious, and we are treated with the respect all of their members are given. Even though the club was closed in January and February, they responded to our request for a date change. The only potential open date was **Monday, August 16, 2021**. Every other date was filled. We would not normally pick an August date but this date would give our sponsors and potential attendees the best possible opportunity to attend. That was our goal.

*Drs. Clarke, Meyer, Murphy, Bonos*, every scientist and staff member of the Center for Turfgrass Science and the entire Classic Committee hopes you will mark the new date on your calendar. It has been a long and frustrating process but it is a day that will be worth the wait.



## Monday, August 16, 2021

### 25th Anniversary Celebration





# RED LEAF SPOT....or NOT?

*Richard Buckley, Rutgers Plant Diagnostic Laboratory*

Red leaf spot of creeping bentgrass is a poorly understood leaf spot disease in turfgrass. Almost all golf course superintendents think they have it at one point or another, but nobody ever really does.



*Red leaf spot on creeping bentgrass putting green.  
Photo: Richard Buckley, Rutgers PDL*

Caused by the fungus *Drechslera erythrospila*, most folks consider red leaf spot to act just like our familiar leaf spot diseases in the bluegrasses, ryegrasses, and fescues. Generally speaking, these other leaf spot diseases, which are each caused by unique species of the fungus *Drechslera*, occur during the spring. We think of leaf spot disease activity from April to about mid-May. Typically, April and May are pretty cold in the Northeast and many bentgrass cultivars respond to the cold by turning all sorts of red and purple. Superintendents see the discoloration, remember their leaf spot lecture from turf school, and think “bentgrass + red leaves = red leaf spot.” I say NOT!



*Red Leaf Spot on creeping bentgrass fairway turf.  
Photo: Sabrina Tirpak, Rutgers PDL*

*Drechslera erythrospila* is a different animal from the other common *Drechslera* species affecting turfgrass due to one simple detail – the fungus is active at warmer temperatures. Red leaf spot is a warm, wet-weather disease that is not prominent until the onset of summer. Red leaf spot causes oval-shaped, reddish leaf spots and rotten crowns on individual plants, and an overall general thinning of the turf stand reminiscent of brown blight in perennial ryegrass or leaf spot and melting out in Kentucky bluegrass. Diseased bentgrass on golf courses may also appear drought stressed and can thin into dry, reddish brown irregular patches.



*Bipolaris leaf spot on velvet bentgrass.  
Photo: Sabrina Tirpak, Rutgers PDL*



*Conidia of Bipolaris sorokiniana on diseased bentgrass leaf. Photo: Sabrina Tirpak, Rutgers PDL*

Interestingly enough, there is another issue that confuses our red leaf spot conundrum even more. A related fungus, *Bipolaris sorokiniana*, also causes a disease in bentgrass that clearly resembles red leaf spot. *Bipolaris sorokiniana* has a much larger host range and is very

*Continued on page 21*



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and enhance the environment through education, professionalism, leadership,  
and our partnership with Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.*



# RED LEAF SPOT...or NOT?

Continued from page 18

common on perennial ryegrass fairways. At any rate, infections by *Bipolaris sorokiniana* in bentgrass are indistinguishable from those caused by *Drechslera erythrospila*. Should you care? Maybe not, because both diseases look and act the same, occur during roughly the same conditions, and have similar management strategies. You might not have to care about the specifics of an individual fungus to do your job, but I do!



*Conidium (spore) of Bipolaris sorokiniana (left) and Drechslera erythrospila (right)*

And here is how I know who is who; under the microscope each of these fungi are quite distinct. Conidia (asexual spores) of *Drechslera erythrospila* are generally clear (hyaline) and cylindrical. *Bipolaris sorokiniana* conidia, on the other hand, are darker (dematiaceous) and taper toward the ends like a cigar. In the past, both of these critters were in the same genus, *Helminthosporium*, but in the 1950's and 60's they were split apart.

One of the factors considered in the split was how the conidia germinate. *Bipolaris* germinates from the poles (bipolar get it?), while all *Drechslera* species germinate from every cell. Pretty cool, don't you think? And one more thing for your next cocktail party, Charles Drechsler (Some Graminicolous Species of *Helminthosporium*) originally described all these grass infecting fungi into the genus *Helminthosporium* in 1923.



*Bipolaris sorokiniana* conidia germinating from the poles. Photo: Sabrina Tirpak, Rutgers PDL

To manage leaf spot diseases; avoid high nitrogen fertility and excessive thatch accumulation. Water to avoid drought stress and wet leaves. Renovate with improved cultivars. Where necessary, apply fungicides preventively. The following materials have performed well in research trials: azoxystrobin, chlorothalonil, fluazinam, fludioxonil, fluoxystrobin, iprodione, mancozeb, penthiopyrad, pyraclostrobin, and vinclozalin. Looking at this list, can you see why these diseases are pretty rare in the summer on your golf course greens, tees, and fairways?

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**Thanks!**



## 2021 EVENTS

**Tuesday, July 27, 2021**

*Rutgers Turfgrass Research*

**Field Day:**

*Golf & Fine Turf*

*Hort Farm 2, New Brunswick, NJ*

**Wednesday, July 28, 2021**

*Rutgers Turfgrass Research*

**Field Day:**

*Lawn, Landscape and Sports Fields*

*Adelphia Farm, Freehold, NJ*

**Monday, August 16, 2021**

*Rutgers Turfgrass Research*

**Golf Classic**

*Fiddler's Elbow Country Club*

*Bedminster, NJ*

**25<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary**

**Tuesday, December 7, 2021 -**

**Thursday, December 9, 2021**

*46th Annual Green Expo*

*Turf & Landscape Conference*

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# clippings

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