

# CONNECTICUT CLIPPINGS



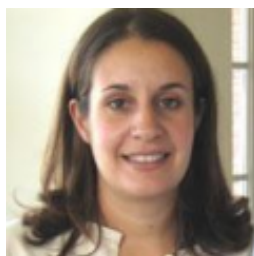
VOLUME 54 | NO. 3

DECEMBER 2020

## CAGCS 2021 Winter Seminar Turned Virtual

Our annual education seminar was nothing like it ever has been before, we went virtual. The virtual seminar was attended by 97 members and supported by 15 commercial sponsors. I would like to thank our presenting partner Atlantic Golf and Turf as well as Silver sponsors; BASF, Cardinals, Corteva, Dunning, Executive Turf Products, Finch, Hunter, K&J Tree Service, Plant Food, Read Custom Soils, Syngenta, Turf Products, US PitchCare and Valley Green. It is the continued support of you, which makes our educational event truly remarkable.

A special thanks goes out to speakers for not only sharing their expertise, but their flexibility with our event. When we first embarked on planning this event we did not know whether we would have the event in person or virtual. Dr. Michelle DaCosta, University of Massachusetts began our day with her talk on Summer Stress in Cool-Season Turfgrass.



**Dr. Michelle DaCosta**  
University of Massachusetts



**Steve McDonald**  
Turfgrass Disease Solutions



**Dr. Karl Guillard**  
University of Connecticut

Steve McDonald, founder of Turfgrass Disease Solutions spoke to us about Weed Control in Fine Turf Areas during Wet and Warm Summers. Dr. Karl Guillard, University of Connecticut finished our day asking for our help in supporting his project, The Minimum Level for Sustainable Nutrition (MLSN) Project for New England Golf Courses. Hopefully we can all send him some soil samples and help him out.

I would like to also thank GraceMarie Chapin. Without her, this event would not have been as successful as it was. She was the guiding force keeping me on track with all the curveballs that that were thrown our way.

**Doug Snyder, CGCS**  
**Tashua Knolls Golf Course**

### What's Inside This Issue:

President's Message .....	2
BMP News.....	4-5
Kevin's Corner .....	6-7
Golf Results.....	8
Grass Catcher .....	10
NERFT .....	12-13
2021 Schedule of Events.....	14
Board of Directors.....	14
UConn/UMass Research.....	15-16

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

**WRITTEN BY**  
**PAUL BONINI, CGSC**  
**PRESIDENT, CAGCS**

Happy New Year as we welcome 2021, we definitely had a historic year and one I will never forget. I can honestly say I believe my job saved my sanity this year and most years that is not true. Golf was a true success during 2020 as many if not all clubs saw record rounds, revenue, and golfer activity. This kept all of us very busy and as for me away from the television and watching the news updates every hour! It goes without saying we had our help along the way and we will always be appreciative to the help and guidance we received last year from CSGA's Executive Director Michael Moraghan and Michael Dugan from Capitol Consulting LLC. If nothing else 2020 showed our dedication, versatility, and creativity to get the job done; three characteristics needed in any superintendent so it did not surprise me we persevered.

There were a lot of great stories this past year and I would like to highlight a couple. Connecticut joined the list and helped complete the goal from GCSAA as we published the state's BMP document. I want to thank all members who helped complete this goal, Robert Dorsch, CGCS for chairing the committee, and Gina Rizzi along with her team at Radius Sports Group. It was a great team effort. We also learned of Marc Weston, CGCS decision to pursue a position on GCSAA Board of Directors. A true commitment to our industry and CAGCS has your back on this next "walk" in your career. We wish you all the best and you have our support.

The CAGCS board and GraceMarie have been quite active over the winter and have put together a great year in front of you. We have recently completed our first and hopefully final virtual winter seminar. Our thought of keeping the education commitment and tradition to our members drove us to find the way. Many thanks go to GraceMarie and Doug Snyder, CGCS for putting together a very organized and technically flawless morning of education. Thank you for your great work. You will see the schedule for meetings soon and hope you can find time to participate in several if not all the events.



I hope I have given you a glimpse over this year as to what CAGCS stands for and who we represent and more importantly who represents us. I begin a final year on the board, a trip I started back in 2005. I have worked with so many talented and inspiring superintendents along the way and have always taken a little experience along with me. Will I still be active? Yes, but CAGCS also needs your voice. You will be hearing from the current board as we will be looking for new CAGCS members to participate, volunteer some time, and continue the tradition of having one of the strongest associations out there. I have completely enjoyed my first year as CAGCS president and look forward to my second year. Enjoy the off season and hope to see everyone during our meetings. Stay safe, healthy, and positive. Thanks.  
 Paul Bonini, CGCS  
 CAGCS President





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## CAGCS Releases Best Management Practices

We are happy to announce that the Connecticut Golf Industry Best Management Practices Guide has been completed. We will be publishing the guide on Tuesday, Nov 17, with a press release going out from GCSAA nationally and locally. The guide will be loaded on the GCSAA website, in addition to our CAGCS site. We have a social media campaign running in conjunction with the launch, so please support the effort by sharing/liking on Twitter and Facebook. The guide provides an overview of twelve best management practices (BMPs) in golf course maintenance to support environmental stewardship and optimal course conditions in the state of Connecticut. Our goal is to create and maintain courses that are ecologically functional and healthy green spaces, demonstrating commitment to environmental stewardship, the community, and the game. BMP guidelines provide a roadmap for our CAGCS members and a resource for stakeholders including regulators, lawmakers, general managers, our communities, members, and guests.

The GCSAA, supported by the USGA and PGA TOUR, initially started the nationwide initiative by providing a base template. Our BMP steering committee working along with Radius Sports Group (a sustainability consulting firm) customized the content to address local needs, practices, and regulatory areas of importance. We engaged industry stakeholders, regulators, and peers to review the guide. The efforts of these folks (listed below) are greatly appreciated. Our goal will be to utilize this state guide to help develop and implement individual facility BMPs in 2021. The guide conveys the classic heritage, environmental stewardship, and deep community roots of the CAGCS in an engaging format. Of special note - there is a foreword from Joe LaCava, Caddie for Tiger Woods, and Connecticut State Representative David Arconti.

**continued on page 5**



## CAGCS Releases Best Management Practices

### continued from page 4

The below links include an e-magazine which is best for viewing electronically. In addition to a downloadable PDF. We will be using it for meetings with legislators at National Golf Day as well. Please take a look!

#### CAGCS BMP Guide E-Magazine

[https://issuu.com/arcusmarketinggroup/docs/cagcs\\_bmphan-dbook-final-highres](https://issuu.com/arcusmarketinggroup/docs/cagcs_bmphan-dbook-final-highres)

#### CAGCS BMP Guide Downloadable PDF:

[cagcs.com/news](https://cagcs.com/news)

### CT Golf Industry BMP Guide Steering Committee &

**Authors:** Robert Dorsch, CGCS, Superintendent, Richter Park Golf Course; Steering Committee Chair Gina Rizzi, President, Radius Sports Group; Steering Committee Co-Chair Paul Bonini, CGCS, Superintendent, Watertown Golf Club, CAGCS President; Andy Fries, CGCS, Superintendent, H.B. Brownson Country Club; Scott E. Niven, CGCS, Property Manager, The Stanwich Club; Jim Pavonetti, CGCS, Superintendent, Fairview Country Club; Doug Snyder, CGCS, Director of Golf Course Properties, Tashua Knolls Golf Course

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### CT Golf Industry BMP Guide Foreword Written By: David

Arconti, Connecticut State Representative and Energy + Tech Chair Joe LaCava, Caddie for Tiger Woods

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# KEVIN'S KORNER

With autumn passed by and the agronomic practices in the rearview mirror, the frosty and snowy mornings are the norm and staff numbers have lightened. Planning projects may be part of a larger master plan for the facility.

These are great tools to ensure the projects undertaken by the club are done in a fiscally responsible manner and keep progress moving forward on a schedule. A very beneficial undertaking for the facility, but what impact does that have in your department? While budgeting offers a chance to plan for equipment and staffing numbers, have you done any planning specific to the grounds team at your facility?

The winter offers the perfect time to engage your biggest assets, your team. Why not consider a SCOR analysis with them? Getting their feedback on team dynamics could be key in making improvements you never saw. Where are the strengths of your team, what challenges do they see? Are there opportunities that would improve the processes you already have in place? What risks do your staff see within the grounds department? Would you benefit from this information? Would your team be more effective after engaging them in developing such an analysis?

Effective planning includes a lot of input, and your staff are poised to provide that information. Planning for a successful 2021 season could easily begin on a wintery morning this off-season. GCSAA conducts such strategic planning sessions for chapters. Utilizing that same process and providing your board of directors' similar opportunities to plan for improvement is a great benefit and assists in creating value for your association members.

Do you challenge or set goals for your staff? We thrive in an industry that blends science and art while newer techniques trend towards quantitative, measurable data. GCSAA offers two great programs that will benefit individuals on you staff, your team, and the facility. These professional development opportunities for key staff members can assist you structure advancement or benefit increases for your people, all while increasing their value to the facility. What better time to encourage participation than the off-season?

## GCSAA Resources and Deadlines

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## The Assistant Superintendent Certificate

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- hydraulic systems
- metalworking and fabrication
- spray systems
- fundamentals of turfgrass operations

You can choose to take one exam or work to complete the entire program by successfully completing all eight exams in any order. Level 2 follows completion, with a Certification opportunity upon finishing both levels.



## Matthew Crowther Wins GCSAA's President's Award for Environmental Stewardship

### THE MASSACHUSETTS SUPERINTENDENT KEEPS INPUTS TO A MINIMUM TO CULTIVATE COURSES THAT CATER TO BOTH GOLFERS AND MOTHER NATURE

Matthew A. Crowther, CGCS, superintendent at Cape Cod Country Club in East Falmouth, Mass., has been named the recipient of GCSAA's 2021 President's Award for Environmental Stewardship. Crowther, a 30-year GCSAA member who is in his second year at Cape Cod Country Club, will be recognized during the annual Golf Industry Show, which will be held virtually Feb. 2-4, 2021. To read more about Crowther's recognition, please visit GCMOnline.com linked below:

Matthew Crowther wins GCSAA's President's Award for Environmental Stewardship - GCMOnline.com



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If I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Kevin Doyle

GCSAA Field Staff

[kdoyle@gcsaa.org](mailto:kdoyle@gcsaa.org)

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## MEMEBER/GUEST RESULTS NEW HAVEN COUNTRY CLUB SEPTEMBER 28, 2020

**1st Place Gross:** Kevin Collins, Tradition GC at Oak Lane

Nick Rykoski, Guest

**2nd Place Gross:** Tyler Sears, Tradition GC at Wallingford

Rob Murretti, Guest

**1st Place Net:** Stephen Curry, Blue Fox Run GC

Dave Whitbeck, Guest

**2nd Place Net:** Kevin Doyle, GCSAA

Jonathan Woodman, Guest

**Longest Drive:** Sean Mitchell, Guest

**Closest to the Pin #2:** Andy Drohen, Koch Turf & Ornamentals

**Closest to the Pin #9:** Jay Popko, Winfield



## SCHOLARSHIP & RESEARCH RESULTS REDDING COUNTRY CLUB OCTOBER 6, 2020

**1st Place:** Paul Bonini, CGCS, Waterbury CC; John Ruzsbatzky, Wampanoag CC; Jonathan Charpinsky, GC of Avon; Andrew Hannah, Rhode Island CC

**2nd Place:** Chris Mauro, Western Hills GC; Mark Lombardo, Guest; Jack Gary, Guest; Mike Digiovancarlo, Guest

**Longest Drive #9:** Marcus Zotter, Shuttle Meadow CC

**Longest Drive #15:** Timothy Nadeau, Rockledge GC

**Closest to the Pin #8:** David Conrad, Plant Food

**Closest to the Pin #10:** Timothy Nadeau, Rockledge GC

## CAGCS ANNUAL RESULTS ROCK RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB NOVEMBER 4, 2020



**1st Place Gross:** Marc Weston, CGCS, Indian Hill CC; Matt Quinn, Indian Hill CC; Eric Morrison, CGCS, Shennecossett GC; Kevin Doyle, GCSAA

**2nd Place Gross:** Steve Loughran, Rock Ridge CC; Mark Osborn, Turf Products; Richard Duggan, Millbrook Club, Ben Lord, Millbrook Club

**1st Place Net:** Gilberto Perez, Dunning; Brett Chapin, Redding CC; Daryl Aresco, Borough of Fenwick; Peter Grace, H Smith Richardson

**2nd Place Net:** Doug Synder, CGCS, Tashua Knolls CC; Neil Lajeunesse, Dunning; John Callahan, The Cardinals

**Longest Drive #1:** Steve Loughran, Rock Ridge CC

**Closest to the Pin #5:** Steve Loughran, Rock Ridge CC

**Closest to the Pin #9:** Eric Morrison, CGCS, Shennecossett GC

**Straightest Drive #8:** Gilberto Perez, Dunning



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## GRASS CATCHER

### CONDOLENCES

Albert La Prise and family on the passing of his wife, Jane La Prise on November 5, 2020.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/jane-laprise-obituary?pid=197075109>

James Staszowski and family on the passing of his grandson, Luca James Lagarce. Luca passed on November 27, 2020.

<https://www.rochefuneralhome.com/obituaries/Luca-Lagarce/#!/Obituary>

Dan Sisson and his family on the passing of his mother, Mary M. Sisson on January 15, 2021.

<https://www.obrien-funeralhome.com/tributes/Mary-Sisson>

### CONGRATULATIONS!

Marc Weston, CGCS on being named a Grassroots Ambassador Leadership Award winner from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

Chad Hall on starting his new position as Assistant Superintendent at Rockledge Golf Club.

David Golembeski is now the Golf Course Superintendent at Newtown Country Club.

Patrick Sisk, CGCS, Longmeadow Country Club, newly recertified by GCSAA.



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## New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation: Beyond 2020

By Gary Sykes, Executive Director

The New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation and its conference and show has now been in existence for 24 years as we approach this new form of conference (virtual) for 2021. After 23 years of face to face trade shows and education our string has been interrupted, temporally, by the smallest of human pests, a virus. 9 turfgrass associations across New England were brought together in 1996 to form an greater association. The idea that one trade show and conference in New England would be of greater benefit to the New England Turfgrass Industry than smaller state events. For the most part the purpose has been fulfilled. Over the 23 years average attendance for the conference and show has been more than 1700 paid attendees, and the trade shows have averaged more than 350 booths. Proving once again that the "whole is greater than the sum of its parts!" Since, 1998 the foundation has funded 89 separate and different turfgrass research projects presented by faculty members from 4 of the state universities in New England. Each was reviewed by committee and approved by the board of directors. This research has cost the foundation more than \$2.6 million since our first year of research funding in 1999! This figure has been an amazing accomplishment for all of us in New England and has served the turfgrass industry all across the board. Not only has this research helped individually, it has helped collectively by giving New England's greatest turfgrass assets, the universities, a firmer foundation to continue their programs of education, extension and research. All three are vital to the future of the turfgrass industry here in New England and even beyond out into the Northeast region.

As we move forward, with mentioned restrictions and the hope of a successful vaccine, we suggest you take a close look at this year's program and find the need to be a part of our 24th event. Our education webinars will be March 2 & 3. We thank you all for your involvement over the years, your support and attendance. We have always lived by the mantra that education must always be first for the industry when assembling our annual conference and show. This includes bringing in some of the best speakers in turf across the country and sometimes even further. We have also put together, with 2020 exhibitors, an online auction during the week to help with funding research. The trade show is also a big part of that education for many of our attendees. We are planning already a return to an in person trade show and education conference in 2022. It sounds like a long way off, then again so didn't 2020, but before this conference is over, we will be well into the planning for it!

As far as future research goes, the foundation did put a halt on new funding for 2021 due to the major drop in income with the cancellation of our trade show, but continues to honor its obligations made in prior years. This research pause we hope will be temporary. As the trade show future is also on a pause due to Covid it has made the foundation ponder its current position and capa-





bilities. With the introduction of vaccines, we are hoping the RI Convention Center will be back online as it was designed. The foundation depends heavily on the trade show revenue and auction to supplement research funding for the coming year. Is it being too optimistic to think we can have a trade show in just 14 months? It is not yet 100% that we will, but indications are that it can happen and we hope to be ready either way! The goal of the foundation is to be cleared to send out Requests For Proposals (RFP's) In September 2021 and to get back on the annual track of research project evaluation and funding. The Foundation for 2021 will only be supporting 3 proposals in their last funding year of multi-year funding. If all goes well, in September the Foundation will offer funding opportunities to New England universities. Those offers could be limited, but the foundation is committed to the timeframe unless otherwise detoured. Time will tell, and hosting our next trade show may be the determining factor.

The foundation is made up of 9 associations representing turfgrass management efforts across New England. Some of the faces have changed over the years, but the dedication continues to be strong supporting turfgrass management and education in New England. Each board member represents their association interests in the industry and communicates their concerns to the foundation. This combination has worked admirably for nearly a quarter century, which should tell us we are doing something right for the industry and its members. So, let us all hope that the recent positive golf numbers continue to hold, that the turfgrass industry is favored likewise, that our virtual year is a "real" success as we prepare for Turf 2021 and as we look beyond toward 2022, our 25th anniversary, it will be a great year for the foundation and turf in New England!

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**CAGCS 2021 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

January 12 Tuesday	<b>Virtual Event</b> <i>CAGCS Winter Seminar</i>
April 19 Tuesday	<b>Norwich Golf Club</b> Host: Eric Kundahl 2 Ball Shamble
May 19 Monday	<b>Shorehaven Golf Club</b> Host: Ryan Segreue <i>CAGCS Scholarship &amp; Research Tournament</i>
June 15 Tuesday	<b>Shennecossett Golf Course</b> Host: Eric Morrison, CGCS Low Gross/Net by Flight <i>1<sup>st</sup> Round CAGCS Championship</i> <i>MET Team Championship Qualifier</i>
July 12 Monday	<b>Blue Fox Run Golf Course</b> Host: Stephen Curry Low Gross/Net Blind Partners <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Round CAGCS Championship</i> <i>New England Team Championship Qualifier</i>
TBD	<b>The Hartford Yard Goats</b> <i>CAGCS Social/Network Event</i>
September 13 Monday	<b>H. Smith Richardson Golf Course</b> Host: Peter Grace 2 Person Best Ball <i>Superintendent/Assistant Tournament</i> <i>President's Cup &amp; McLaughlin Trophy</i>
October 5 Tuesday	<b>Wampanoug Country Club</b> Host: John Ruzsbatzky <i>CAGCS MEMBER/GUEST</i>
October	TBA Host: <i>CAGCS Class C Tournament</i>
November 3 Wednesday	<b>Old Lyme Country Club</b> Host: Marc Muhlack 9-Hole Scramble ABCD <i>CAGCS Annual Meeting</i>
December 2 Thursday	<b>J. TIMOTHY'S TAVERNE</b> <i>CAGCS Christmas Party</i>

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## Chilling Injury Affects Turf Across Region

November 9, 2020

John Inguagiatto, Ph.D. and Vickie Wallace, UConn  
Michelle DaCosta, Ph.D. UMass

Turf managers and homeowners have been puzzled by the sudden appearance of unusual tan, blighted patches that showed up last week between Tuesday and Friday (Nov. 3 - 6). Reports have been widespread throughout Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.

The symptoms appear as round to irregular-shaped patches of light-tan blighted turf (Figure 1 & 5). Patches are often uniformly distributed across affected turf areas. Density of patches may vary from one every 2 feet to as little as a few inches, with some patches coalescing into larger, irregular shapes (Figure 5). Early onset of symptoms appeared silver-gray to dark purple before turning tan (Figure 2). Symptoms appear to be limited to the upper portion of the turf canopy (Figure 3). Foliage lower in the canopy, stems and crowns do not appear to be injured in most cases.

All cool-season turfgrasses have been reported to be affected. Injury seems to be most severe on exposed, well-fertilized, irrigated lawns and fields. Symptoms on turf maintained at lower mowing heights (e.g., putting greens, fairways, some athletic fields), and newly established areas appears to be less severe.

Chilling injury is rare in New England on cool-season turfgrasses. Many experienced New England turf managers have commented in the past few days that they have never seen anything like this. Symptoms similar to these are more common in the south, on warm-season bermudagrass when exposed to sudden cold weather. However, chilling injury has also been reported in the desert southwest on overseeded perennial ryegrass (Moon et al, 1990).

The recent injury to turfgrasses throughout the region is likely due to a unique combination of environmental conditions impacting the physiological activity of turfgrasses. Cold tolerance of cool-season turfgrasses generally develops during November and December over an acclimation period of slowly decreasing temperatures. This acclimation period prepares turf to tolerate cold winter temperatures. However, turf has been actively growing, green, and photosynthesizing in many areas throughout the region this fall, indicating it has not yet acclimated to cold temperatures.



Figure 1. Chilling injury appears as tan patches of blighted turf uniformly distributed across athletic field.

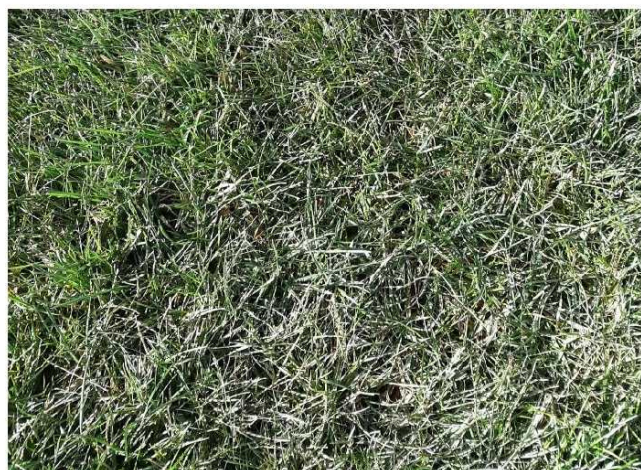


Figure 2. Silver-gray to purple foliage are initial symptoms of chilling injury (photo D. Wallace).



Figure 3. Injury only affected upper turf canopy (photo S. Bousquet)



## A Perfect Storm

Throughout much of October daily low temperatures were rarely below 40°F. However, a sustained period of cold to freezing daily low temperatures occurred from Oct. 30 to Nov. 3. (Figure 4). These cold temperatures also coincided with a very dry air mass (dew points approximately 15 to 20°F), and moderate sustained winds with gusts over 30 mph on Monday and Tuesday (Nov. 2 & 3). Moreover, Nov. 2 & 3 were particularly sunny days with high light intensity (solar radiation ~675 to 750 W/m<sup>2</sup>).

- Sudden onset of cold temperatures
- Dry air and wind (excessive transpiration)
- High light intensity

Similar chilling conditions have been demonstrated to impair the photosynthetic machinery of perennial ryegrass (Moon et al, 1990). When normal photosynthetic processes are interrupted under high light, damaging free radicals can be produced that can destroy important membranes within cells. Ultimately, the integrity of the cells is affected, foliage becomes desiccated, and blight symptoms occur.

### Unique Patterns

The unique patterns associated with the chilling injury are more difficult to explain. It is not entirely clear why areas of the same turf are differentially affected. It is likely due in part, to how turbulent air moves across the surface, affecting where cold pockets of air settle to injure turf.

### Recovery Outlook

Fortunately, in most cases the symptoms associated with this chilling injury appear to be superficial. Only the upper canopy has generally been affected. Crowns remain healthy, and therefore blighted foliage will grow out. It is possible that with continued warm weather, actively growing turf may fully recover this fall. However, in many cases it is more likely that symptoms will persist through the winter until spring when growth resumes, and blighted tissue is mowed off.

Fertilizing to encourage growth and recovery of the symptoms this fall is not recommended. Since a late fall fertilization can promote succulent turf growth, delaying acclimation and increasing potential for snow mold and other forms of winter injury.

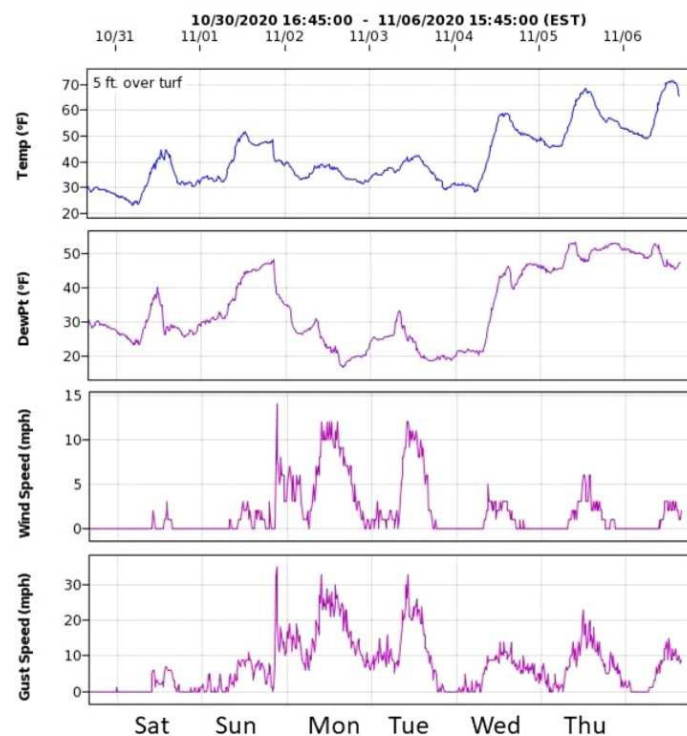


Figure 4. Weather observations prior to and following the development of chilling injury symptoms. Data collected from Storrs, CT.

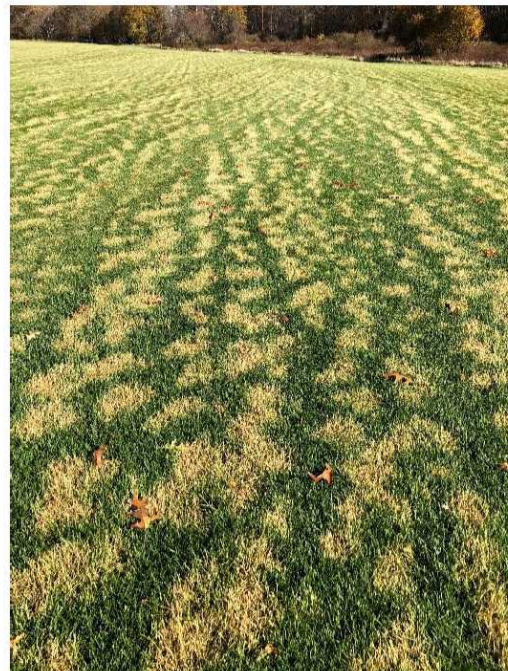


Figure 5. Patches of blighted turf coalescing into larger irregular shapes on a sod farm in RI.

### References:

Moon, J.W., Jr. et al, 1990. Limitations of photosynthesis in *Lolium perenne* after chilling. J. Amer. Soc. Hort. Sci. 115:478-481.



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