



Photos by W. Uddin

Vertical Mowing and Mowing Height Affect Anthracnose Basal Rot

*Wakar Uddin, Ph.D.,
The Pennsylvania State University.
(wxu2@psu.edu)*

Objective

Determine the effect of vertical mowing and mowing height on the severity of anthracnose basal rot on a putting green comprised of annual bluegrass and creeping bentgrass.

Summary

Basal rot anthracnose is a destructive disease of annual bluegrass and creeping bentgrass and the incidence and severity has increased in recent years. The reasons for the increased problem on greens are not clear.

All combinations of verticutting (three depths, once a week for four weeks) and mowing (three heights) were imposed on an annual bluegrass/creeping bentgrass putting green. The green was inoculated with anthracnose prior to imposition of verticutting and mowing treatments.

Results

- Low mowing heights and increased depth of vertical mowing increased basal rot anthracnose development in annual bluegrass in a mixed annual bluegrass and creeping bentgrass green.
- Mowing and verticutting caused significant mechanical injury and thus increased disease severity.
- Increasing turfgrass mowing height and reducing vertical mowing depths may reduce severity of basal rot anthracnose.



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