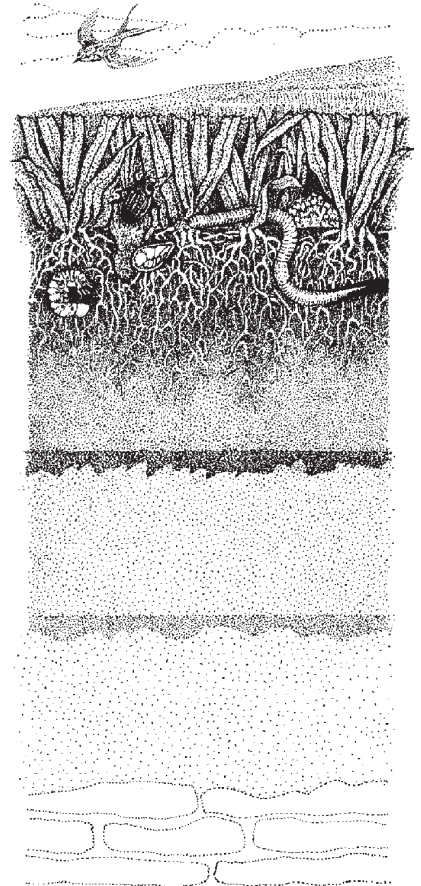


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Pest Monitoring: A Key to Integrated Pest Management for Golf Course Turfgrass

This is the fourth article published in CUTT focusing on Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Prior articles discussed the fundamental principles of IPM (Vol. 1, #3) and the steps required to start an IPM program (Vol. 2, #2). This article will explore pest monitoring by discussing scouting techniques specific to insects, diseases and weeds.

Monitoring is the foundation of an authentic IPM approach. The primary goal of monitoring (or scouting) is to identify, locate and rank pest infestations and turfgrass abnormalities. Scouting on a regular basis provides you with information on changes in pest populations and turfgrass health. Pest management decisions, timing and control actions are based on data collected. Regular monitoring is the best method to check the success or failure of a control strategy. ■

In order to effectively implement pest monitoring, a person(s) must be assigned and trained to scout the golf course. Monitoring should be the preeminent job responsibility of the scout. Their responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1) Monitoring the turfgrass or other landscape plants for insects, plant diseases, and weed infestations on a regular basis;
- 2) Recording the findings on field data sheets;
- 3) Diagnosing problems and rating the severity based on diagnosis, priority of the site, and turf value;
- 4) Assessing the efficacy of pest management actions that have been taken; and
- 5) Communicating the findings to decision makers.

Scouting

After identifying the person who will be responsible for scouting, but prior to scouting, a few other decisions need to be made. First, divide the turfgrass site into pest management units (PMU). The simplest method of dividing a golf course into PMU's is by holes. Pest data is then collected for each hole. Subdividing each hole by tee, fairway, rough, approach, and green enables you to follow pest infestations in specific areas.

Second, decide on the approach to scouting each PMU. The common turfgrass pests do not distribute themselves evenly throughout the turf, therefore, it is imperative that the entire turfgrass area is scouted in a consistent, uniform pattern. Follow a serpentine pattern covering the PMU.

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Gerard W. Ferrentino and Jennifer Grant, IPM Program, and Joseph C. Neal, Dept. of Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture

2. Short Cutts

3. Scanning the Journals

6. Field Evaluation of Entomogenous Nematodes for Grub Control

Michael G. Villani, Dept. of Entomology, Geneva

7. Annual Field Diagnostic Course

8. Pest Watch