

The Lawn Reader

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New Resource for Turfgrass Sleuths!

Turfgrass Problems: Picture Clues and Management Options

Eva Gussack and Frank S. Rossi, Ph.D.
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 ISBN: 0-935817-62-X

In 1970, Norman J. Smith and John Cornman published "Picture Clues to Lawn Troubles" (see Figure 1). It was designed as a pocket guide to assist homeowners and commercial lawn care providers with photographs and description of common "lawn troubles" in an effort to improve diagnosis and problem solving.

Twelve years later, Marty Petrovic led the effort to revise the publication, doubling the number of problems addressed in "Picture Clues to Turfgrass Problems" (see Figure 2). The 1982 revision included many updated photographs and became an industry standard, selling over 12,000 copies over 17 years.

In 1999, Picture Clues supplies were low and the decision was made to revise the publication a third time. Eva Gussack, Extension Associate working in the Turfgrass Science Program at Cornell University with Dr. Frank Rossi began collecting new photographs and writing new text. The result is "Turfgrass Problems: Picture Clues and Management Options".

The new Turfgrass Problems is still a pocket guide, however, the authors tripled the number of problems that were addressed in the 1982 edition. The most significant improvement is the addition of several photographs for each problem from a distance and then close-up (see Figure 3). Also, each problem now has detailed written descriptions and cultural management options.

Entirely new sections have been added that address general problem solving skills such as scouting and monitoring for diseases and insects (see Figure 4). In fact, a unique approach that utilizes pest timelines has been developed as the gateway to problem solving (see Figure 5). For example, when a problem is observed, the first step is to review abiotic (nonliving) problems such as winterkill, thatch, shade, etc. (see Figure 6). Next, review the timelines for when certain problems are observed based on seasonal temperature patterns. The timelines then direct the reader to specific pages that contain "picture clues" and then descriptions of each problem. Once a proper diagnosis is made, then management options are available for solving the problem.

continued on page 10

Figure 1



Figure 2

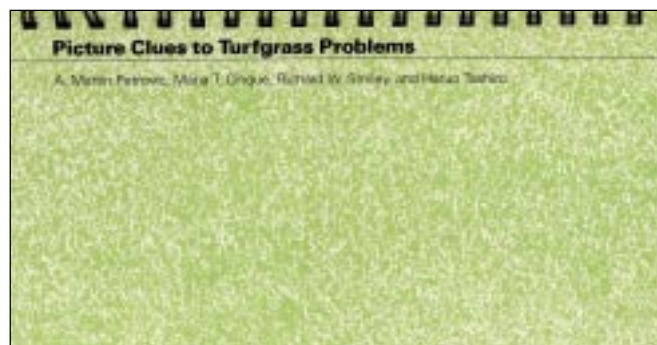


Figure 3

Summer

▼ Brown Patch




Photo 4.25 Brown patch (from a distance).




Photo 4.26 Smoke ring associated with brown patch.

Brown Patch continued on page 80 ►

"Diseases," Chapter 4 — Excerpt 79

▼ Brown Patch (continued)

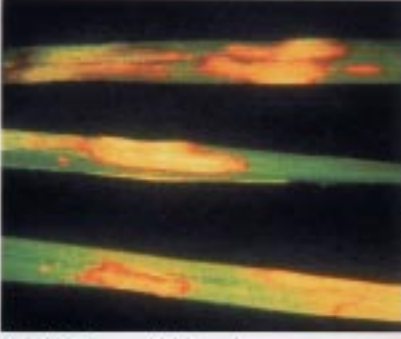


Photo 4.27 Brown patch (close-up).

Causal Agent

- *Rhizoctonia solani*

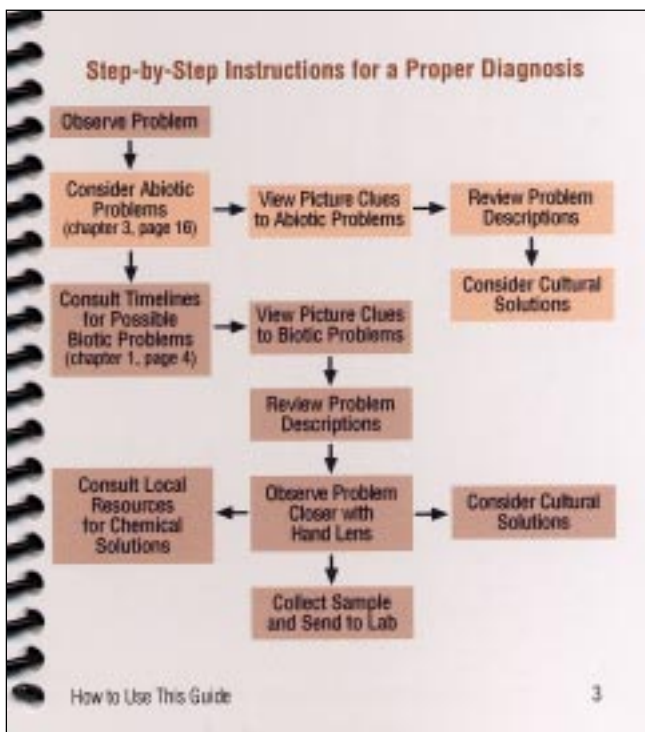
Appearance from a Distance

- On closely mown turf: Circular or irregular patches a few inches to several feet across that fade to light brown (photo 4.25, page 79)
- On closely mown turf: Smoke rings may be visible in early morning hours during hot, humid weather (photo 4.26, page 79)
- On higher cut turf: Large, diffuse areas of blighted turf; no distinct patch margins

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Figure 4



Key words and concepts are highlighted throughout the text and then explained in the extensive glossary at the end of the book. Finally, there is a list of additional resources that problem solvers could find more solutions not adequately addressed in the book, notably chemical controls.

Remember the key to an effective IPM program is a timely and an accurate diagnosis. It can all begin with this book!

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Turfgrass Problems: Picture Clues and Management Options will be an important addition to any turf manager's library. But more importantly it should be in every managers pocket for those times when a good sleuth is needed. Remember the key to an effective IPM program is a timely and an accurate diagnosis. It can all begin with this book!

Frank S. Rossi

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Figure 6



Figure 5

