Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association: The Chapter will participate in the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Summer Field Day that will be held from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM July 27 at the O. J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility in Verona. Turfgrass research is showcased during the morning research tours followed by an extensive trade show in the afternoon. For more info on the Chapter, or other pending events, contact Chris Brindle at 715-346-3622 or cbrindle@uwsp.edu.

Northern California Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: For info on the Chapter, or pending events, call Janet Gift at 530-758-4200.

Southern California Chapter: For info on the Chapter, or pending activities, call Michael Tarantino at 858-679-2526 or MTarantino@powaysdusd.com.

Chesapeake Chapter STMA (formerly called Mid-Atlantic Athletic Field Managers Organization - MAFMO Chapter STMA): For info on the Chapter, or other pending activities, call the Hotline at 866-818-8873 or email Nick Gammill, CSFM, at ngammill@american.edu.

Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association: For info on the Chapter or upcoming events, call Mike Krone, Missouri Baptist College, 314-392-2326 or email krone@mcbap.edu.

Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association: For info on the chapter or upcoming events, contact Skip Kirby at 770-928-1580 or email skip@sportsturfmangement.com.

Indiana Chapter: For info on the Chapter, or pending activities, contact Stan Moscrip, Indiana University, at 812-856-2256 or smoscrip@indiana.edu.

Kentucky Sports Turf Managers Association: For info on the chapter or upcoming events, contact Tom Nielsen at Tnielsen@batsbaseball.com or Aaron Boggs at AVBoggs@netscape.net.

Midwest Chapter STMA: For info on the Chapter, or pending activities, visit the Chapter’s website, http://www.scstrna.org, or call Libby Baker at 847-263-7603 or email Bake60th56@aol.com.

MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association: For info on the Chapter, or upcoming events, call Mike Green at 913-888-8066 or mikegreen@3and2baseball.com.

Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Association: For info on the chapter or upcoming events, contact Bob Christofferson at bchristo@mariners.org.

Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA): For info on the Chapter, or upcoming events, call Chapter President, Bob Elliott, at 800-239-9547 or Glenn Lucas at 800-837-8062; email to Glenn@tvstma.org, or visit the chapter’s website: www.tvstma.org.

Texas Sports Turf Managers Association: The former North Texas Chapter and the former South Texas Chapter have merged to become the Texas Sports Turf Managers Association. The mailing address for the Texas Chapter is: PO Box 1078; Keller, TX 76244. The Phone/Fax number is: 866-TXSTMA1 (866-897-8621). The Chapter Website: www.nststma.org.
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Changing your spots

I maintain a couple of school athletic fields with sandy soils in North Florida. This spring I noticed the Bermudagrass on one is not greening up very uniformly. We still have some pretty big brown spots on the field. I fertilized it and think I did a good job of distributing the nutrients. It seems to be doing better now that the nighttime temperatures have warmed up a bit. My extension agent told me it looks like either nematodes or perhaps an irrigation issue. The agent took some soil samples to test for nutrient deficiencies and nematodes. What should I do to rule out irrigation?

This is an interesting question since so many different things can cause “spots.” After visiting with you I would tend to agree with the assessment from the extension agent. Your area has had a very dry spring, you have sandy soils, and the spots are very large. It was a good idea to go ahead and rule out nutrition and nematodes. If the problem were nutritional, it would be easy and cheap to correct. If the problem turned out to be nematodes, then the primary approach on athletic fields is to try to promote healthy roots with cultural practices since we don’t have much in the way of nematocides labeled for athletic fields. [Curfew does have a Florida label for sports turf, but must be applied by an authorized custom applicator, requires a 100-foot barrier to buildings, and has a 24-hour reentry restriction.]

During spring green-up of warm-season turfgrass such as Bermudagrass it is important to have uniform temperature and wetting of the soil. The grass comes out of dormancy due to a response in temperature and day length in the presence of moisture. Any time that irrigation is the sole source of moisture, there is potential for influence in turf growth if it is not distributed uniformly. We still have some pretty big brown spots on the field I fertilized it this spring, you have sandy soils, and the spots are very large. It was a good idea to go ahead and rule out irrigation.

Irrigation is the cause of your brown spots. The first step is to run the system and check for any heads that do not turn or that are not level. These should be fixed or replaced before proceeding with distribution tests. Catch-container tests are most often used to determine delivery uniformity. This test compares the average volume of lower 25 percent of samples by the average volume of all samples, as follows:

\[
DU = \frac{Avg \, LQ}{V_{avg}} \times 100
\]

Where: DU = Lower Quarter Distribution
Avg. LQ = Average volume of lower 25% of sample
V_{avg} = Average catch can volume

To eliminate your irrigation system as the culprit of your spots, you should conduct an irrigation audit. You could hire an auditor certified by the Irrigation Association (IA) or you can do a basic audit yourself. A comprehensive irrigation audit can reveal inefficiencies such as 1) quantity of water exceeding the plant needs, 2) non-uniformity of water application, 3) precipitation rate exceeding soil infiltration rate, 4) incorrect heads/nozzles, 5) improper application pressure, and 6) malfunctioning and/or misdirected sprinklers.

It should not take a very extensive audit to determine if the irrigation system is the cause of your brown spots. The first step is to run the system and check for any heads that do not turn or that are not level. These should be fixed or replaced before proceeding with distribution tests. Catch-container tests are most often used to determine delivery uniformity. This test compares the average volume of the lower 25 percent of samples by the average volume of all the containers, and then multiply by 100 to get a percentage. The IA suggests that a “very good” system should have a value of 70 percent or above, whereas a value of 50 or below is considered “poor.” If the audit indicates poor distribution, with a little work, you can change those brown spots to green. ST

Questions? Send them to Grady Miller at the University of Florida, PO Box 110670, Gainesville, FL 32611, or email gmiller@mail.ifas.ufl.edu. Or, send them to Dave Minner at Iowa State University, 106 Horticulture Hall, Ames, IA 50011, or email dminer@iastate.edu.
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