



## Help cool-season turf stand up to summer stress

### *Tips to control disease, improve playability*



It's summer, and two of the biggest cool-season turf stressors are peaking: higher heat and humidity, and a lot more golfers on the course. Heat and humidity encourages disease pressure, especially diseases that are harder to control, such as *Pythium* spp.

"*Pythium* can decimate turf in days, or even hours," says Kyle Miller, BASF Market Development Specialist.

Take-all patch, summer patch, dollar spot and

brown patch can all make unwanted summer appearances as well, damaging and weakening turf during a critical time of the year.

**Lexicon® Intrinsic®** brand fungicide is an excellent, broad-spectrum product to prevent – and treat – these common turfgrass diseases. It also increases photosynthetic efficiency, slows down respiration and strengthens roots, ultimately improving turf resilience to stress and making it a cornerstone product in a growing number of fungicide programs.

Miller offers a few other tips to help superintendents maximize both plant health and course playability during the summer months.

- **Raise mower heights.** Even though superintendents want a playable, firm, fast course during high use, raising your mower height slightly increases the amount of turf canopy, resulting in a turf plant with a larger and healthier root system. More tops = more roots. More roots = healthier plants that can tolerate stress better.
- **Don't overwater.** To have more control of moisture in the root zone, keep your turf a little bit dry and do more hand watering. "Many superintendents prefer to let the turf dry out and then irrigate as they see fit," Miller says. This minimizes disease-causing high humidity in the turf canopy that can lead to disease pressure.

- **Lay off the fertilizer.** In the summer months, allow the turfgrass growth to slow down a bit to conserve energy. Overstimulating growth can come at the expense of the root system. Focus on spoon-feeding and use of essential micro-nutrients to keep roots strong.

BASF recently developed 30 unique spray programs, each specific to a region's geography and tees, fairways or greens. We invite you to learn more by visiting [betterturf.basf.us](http://betterturf.basf.us) or contacting your BASF representative.

Always read and follow label directions.

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