

Problem: Zoysiagrass and Bermudagrass Mites



Hosts: Zoysiagrass and Bermudagrass

Description: Bermudagrass and zoysiagrass mites are Eriophyid mites. The bodies of eriophyid mites are elongated (often described as being "wormlike", but in no sense are they "wormlike") which is in stark contrast to the more rounded shape familiarly attributed to mites-in-general. Also, eriophyid mites only have 4 legs as compared to 8 found on noneriophyid mites. A microscope or hand lens is necessary to see details used to separate eriophyid mites from noneriophyid mites.

Damage tends to be concentrated in shady areas. The feeding of the mites causes one edge of the leaf to roll over (the mites are then concealed under this rolled edge). This appears as a very thin yellowish edge to the leaf. Also, new leaf tips may be caught in partially unrolled leaves --- thus the grass may have an arched, "buggy whipped" appearance. Beyond the unnatural look, serious damage to zoysiagrass turf is considered rare.

Recommendations: Chemical control of eriophyid mites is possible, but difficult. Miticides would have to be repeatedly applied throughout the season. Also, given their concealment habits, suppression is probably the best that can be achieved. Products containing cyhalothrin (Scimitar, Battle, Spectracide Triazicide) are registered on mites in turfgrass.

References:

1. [Bermudagrass and Zoysiagrass Mites](#), Oklahoma State University, Turfgrass Science

Last Update: 1/19/2018

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