



Bayer

Cutting turf stress

The day to day management practices on a golf course can subject turfgrass, particularly on putting greens, to year round stress. Stress, whether it is environmental or physical, increases the potential for the grass plant to be susceptible to disease. Reducing plant stress, especially when approaching a period of dormancy or minimal growth in the late autumn and winter, will help improve the grass plant's ability to withstand disease.

Cultural practices such as low heights of cut (≤ 3.5 mm) to maintain good green speed, at this time of year, can increase the stress placed upon the turfgrass. Good, consistent green speed can be achieved in other ways without being reliant on low heights of cut. Therefore, maintaining a higher height of cut (≥ 4.5 mm) in the late autumn and winter months will help reduce plant stress.

Plant growth regulators and their associated foliar feeds have a role to play in the management of sports turf. However, the timing of their use should be considered when approaching a period of the year when disease pressure is historically high. It may be prudent to stop using the combined plant growth regulator and foliar feed in late summer, as this will prevent any soft or lush growth that the foliar feed might encourage if used later in the year.

If a fungicide is required, ideally do not mow for at least 24 hours prior to applying the fungicide so that you have the maximum leaf area possible to apply to. If possible, do not mow again for at least 24 - 48 hours after the application, and always read the label to make sure the product can be used at that time of year.

