



Nematode Parasites of Turf Grass

www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/uyrnem.htm

Laboratory analysis of this particular soil sample indicates the presence of a potential nematode hazard to turf grass. A wide range of parasitic nematodes can thrive on turf grasses. These include sting, ring, lance, root-knot, dagger, spiral, stunt, stubby-root and others. Sting nematodes, in particular, can seriously damage turf grasses growing on sandy soils. Nematicides that manage sting infestations and improve plant growth are available for commercial use. However, there are no nematicides registered for residential use.

In contrast to sting nematodes, the circumstances that favor damage by stubby-root, ring and lance nematodes are less clear. There does not appear to be a consistent relationship between nematode numbers and damage, and response to nematicide treatment is variable. The extent to which turf is damaged by these nematodes appears to be related to nutrition and other soil factors.

Nematode damage is more severe when the grass is stressed. Since cutting grass too short can cause stress, it is important to keep it cut at the correct height. Generally, nematode damage can be reduced by providing optimum growing conditions, such as adequate moisture, proper soil pH and fertility. populations.

For Additional Assistance

- Call your NCDA&CS regional agronomist or the Agronomic Division office in Raleigh (919-733-2655).
- Visit the NCDA&CS Agronomic Division Web site at www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/.
- Visit your county Cooperative Extension office.
- Refer to one or more of the following online publications:
 - *Plant-parasitic nematodes* (University of California Cooperative Extension, 2005)
— www.mastergardeners.org/publications/nematodes/parasitic_nematodes.html
 - *Urban integrated pest management: problems associated with warm season grasses* (North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service and N.C. State University, 1996)
— ipm.ncsu.edu/urban/cropsci/c10turf/warmpest.html

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