

THE GRASS AT TIDEWATER FARM 7/14/2016

Many homeowners have noted that we have brown spots and bare spots in our grass this year. They have also complained that the grass has become “less lush” over the past few years.

The Grounds Committee has researched this problem. Here is what we found out and what we will do to rectify this problem.

RESEARCH

- We asked our turf people and landscape people for their opinion of the problem. They said we had a fungus growing in some places. Also we had a very dry spring and our grass needed more water.
- We also sent grass samples to the university of Maine at Orono to have the grass analyzed.

Here is their report:

“The primary pathogen on the sample you sent is the anthracnose fungus. This causes a disease associated with stress on the grass. Attached is a fact sheet, the address for which is below.

<http://www.apsnet.org/edcenter/intropp/lessons/fungi/ascomycetes/Pages/Anthracnoseofturfgrass.aspx>

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Both actions point to basically the same thing. Our grass is stressed. It needs water, fertilizer and a chance to grow

happily. The fungus will probably take care of itself once the grass has optimal growing conditions.

WHAT WE ARE DOING

1. Two weeks before we sent out the grass samples, LST changed the settings on their lawn mowers so the grass would be cut higher, helping the roots from being burned from the bright sun and heat.
2. After a great deal of tweaking, Thirsty Turf was able to get our irrigation system up and working properly. They set all irrigations to go for 30 minutes, instead of twenty, and set the clocks so every property is watered every other day. The schedule has been sent out to all homeowners and also posted on the web site. The schedule is user friendly so everyone should be able to determine when they are to be irrigated.
3. The irrigation system is now scheduled to come on early May in 2017. That timing will ensure that even if there are problems starting it up, we will have water by mid May.
4. Atlantic turf will continue an aggressive fertilization and herbicide treatment so the grass will have appropriate nutrients to grow and to fend off the fungi that form in certain weather conditions that we cannot control.
5. We will be upping our dethatching program as well as the overseeding program to annually or semi-annually with the new contract negotiations for the 2017/2018 season and beyond. Currently this is done in four parts, one part being done each year. We will also see if we can add more of this activity this fall, depending on cost.

6. Lastly, we will continue discussions concerning “mulching “ mowers, as this would add natural fertilizer to our lawns.

We hope you find this information useful. Please contact your Grounds Committee if you need further clarification.

Betty Andrews, Chairman
TFHOA Grounds Committee
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