



Overview

Bermudagrass mites (*Eriophyes cynodontiensis*) can be a serious pest of Bermudagrass grown from Hawaii to Florida and up through the Carolinas. Bermudagrass mites have been a pest of turf for many decades but have seen somewhat of a resurgence over the past few years with more Bermudagrass varieties showing susceptibility to attack.

Susceptible Turf Varieties to Bermudagrass Mite Attack

Common, Tifway, Tifdwarf, Celebration, etc. There are no known 100% resistant varieties.

Identification and Biology

Bermudagrass mites are very small and require a good, 10-20X hand lens to spot them. Even with a 10-20X lens they will be difficult to see so a better option is using a microscope with up to 100X magnification to ensure mites are not missed. The mites are a whitish-cream color and elongated while the eggs are round and appear like tiny pearls.



Bermudagrass mites can complete the egg to adult life cycle (one generation) in 7-10 days. There can be all life stages on a single plant making control difficult. The fact that these mites feed in the leaf sheath where they are somewhat protected also makes control difficult.

Signs and Symptoms

Turf generally looks unhealthy, and a tell-tale sign of infestation is stunted growth where the internodes swell and shorten producing a “witches’ broom” look.



Symptoms tend to progress over time beginning with turf that appears weak and yellowed followed by generally thin turf areas that resemble other pest damage such as grubs or disease.



Yellowing turf



Tuft of turf standing up



Turf resembling growth regulated turf



Severely thinning turf

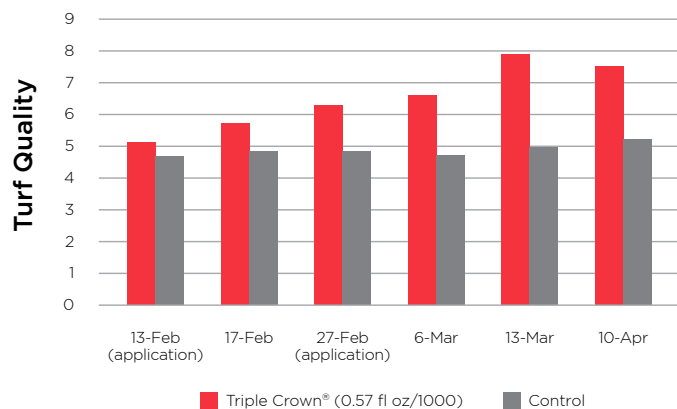
Treatment and Control

Two applications of Triple Crown® Golf insecticide at 25 fl. oz./acre 7-14 days apart with the addition of a surfactant to allow for better penetration into the leaf sheath. Consideration of a fertilizer and possibly a fungicide application may be beneficial in the recovery from injury.

Triple Crown® Golf insecticide works through contact, translaminar and systemic activity - making it a valuable tool against sucking pests that feed on a plant's vascular system, as well as foliar-feeding insects. Triple Crown® Golf insecticide is a broad spectrum insect control product with multiple modes of action, affording you flexibility in your turf maintenance program.

Turfgrass Quality (TQ) Ratings for Bermudagrass Mite Trial

TQ ratings based on a scale of 1-9, with 9=dark green dense and vigorous turf, 1=dead or brown turf, and 6=minimally-acceptable turf.



John Cisar, Ph.D. - Cisar Turfgrass Services
Naples, FL - 2023



About Triple Crown® Golf Insecticide

- Contains Zeta-cypermethrin, a fourth-generation pyrethroid that is four times more potent than cypermethrin.
- Eliminates the need to tank mix multiple insecticides - saving time, money and storage space.
- Long-lasting residual and broad spectrum control with over 30 pests, including mole crickets, mites, armyworms and more.

TRIPLE CROWN® GOLF
INSECTICIDE

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