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## **FACT SHEET ON LAWN DISEASE**

The following tips on an integrated approach to turf grass disease management were presented at the 1992 Turf grass Conference by Dr. Gail Schumann from the University of Massachusetts. Understanding the factors that contribute to turf grass disease can improve the success of turf grass management programs.

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### **Factors that give diseases an Advantage**

- Water on grass blades
- Excess nitrogen fertilization
- Periods of uniform temperature
- Genetically uniform turf

### **Stress Factors that Increases Disease Susceptibility:**

- Compaction
- Low fertility or unbalanced fertility
- “Scalping” dull mower blades
- Poor drainage
- Incorrect soil PH

### **Cultural Practices that Reduce Disease:**

- Don't water within 1 hour of sunset so grass can dry before dark
- Aeration
- Keep mower blades sharp: mow frequently
- Use soil test to learn soil's PH and nutrient conditions
- Consider soil preparation and drainage
- Use disease free seed and sod
- Use seed blends and seed mixtures
- Use disease resistant grass varieties adapted to our areas
- Mow until growth stops in late autumn
- When watering consider the timing amount frequency and site conditions make sure each is appropriate.