

Silvery thread moss

Bryum argenteum

DAMAGE CAUSED

Symptoms of invasion:

Small dollar-sized velvety green patches that can coalesce if not managed.

Plants attacked:

Low mown bentgrass and poa.

Pests/conditions that cause similar damage

None

Geographic distribution:

Worldwide

PREDICTING INFESTATION

Threat temperature:

50 F (10C)

Conducive environmental conditions:

Wide range of conditions are suitable for invasion

MONITORING TECHNIQUES:

Monitor for very small patches of moss invasion (top photo above)

Start looking on slopes and contours that might be mowed slightly lower than desired.

THRESHOLDS:

Depending upon the desired quality of the green, up to several percent infestation can be tolerable. For high quality greens performance there is no tolerance for moss.



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MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES:

Always check labels to determine turfgrass sensitivity to herbicides.

For updated management information, see [North Carolina State's "Pest control for Professional Turfgrass Managers"](#)

Follow resistance management guidelines by rotating products as outlined in [Weed Science Society of America's Herbicide Site of Action Classification List](#) Always consult the most recent version of all product labels before use.

TYPE OF CONTROL	PRACTICE	
Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase mowing height • Adequate nitrogen (0.1 – 0.2 lb nitrogen / 1000 ft² / wk [0.5 – 1.0 g nitrogen/ m² / wk] during season), but do not exceed 20 ppm total nitrogen in soil • Aerify and regularly topdress to encourage robust turfgrass growth • Brush and groom regularly • Physically remove small patches of moss • Avoid wetting agents that hold water near the surface of the thatch • Manage irrigation wet spots – hand water as needed 	
Biological	No effective products currently available	
Chemical Curative: Apply when moss infestation reaches the tolerance level for the facility.	Active Ingredient (Product)	Signal word
	carfentrazone (Quicksilver) *	Caution
	chlorothalonil (Daconil Weather Stik) use when average air temperature > 65	Caution

* Designated “reduced risk” by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency