

SUBJECT: Disease identification

FROM: Kevin N. Morris

TO: NTEP evaluators

DATE: February 23, 2000

Disease injury ratings are among the most important data collected by NTEP evaluators. When done correctly and over several locations, these data provide breeders and practitioners with information that can be used regarding germplasm selection. Therefore, it is important that the disease(s) and pathogen(s) be identified by a qualified individual. Diseases that are identified only by the common disease name, but not the pathogen, are often little use since there are several different pathogens responsible for a disease. For example, NTEP reports “leaf spot” disease data for various turfgrass species, however, there are perhaps a dozen or more pathogenic fungi which cause leaf spot diseases. In these cases, the data may be misapplied to a different leaf spot disease, resulting in misguided cultivar selection.

Therefore, the NTEP Policy Committee requests that evaluators submitting disease data make every reasonable attempt to identify disease *genus* and *species*. This information should then be reported to NTEP when data is submitted at the end of the year.

We appreciate all your efforts in collecting and reporting the most accurate information possible. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 301-504-5125 (voice), 301-504-5167 (fax) or via email ([kmorris@ntep.org](mailto:kmorris@ntep.org)).