Oklahoma Turf & Ornamental Pest Control (Cat 3A)Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide

BY EXAMZIFY

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Questions

1. Which control method does NOT help with Pythium blight?

- **A. Providing good drainage**
- **B. Regularly removing obstructions like shrubs**
- **C. Applying large amounts of nitrogen during damp weather**
- **D. Using fans to improve air circulation**

2. Which of the following describes the plant symptoms of gray leaf spot?

- **A. Irregular green spots without borders**
- **B. Small brown-to-tan spots with distinct brown-to-purple borders**
- **C. Thick, healthy roots and stems**
- **D. Bright yellow stripes on leaves**

3. What is one of the recommended actions to control Large patch in warm-season grasses?

- **A. Fertilize with nitrogen as soon as dormancy begins**
- **B. Water heavily during the summer months**
- **C. Aerify and dethatch regularly**
- **D. Mow at the lowest cutting height possible**

4. What type of weeds have a sturdy taproot and can be hard to control?

- **A. Biennial weeds**
- **B. Annual weeds**
- **C. Perennial weeds**
- **D. Invasive weeds**

5. Which of the following best describes grubs and caterpillars?

- **A. They are both flying adults of different insect species**
- **B. They are two different types of turf-damaging larvae**
- **C. They are stages of insects that do not damage turf**
- **D. They are beneficial insects that support plant growth**

6. Which method is least effective for monitoring cutworm populations?

- **A. Using pheromone traps**
- **B. Checking for damage during blooming season**
- **C. Conducting visual inspections**
- **D. Using pitfall traps**

7. What function does a stolon serve in plant growth?

- **A. It is an underground storage organ**
- **B. It is a creeping, above-ground stem that roots at nodes**
- **C. It is primarily for nutrient uptake**
- **D. It prevents weed competition**

8. What is meant by proper mowing?

- **A. Using dull blades to reduce stress**
- **B. Mowing at irregular intervals**
- **C. Using sharp blades for a clean cut**
- **D. Mowing without considering grass height**

9. Which of the following is NOT a technique to study a plant problem for pests?

- **A. Using a hand lens**
- **B. Carrying an index card**
- **C. Relying on word of mouth**
- **D. Keeping records**

10. What does phytotoxicity refer to?

- **A. A beneficial effect of nutrients on plant growth**
- **B. A toxic effect from compounds on plant growth**
- **C. A natural resistance of plants to pests**
- **D. A common occurrence in healthy plants**

Answers

1. C
2. B
3. C
4. C
5. B
6. D
7. B
8. C
9. C
10. B

Explanations

1. Which control method does NOT help with Pythium blight?

A. Providing good drainage

B. Regularly removing obstructions like shrubs

C. Applying large amounts of nitrogen during damp weather

D. Using fans to improve air circulation

The control method that does not help with Pythium blight is applying large amounts of nitrogen during damp weather. Pythium blight is a water mold disease that thrives in warm, wet conditions. High nitrogen levels can stimulate excessive leaf and shoot growth, creating a lush environment that is particularly favorable for the development of Pythium blight. When nitrogen is applied in damp conditions, it exacerbates moisture retention in the turf, promoting conditions conducive to the growth of the fungus. On the other hand, providing good drainage is essential for reducing water accumulation and preventing favorable conditions for Pythium. Regularly removing obstructions like shrubs helps improve airflow and reduces humidity, which also minimizes the risk of disease. Finally, using fans to enhance air circulation helps to dry out the turf and lower humidity levels, further making it less hospitable for Pythium blight. These methods contribute positively to managing the disease, whereas high nitrogen application during damp periods can lead to increased vulnerability in the turf.

2. Which of the following describes the plant symptoms of gray leaf spot?

A. Irregular green spots without borders

B. Small brown-to-tan spots with distinct brown-to-purple borders

C. Thick, healthy roots and stems

D. Bright yellow stripes on leaves

The characteristics of gray leaf spot are accurately described by small brown-to-tan spots with distinct brown-to-purple borders. This fungal disease is caused by the pathogen *Pyricularia grisea* and typically appears on leaf blades, leading to the formation of these distinctive lesions. The borders of the spots often exhibit a darker color, which can create a noticeable contrast against the lighter centers of the spots. These symptoms help in identifying the disease in the field, as they are distinct from other diseases that might affect turfgrass. Identifying these specific foliar symptoms is crucial for effective management and treatment options for gray leaf spot, which can significantly impact turf quality if left unchecked.

3. What is one of the recommended actions to control Large patch in warm-season grasses?

A. Fertilize with nitrogen as soon as dormancy begins

B. Water heavily during the summer months

C. Aerify and dethatch regularly

D. Mow at the lowest cutting height possible

Aerification and dethatching are recommended practices for controlling Large patch in warm-season grasses because they improve soil aeration, water infiltration, and overall turf health. Large patch, caused by a fungal pathogen, thrives in compacted soils and areas with excessive thatch. By aerifying, you reduce soil compaction and create space for air and water to penetrate the root zone, which can help suppress the development of the fungus. Dethatching removes excess thatch, allowing for better air circulation and moisture management, both of which are critical in preventing the conditions that favor the growth of the disease. Implementing these practices helps maintain a healthier lawn environment and reduces the likelihood of Large patch taking hold. Regular aerification and dethatching are part of an integrated pest management strategy that supports the overall resiliency of warm-season grasses against diseases.

4. What type of weeds have a sturdy taproot and can be hard to control?

A. Biennial weeds

B. Annual weeds

C. Perennial weeds

D. Invasive weeds

Perennial weeds are characterized by their ability to live for more than two years and often develop extensive root systems, including sturdy taproots. These taproots enable them to access moisture and nutrients deep in the soil, making them resilient and challenging to eradicate. Since they regrow from their root system each year, even after being cut back or removed from the surface, controlling them often requires multiple treatments and specific management strategies. This persistence and adaptability are why perennial weeds can pose a significant challenge in turf and ornamental settings. In contrast, annual weeds complete their life cycle in one growing season and do not have a robust root system capable of sustaining regrowth once removed. Biennial weeds, having a two-year life cycle, can be challenging but typically do not develop the same deep root structures as perennials. Invasive weeds, while they can be problematic and may exhibit rapid growth, encompass a broad range of life cycles and do not specifically refer to those with a sturdy taproot. Therefore, perennial weeds are the most fitting category for having a sturdy taproot and being difficult to control.

5. Which of the following best describes grubs and caterpillars?

A. They are both flying adults of different insect species

B. They are two different types of turf-damaging larvae

C. They are stages of insects that do not damage turf

D. They are beneficial insects that support plant growth

The correct choice describes grubs and caterpillars as two different types of larvae that can damage turf. Grubs are the larval stage of beetles, particularly species like Japanese beetles, whereas caterpillars are the larval stage of moths and butterflies. Both types of larvae feed on plant material, with grubs often consuming the roots of grasses and other plants, leading to patchy, unhealthy turf. Caterpillars, depending on their species, can also cause significant damage by feeding on the leaves of ornamental plants and grasses, resulting in unsightly and weakened plants. By recognizing that both grubs and caterpillars are larval forms of insects that can impact turf health, it becomes clear why they are categorized together in this context. It's important for turf and ornamental pest control practitioners to identify these pests early, as timely management can prevent extensive damage to lawns and landscaping.

6. Which method is least effective for monitoring cutworm populations?

A. Using pheromone traps

B. Checking for damage during blooming season

C. Conducting visual inspections

D. Using pitfall traps

Using pitfall traps is considered the least effective method for monitoring cutworm populations primarily because cutworms are primarily nocturnal and spend most of their time buried in the soil or hiding under debris during the day. Pitfall traps, while useful for capturing ground-dwelling insects, may not effectively capture cutworms that are not active on the surface during the day. In contrast, pheromone traps are specifically designed to attract adult moths, providing a direct indication of moth activity and potential egg-laying sites. Checking for damage during the blooming season allows for timely assessments of plant health, which can correlate with cutworm presence and feeding activity. Conducting visual inspections enables close monitoring of known cutworm habitats, allowing for the observation of the larvae themselves. All of these methods are more aligned with the life cycle and behavior of cutworms compared to the passive nature of pitfall traps.

7. What function does a stolon serve in plant growth?

A. It is an underground storage organ

B. It is a creeping, above-ground stem that roots at nodes

C. It is primarily for nutrient uptake

D. It prevents weed competition

A stolon serves as a creeping, above-ground stem that roots at nodes, which facilitates the vegetative propagation of a plant. This growth form allows the plant to expand its coverage area as the stolons grow horizontally, producing new plants at the nodes where they come into contact with the soil. By rooting at these nodes, the plant can establish new growth points that are genetically identical to the parent plant, ensuring successful reproduction and the ability to take advantage of available space and resources. Stolons play an essential role in turfgrass management, particularly for species that thrive in spreading growth patterns, as they can help to quickly cover bare patches and enhance the overall resilience of the turf. This growth habit also assists the plant in recovering from disturbances, such as mowing or environmental stresses, by providing multiple growth points that can continue to thrive even if some portions of the plant are damaged or removed.

8. What is meant by proper mowing?

A. Using dull blades to reduce stress

B. Mowing at irregular intervals

C. Using sharp blades for a clean cut

D. Mowing without considering grass height

Using sharp blades for a clean cut is essential for proper mowing because it ensures that the grass is cut cleanly rather than torn or shredded. When blades are sharp, they create a smooth cut, which helps to minimize stress on the grass. This clean cut reduces the likelihood of disease and allows for quicker healing. Healthy grass can photosynthesize more effectively, leading to stronger growth and a better overall appearance of the lawn. In contrast, using dull blades can lead to jagged cuts that stress the grass and can create entry points for pathogens. Mowing at irregular intervals can also disrupt growth patterns, while mowing without considering grass height may lead to scalping or improper height maintenance, both of which are detrimental to lawn health. Therefore, using sharp blades is a fundamental practice in maintaining a healthy and aesthetically pleasing lawn.

9. Which of the following is NOT a technique to study a plant problem for pests?

A. Using a hand lens

B. Carrying an index card

C. Relying on word of mouth

D. Keeping records

Relying on word of mouth is not a scientific or systematic technique for studying plant problems related to pests. This method lacks the rigor and objectivity required for effective pest identification and management. Word of mouth can often lead to misinformation or generalizations that may not accurately reflect the specific issues present in a particular plant or landscape. In contrast, using a hand lens allows for close observation of pests and plant symptoms, enabling the identification of specific organisms and signs of damage. Carrying an index card can help document findings and organize information systematically, which is important for tracking the issues over time. Keeping records is another vital technique as it allows for an analysis of trends and patterns, informing better pest management strategies. Therefore, these methods are crucial tools for an accurate assessment of plant problems, while relying on word of mouth does not provide the necessary depth or clarity required in pest management practices.

10. What does phytotoxicity refer to?

A. A beneficial effect of nutrients on plant growth

B. A toxic effect from compounds on plant growth

C. A natural resistance of plants to pests

D. A common occurrence in healthy plants

Phytotoxicity refers to the harmful effects that certain compounds can have on plants, which can lead to reduced growth, leaf burn, or other damaging symptoms. This adverse reaction occurs when a plant is exposed to substances that it cannot tolerate; these substances may include pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, or even certain environmental conditions. Understanding phytotoxicity is crucial for anyone involved in turf and ornamental pest control because it emphasizes the importance of proper application rates and timings when using chemicals. The implications of phytotoxicity underscore the need to carefully evaluate how different substances will interact with various plant species to avoid injury and ensure healthy growth.