

**Hold off on aggressive maintenance until turf greens up more
March 14, 2014**

Turf professionals are now constantly on hands and knees, checking the state of green-up of the turf plants. We will have a better idea on the extent of winterkill as golf courses, athletic fields, and homelawns start to green-up with warming temperatures over the next few days. Green color at the base of old leaves may or may not be this year's growth, but could be residual from last year and thus not a good indication of plant survival. However, green leaf material of $\frac{1}{4}$ " or more on fairway height turf or $\frac{1}{2}$ " or more on lawn height is a pretty good indication that the leaf is alive and growing. A natural response may be to mow as soon as possible to remove that brown leaf material to speed the overall appearance of green-up. This dead leaf material is natural protection and insulation from potential Arctic Clipper cold fronts that still may blow through. This could be especially damaging on turf areas already somewhat weakened by winter. Therefore, our advice is still to hold off on mowing for another week or so in the eastern part of NE to lessen the chances of damage from cold snaps. Also as mentioned in the previous edition of Turf iNfo, avoid applying preemergence herbicides until areas are fully greened up just in case reseeding may be needed.

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Figure 1 (Top): Fairway height perennial ryegrass survival after winter. The center leaf is the youngest and is elongating from the base, likely within the last few hours with over $\frac{1}{4}$ " of new green growth. Second oldest leaf on the right has little sign of green from this year, while the oldest leaf on the left is the oldest with no sign of green-up.

Figure 2 (bottom): Lawn height tall fescue greening up in the greenhouse. Tips of leaves are brown and dead, but lower areas of leaves are elongating and greening up from the base of the leaf at the crown.