

Common Lawn Diseases

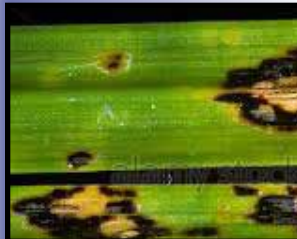
Summer heat and humidity make for a perfect recipe when it comes to lawn diseases.

Dollar Spot



Dollar spot fungus begins to grow and infect susceptible grasses in the spring when night temperatures exceed 50°F, even though symptoms of the disease may not appear until later in the spring or early summer.

Leaf Spot



This lawn disease fungi survive the winter as spores (fungus seeds) and as mycelium (fungus strands). When spring temperatures reach 55 to 60 degrees and there is a lot of moisture from rain or dew, the fungus begins to grow and spreads its spores by wind and water.

Red Thread



Red thread is a foliar disease that usually occurs on taller mown turfgrasses during spring and fall. Red thread symptoms create an undesirable appearance, but crowns and roots are not infected, so plants are not killed and turf eventually will recover.

Brown Patch



Symptoms of brown and large patch diseases may vary greatly with the type of grass and soil conditions. The diseases usually cause thinned patches of light brown grass that are roughly circular in shape.

Pythium Blight



Pythium blight outbreaks are especially damaging to creeping bentgrass, annual bluegrass, rough bluegrass, and perennial ryegrass. Among turfgrass diseases, Pythium blight receives considerable attention because it spreads very quickly, affects leaves and crowns, and kills plants, resulting in extensive loss of the turf stand.

Summer Patch



Summer patch affects Kentucky bluegrass and annual bluegrass on all kinds of turf venues, including golf courses, athletic fields, professional landscapes, and residential lawns. The summer patch pathogen, *Magnaporthe poae*, is active during late spring and summer when turfgrass root growth is diminished.

Fairy Ring



During the spring or summer a circle or arc of stimulated grass or of toadstools may appear in lawns. These are turf abnormalities called fairy rings. The rings can range from a few centimeters to 20 meters in diameter, but most are between 0.5 m and 5 m across. These rings of lush growth in the lawn are caused by the release of nutrients, in particular nitrogen, from the activity of the fungus on organic matter in the soil.

Snow Mold



Snow mold is a fungal disease that appears in early spring as the snow melts. There are two types of snow molds, gray and pink, that become active under the snow cover.

Symptoms first appear in the lawn as circular, straw colored patches when the snow melts in the spring.