

CONTROL LAWN DISEASES IN TURF TREAT IT WITH FUNGICIDE

Leaf Spot/Melting Out

In older bluegrass and ryegrass turf, the leaf-spot stage develops early in the season when atmospheric temperatures are 70-85 F. Often undetected at the stage, it is visible as a "brown halo" after the lawn is mowed making the diseased lower portion of the plant more visible. As the summer temps rise, the crown and roots are attacked. Large areas of dead grass can be removed leaving more visible. As the summer temps rise, the crown and roots are attacked. Large areas of dead grass can be removed leaving a very thin strand of live green turf. Fungicide should be applied in early April and repeated three times about 14 days apart. Treating the melting out stage is not recommended. Over-seed with disease resistant grass in fall. Never fertilize turf affected with this fungus until at least April 15th.

Dollar Spot

All cool season turf grasses can be affected, but dollar spot is most damaging to bluegrass. The disease may appear anytime from late spring thru late summer. Dollar spot favors warm humid days and cool nights that produce dew and humidity on the turf canopy. Early morning dew often creates a cobweb-like mycelium on the affected area. The disease manifests itself as two to four inch straw-colored patches of blighted turf. Affected areas may merge and become large. A leached white lesion in the shape of an hour glass will be present on individual leaf blades. There may be a reddish-brown margin to the lesion. Dollar spot is often severe in lawn where thatch is over 1/2" thick that prevents fertilizers from reaching the plant's roots or where too little fertilization is being used. Mowers as well as foot traffic will easily spread dollar spot. Make fungicide applications when symptoms are first noticed. Irrigate during morning hours only. Aerate and apply soil activator both spring and fall.



Powdery Mildew

Powdery mildew is caused by the fungus Erysiphe Graminis. It occurs commonly on Kentucky bluegrass, rye, and fine fescues growing in shade, and in overly-fertilized turf. Powdery mildew is named for the grayish-white to light tan powdery mat that forms on leaf blades. Blades appear to have been dusted with powder. The leaf tissue under the mold turns yellow and then tan or brown. Severely infected plants wither and die. During cloudy, humid periods, look for this disease when the days are warm and the nights are cool. Unlike most foliage blights or leaf spot diseases, powdery mildew does not require wet foliage, only high atmospheric humidity. Trim shrubs or trees to increase sunlight and improve air circulation.

Effective treatments

Granular products: Bayer Fungus Control for Lawns (Triadimefon) or Fertilome F-Stop (Myclobutanil).

Liquid Products: Fertilome Liquid Systemic Fungicide (Propiconazole) and F-Stop.

**Granular and liquid applications provide the same results, always follow label instructions.

