

Cool Season Turf Disease

Disease	Susceptible Grass	Symptoms	Environmental Factors	Management
Brown Patch (Foliar and Root)	TALL FESCUE, PERENNIAL RYEGRASS, KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS	1) Irregular to circular patches. 2) Patches are tan to brown and the edges may be dark. 3) Leaves have irregular shaped lesions. 4) White fungal growth when there is high humidity.	1) High humidity and daytime temps >28°C and >15°C at night. 2) >10 hours a day of leaf wetness for several days. 3) Night temps are >20°C.	1) Avoid excessive nitrogen esp. in the summer. 2) Avoid over watering & poor drainage. 3) Increase air circulation and remove shade. 4) Lower mowing height. 5) Select more resistant cultivars to the disease.
Fairy Ring	All Turfgrasses	1) Dark green or brown circles. 2) Mushrooms may grow in the ring. 3) Soil smells mushroomy	Grows over a wide range of temps and soil moisture conditions.	1) Improve water penetration by carrying out aeration, deep watering, and using wetting agents like Hydroforce Ultra. 2) Treat with a registered fungicide like Clean Sweep Trio.
Grey Leaf Spot (Foliage)	PERENNIAL RYEGRASS and Tall fescue	1) Symptoms first seen on the lower leaves as a small dot with a yellow halo. 2) Leaves often quickly wither and die.	1) Most severe during warm, humid weather. 2) Temps between 25°-30°C.	1) Avoid lush turfgrass. 2) Manage watering to minimize time leaves are wet. 3) Use resistant grass species. 4) Minimize stress by reducing compaction, etc.
Leaf Spot/Melting Out (Foliage and Roots)	KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS Perennial Ryegrass	1) Initially very small dark spots on leaves. 2) Spots enlarge in size and the centre of the spots may be a lighter brown. 3) Crowns rot, turf thins.		1) Raise cutting height. 2) Mow frequently to avoid stressing turf. 3) Avoid excessive nitrogen. 4) Avoid frequent watering and wet turf. 5) Select more resistant cultivars to the disease.
Pythium Blight (Foliage and Roots)	PERENNIAL RYEGRASS BENTGRASS Kentucky bluegrass	1) Starts as small dead spots. 2) Leaves often look greasy. 3) Fluffy cottony fungus may be present. 4) Turf quickly dies	1) Hot days 30-35°C. 2) Humid or rainy weather when night temps are >20°C. 3) Relative humidity>90% for at least 14 hours and a min temp >20°C. 4) Lush grass. 5) Poor drainage. 6) Poor air circulation.	1) Improve soil drainage. 2) Increase air circulation by removing surrounding vegetation. 3) Avoid excess watering. 4) Avoid high rates of nitrogen. 5) New seedlings are often affected in hot wet conditions.
Red Thread (Foliage)	PERENNIAL RYEGRASS FINE FESCUE Kentucky bluegrass and Tall Fescue	1) Patches appear tan, light pink, or reddish. 2) Only the foliage is infected and death usually occurs down from the leaf tips. 3) Pink/red threads may extend up to 10mm beyond the leaf tips. 4) Pink, cottony mycelium may occur.	1) Leaf wetness, and heavy dews resulting in >10 hours a day of leaf wetness for several days. 2) Temps of 17- 29°C. 3) Mainly an issue when grass is growing slowly as a result of low temps, or inadequate fertility.	1) Avoid nitrogen deficiencies. 2) Carry out good cultural practices. 3) Use more resistant cultivars. 4) Reduce shade. 5) Increase the air circulation. 6) Irrigate turf deeply and as infrequently as possible. 7) Don't water in the late afternoon.