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NF01-469 Turf Disease Fact Sheet No. 9: Management Program for Pink and Gray Snow Molds

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Turf Disease Fact Sheet No. 9 Management Program for Pink and Gray Snow Molds

by John E. Watkins, Extension Plant Pathologist

Cause, Hosts and Occurrence

- Pink Snow Mold (Microdochium patch):** Cause: *Microdochium nivale*
Primary hosts: Creeping bentgrass, Perennial ryegrass, Kentucky bluegrass
Occurrence: November - April
- Gray Snow Mold (Typhula Blight):** Cause: *Typhula incarnata* and *T. ishikariensis*
Primary hosts: All cool-season turfgrasses
Occurrence: December - March

Key Symptoms and Signs

Pink Snow Mold

Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass

- Four- to 12-inch diameter circular patches.
- Bleached, matted grass within the patches.
- Patches surrounded by a salmon-pink border.

Creeping bentgrass greens and fairways

- Bleached, roughly circular patches ranging from 1/2 foot to 2-3 feet in diameter.
- Presence of a white to salmon-pink moldy growth on infected grass blades.

Gray Snow Mold

- Patches of roughly, circular, bleached-brown areas up to 1 foot in diameter becoming visible as snow melts.
- Leaves within the patches are matted and appear scalded.
- Presence of a gray mold growth at the edges of the patches, and tiny orange to red to dark brown fungal sclerotia (resembling tiny sand grains) embedded in infected leaves.

Cultural/Maintenance Practices

- Fertilize cool season grasses in late fall (after the last mowing) with a slow-release nitrogen-source.
- Continue mowing in the fall until all leaf growth stops and rake leaves.
- Reduce thatch with aeration.
- Prevent large drifts of snow on important turf areas by strategic placement of snow fences or landscape plantings.
- Prevent snow compaction by restricting walking, snowmobiling, skiing, or sledding on important turfs.
- Repair snow mold damage by raking the affected patches in early spring to disrupt the encrusted mat and by lightly fertilizing to encourage new growth.

Fungicide Program

- Use a preventative fungicide program on high-value turf and on areas where snow molds cause injury year after year. Make the initial fungicide application in early- to mid-November and repeat applications during mid-winter thaws, as needed.

Products reported to provide good to excellent snow mold control include:

Commercial Products

| <i>Pink SM</i> | <i>Gray SM</i> | <i>Active ingredient(s)</i> | <i>Product name(s)</i> |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 3 | 3 | azoxystrobin | Heritage |
| | 3 | chloroneb | Teremec SP |
| | 3 | chlorothalonil* | Daconil Ultrex, Thalonil, Manicure Ultrex |
| 3 | 3 | fenarimol | Rubigan |
| 3 | 3 | iprodione* | Chipco 26GT |
| 3 | | mancozeb | Formec 80, Fore Rainshield, Dithane T/O Rainshield, Lesco Mancozeb, Protect T/O |
| 3 | | maneb | Pentathlon |
| 3 | | myclobutanil | Eagle |
| 3 | 3 | PCNB* | Revere, Cleary's PCNB, Penstar, Terraclor, Turfcide, Defend |
| 3 | | propiconazole | Banner MAXX |
| 3 | | thiophanate-methyl | Cleary's 3336, Fungo, Cavalier |

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| 3 | 3 | triadimefon | Bayleton, Lesco Granular Turf Fungicide |
| 3 | 3 | thiram | Spotrete |
| 3 | 3 | trifloxystrobin | Compass |
| 3 | 3 | vinclozolin | Curalan, Touché |
| 3 | 3 | chlorothalonil + thiophanate-methyl | Spectro 90 |
| 3 | | mancozeb + copper hydroxide | Junction |

*No longer registered for residential turf.

Home Lawn Products

| <i>Pink SM</i> | <i>Gray SM</i> | <i>Active ingredient(s)</i> | <i>Product name(s)</i> |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 3 | | benomyl | Bonide Benomyl Lawn Fungicide Granules |
| 3 | | mancozeb | Green Light Broad Spectrum Mancozeb Fungicide |
| 3 | | thiophanate- methyl | Green Light Fung-Away II Systemic Fungicide, ferti-lome Halt Systemic, Dragon Systemic Fungicide 3336WP |
| 3 | 3 | triadimefon | Green Light Fung-Away Systemic Lawn Fungicide, Bonide Lawn Fungicide with Bayleton |

Precautions: PCNB may cause phytotoxicity during warm weather.

Fungicides listed represent the best information available. No criticism is intended of products not listed, nor is endorsement by the University of Nebraska given to those listed. Read and follow all product label directions for mixing and application.

File NF01-469 under PLANT DISEASES

F-10, Turf

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