

2004

## EC04-1891 Residential Turf Diseases II

John E. Watkins

*University of Nebraska - Lincoln*, [jwatkins1@unl.edu](mailto:jwatkins1@unl.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/extensionhist>



Part of the [Agriculture Commons](#), and the [Curriculum and Instruction Commons](#)

---

Watkins, John E., "EC04-1891 Residential Turf Diseases II" (2004). *Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension*. 1542.

<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/extensionhist/1542>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Extension at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

# Residential Turf Diseases II



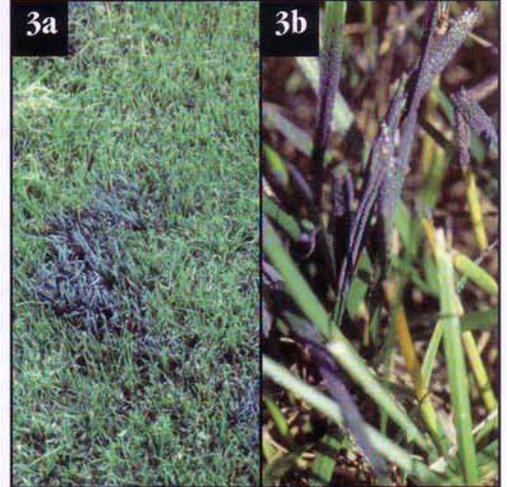
John E. Watkins  
Extension Plant Pathologist



1. *Ascochyta* Leaf Blight



2. Fairy Ring



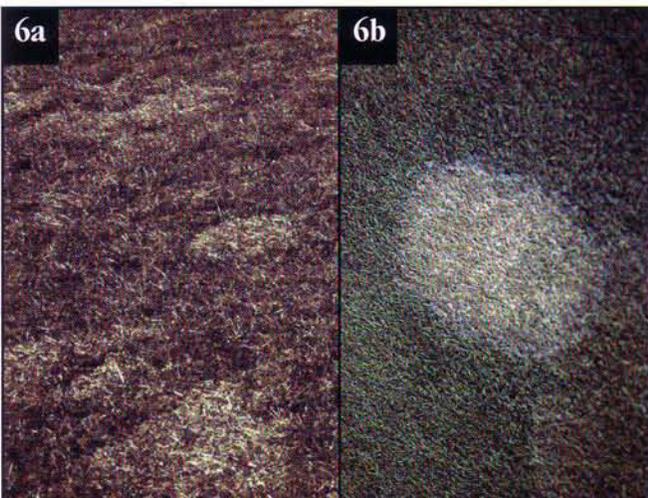
3. Slime Mold



4. Stripe Rust



5. Pink Snow Mold (*Fusarium* Patch)



6. Gray Snow Mold (*Typhula* Blight)



7. *Pythium* Blight

Disease	Symptoms
Affected Turfgrass Species	
<b>1. Ascochyta Leaf Blight</b> <i>Ascochyta</i> spp. Kentucky bluegrass Perennial rye grass	Large areas of turf either assume a uniformly blighted tan appearance or an irregular tan patchy pattern (Fig. 1a). Infected leaves die back from the tip, shrivel and become needle-like in appearance (Fig. 1b).
<b>2. Fairy Ring</b> Several mushroom forming fungi All turfgrass species	The presence of dark green rings of varying diameters characterizes fairy ring (Fig. 2a). Some fairy rings develop circular patterns of dead grass in the center of the dark ring (Fig. 2b). Mushrooms forming in a circular pattern in the turf is indicative of fairy ring (Fig. 2c and d).
<b>3. Slime Molds</b> <i>Phyisarum cinereum</i> All turfgrass species	Slime molds grow on the surface of leaves and stems and form in 4- to 6-inch patches in turf (Fig. 3a). The slime mold is composed of thousands of tiny purple, gray, white or cream sack-like spore enclosures (Fig. 3b).
<b>4. Stripe Smut</b> <i>Ustilago striiformis</i> Kentucky blue grass	Smutted plants occur in 6- to 12-inch circular patches which are very noticeable in spring due to their light-green or yellow color (Fig. 4a). Infected leaves show narrow black stripes and may shred and curl (Fig. 4b).
<b>5. Pink Snow Mold</b> (Fusarium Patch) <i>Fusarium nirale</i> All turfgrass species	Symptoms are roughly circular patches in the 4- to 12- inch diameter range (Fig. 5a). Within these patches, the grass is a bleached-tan color, matted and often has a salmon-pink color at the edge of the patch (Fig. 5b).
<b>6. Gray Snow Mold</b> (Typhula Blight) <i>Typhula</i> spp. All turfgrass species	Injury is most likely to occur during winter with extended snow cover in areas where snow has drifted or been piled. Patches of roughly circular, grayish-tan areas up to 12 inches in diameter become visible as melting snow recedes (Fig. 6a). When wet, the patches appear gray in color with a grayish mold growth at the edges (Fig. 6b).
<b>7. Pythium Blight</b> <i>Pythium</i> spp. Kentucky bluegrass Perennial ryegrass	Symptoms are brown spots that suddenly appear during hot, humid weather (Fig. 7a). The symptom pattern may be more pronounced in lower, wetter sites. Affected turf is matted; feels slightly slimy to the touch and gives off a fishy odor (Fig. 7b).

**Acknowledgment:** Appreciation is extended to Emily Colfack for assistance in the preparation of this circular.

**Photo Credits:** All photos courtesy of faculty in the NU Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.