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EC80-1236 Turfgrass Diseases

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TURFGRASS DISEASES

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Lawn disease results from the presence of a susceptible lawn grass, a disease organism, and an environment favoring disease development. Any practice which reduces grass susceptibility, controls disease organisms, or alters the environment to disfavor disease development can help reduce infection. This guide is designed to help you correctly identify those turfgrass diseases that are most troublesome. A list of suggested management prac-

tices are provided that should help you prevent or reduce disease injury.

Frequent lawn inspections, early detection, and proper identification are equally important for the practices to be successful. Contact a qualified turf specialist if you are doubtful about your problem. If a fungicide is necessary, select the proper fungicide, follow label directions and insure the proper timing and rate of delivery.

Fusarium Blight



Rust



Dollarspot



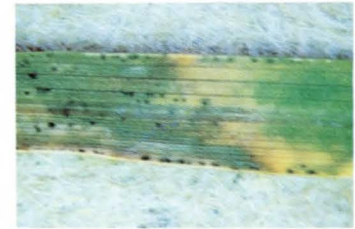
Leafspot



Fairy Ring



Septoria Leafspot




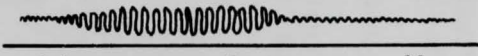
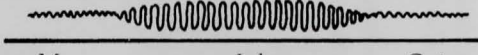
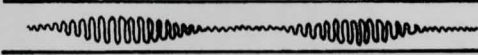
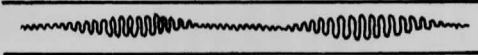
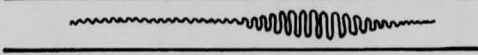
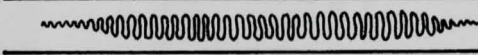
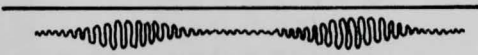
Powdery Mildew



Stripe Smut



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Leo E. Lucas, Director

Disease Organism	Symptoms	Management	Occurrence
Fusarium blight <i>Fusarium spp.</i>	Roughly circular, crescent, or serpentine shaped tan patches with tuft of green grass in center. Leaf lesions straw color or green and white bands.	Use heat and drought tolerant grasses. Avoid heavy early spring and summer fertilization. Emphasize fertilizing in late fall. Water deeply but infrequently. Cool turf at mid-day in July and August by very light watering. Increase mowing height of bluegrass to 3.0 inches in summer. Soil drench systemic fungicides.	 May July Oct.
Rust <i>Puccinia spp.</i>	Leaves have yellow orange flecks or brick red pustules that rub off easily.	Use resistant cultivars. Avoid Merion Kentucky bluegrass. Remove clippings from infected turf. Fertilize to meet the nutritional needs of the turf.	 July Sept. Nov.
Dollarspot <i>Sclerotinia homeocarpa</i>	Straw colored lesions across leaf, bordered by reddish-brown margins. Straw colored patches resemble melting out or drought.	Use resistant cultivars. Fertilize to meet nutritional needs of the turf. Water infrequently but deeply. Avoid evening watering. Remove clippings from infected turf.	 May July Oct.
Leafspot (Melting Out) <i>Helminthosporium spp.</i>	Leaf lesions are small and round, or oval in shape; red, brown, purple or tan with dark border. Thinning of turf may occur.	Use resistant cultivars and avoid heavy spring fertilization with fast release fertilizer. Water infrequently but deeply in the early morning and avoid evening watering. Mow high in the summer. Power rake and/or aerate when the grass is actively growing (spring and fall for bluegrass, ryegrass and fescue). Remove clippings from infected area.	 April June Sept. Nov.
Septoria leafspot <i>Septoria spp.</i>	Leaf lesion yellow with black dots. Yellowing occurs from the leaf tip down. Lawn resembles dull mower injury.	Use resistant cultivars. Avoid Merion and Delta Kentucky bluegrass. Water in early morning. Avoid over fertilization and promotion of lush succulent growth.	 April July Sept. Nov.
Powdery Mildew <i>Erysiphe graminis</i>	Whitish powder-like growth on leaf surface. Most prevalent in low light.	Use improved cultivars. Prune trees and shrubs to enhance light penetration. Mow at a high height of cut. Avoid screening of air movement over the turf. Water infrequently but deeply.	 May Aug. November
Fairy Ring Soil Fungi	Dark green circles or rings containing a zone of brown turf or mushrooms.	Remove debris (roots, boards) from soil. Mow mushrooms before the caps open. Power rake to reduce thatch exceeding one-half inch when turf is actively growing. Inject water into the band with tree root feeder. Remove infected area one foot deep and 18 inches wide, fumigate and replace with clean soil if practical.	 April July Nov.
Stripe Smut <i>Ustilago striiformis</i>	Dull gray to black stripes running length of leaf. Leaf appears to twist and shred. Black spores rub off when touched.	Use resistant cultivars and avoid Merion and Windsor Kentucky bluegrass. Water infrequently but deeply. Use systemic fungicides if necessary.	 April June Sept. Nov.