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NF588 Turf Disease Fact Sheet No. 11: Management Program

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NF588

Turf Disease Fact Sheet No. 11

Management Program for Ascochyta Leaf Blight

by John E. Watkins, Extension Plant Pathologist

Cause, Hosts and Occurrence

Ascochyta Blight: Cause: *Ascochyta* spp.
Primary hosts: Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass
Occurrence: June - September

Key Symptoms and Signs

- Large areas of turf assume either a uniformly blighted appearance or a patchy appearance caused by localized areas of heavy infection.
 - Individual leaves die from the tip back, often affecting the entire blade.
 - Affected leaf blades often shrivel, forming a needle-point appearance from the tip down.
- Note:** The disease may appear severe and affect large areas of turf, but it seldom does permanent damage.

Cultural/Maintenance Practices

- Irrigate in the early morning.
- Do not allow the turf to go into drought/moisture stress during the growing season.
- Avoid excess applications of nitrogen by using slow release nitrogen fertilizers.
- Mow on a regular schedule and collect clippings when the disease is active.

Fungicide Program

- Apply a preventive fungicide treatment in late May and repeat as needed.

Products labeled for control of Ascochyta leaf blight include:

Commercial Products

Active ingredients(s)
thiophanate-methyl

Product name(s)
Cleary's 3336F, 3336G

Home Lawn Products

Active ingredients(s)
thiophanate-methyl

Product name(s)
Dragon Chemical Systemic
Fungicide 3336WP

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 under: PLANT DISEASES
F-12, Turf

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