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NF01-465 Turf Disease Fact Sheet No. 5: Management Program for Pythium Blight

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Watkins, John E., "NF01-465 Turf Disease Fact Sheet No. 5: Management Program for Pythium Blight" (2001). *Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension*. 908.
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Nebraska Cooperative Extension NF01-465

NebFact

Published by Cooperative Extension, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Turf Disease Fact Sheet No. 5
Management Program for Pythium Blight

by John E. Watkins, Extension Plant Pathologist

Cause, Hosts and Occurrence

Pythium Blight:	Cause: *Pythium aphenidermatum*, *P. graminicola*, other *Pythium* spp. Primary Hosts: Perennial ryegrass, creeping bentgrass, annual bluegrass Occurrence: July - August

Key Symptoms and Signs

- Roughly circular, reddish-brown spots or streaks that suddenly appear.
- In morning dew, infected grass leaves appear water-soaked, slimy to the touch, and dark green.
- Affected turf may give off a fishy odor.
- Presence of cottonball-like mycelium in early morning.

Cultural/Maintenance Practices

- Provide adequate soil drainage.
- Fill depressions where water stands.
- Thin landscape plantings to promote good air movement across the turf.
- Avoid mowing and trafficking wet turf.
- Use a balanced fertilizer program that will meet the nutritional needs of the turf but not stimulate lush growth during summer.
- Avoid overwatering and late-afternoon and early evening watering during periods of hot, humid weather.
- Reduce thatch accumulation by aeration.
- When establishing new turf areas, do not saturate the soil on newly seeded areas and remove mulch immediately after seedling emergence.

Fungicide Program

Preventive Program

- First application should be made in mid-June or earlier using a systemic fungicide such as fosetyl-Al, metalaxyl, or propamocarb.
- Second application should be two weeks later, also using a systemic fungicide.
- Third application of a contact fungicide, such as chloroneb or ethazole, should be two weeks after the second application.

Curative Program

Curative measures using the contact fungicides chloroneb, ethazole or mancozeb can be used on less valuable turf and areas less prone to Pythium blight. The first treatment should be made when the 24-hour forecast calls for weather favorable (daytime temperatures above 90°F, night time temperatures above 65°F, 80% or greater humidity) to Pythium blight or when blight symptoms first appear. A short spray interval of seven days may be needed under high disease pressure. Products reported to provide fair to excellent control of Pythium blight include:

Commercial Products

Active ingredient(s)	*Product name(s)*
azoxystrobin	Heritage
chloroneb	Teremec SP
ethazole	Koban, Terrazole
fosetyl-Al	Chipco Signature, Chipco Aliette WDG, Prodigy
mancozeb	Formec 80, Fore Rainshield, Dithane T/O Rainshield, Lesco Mancozeb, Protect T/O
mefenoxam	Subdue MAXX
metalaxyl	Subdue 2E
propamocarb	Banol
mancozeb + copper hydroxide	Junction

Home Garden Products

Active ingredient(s)	*Product name(s)*
mancozeb	Green Light Broad Spectrum Mancozeb Fungicide

Precautions

- When using fosetyl-Al, two or more consecutive applications are needed under high disease pressure.
- Avoid excess use of metalaxyl to minimize the risk of resistance.
- Junction and Koban may cause phytotoxicity if applied during hot weather with less than 5

gal of water/1000 square feet.

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 NF01-465 under PLANT DISEASES
F-6, Turf
Issued April 2001

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Elbert C. Dickey, Dean and Director of Cooperative Extension, University of Nebraska, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

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