



Preventing Lawn Disease: General Recommendations

1. **Make the plant more resistant to disease**

Use resistant varieties.

Use proper cutting height.

Maintain proper nutrition; avoid excess nitrogen during hot weather periods and fall; use slow release fertilizer.

Grow locally adapted grasses in blends of several species.

Use good quality, certified seed.

2. **Make the environment less favorable to disease**

Reduce moisture.

Maintain good surface and subsurface drainage.

Don't water in the early evening.

Promote good air circulation.

Decrease thatch ($\leq 1/2$ ").

Maintain pH at 6.0 to 7.0.

Avoid drought stress. Water deeply and infrequently.

Reduce shading.

Keep mower blades sharp.

Remove no more than 1/3 of grass blade at each cutting.

3. **Kill the pathogen or prevent it from reaching the plant**

Remove clippings (particularly for Red Thread; somewhat less effective for leaf spots).

Do not mow wet grass.

Mow diseased areas last.

Use compost for top dressing for disease suppression.

Apply the appropriate fungicide at the recommended rate.

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