



Turfgrass Diseases: Cultural Management Recommendations

Disease (pathogens)	Turfgrass Hosts*	Season of Occurrence	Cultural Management Methods
Dollar Spot <i>Sclerotinia homeocarpa</i>	All species	Late spring - September	Avoid drought stress. Water early (5-10am). Avoid soil compaction. Balanced N-P-K**. Reduce thatch (no more than 1/2").
Leaf Spot, Melting-Out <i>Bipolaris, Dreschlera</i>	All species Kentucky bluegrasses* Fine fescues*	Spring - October	Raise mowing height. Avoid excess soluble nitrogen. Reduce thatch (no more than 1/2"). Water early (5-10am).
Red Thread <i>Corticium fuciforme</i>	Most species Perennial ryegrasses* Fine fescues*	Spring - October	Maintain balanced N-P-K**. Avoid low pH. Light applications of nitrogen (N). Apply 1/2-1 lb. of actual N per 1000 ft ² . Remove clippings.
Powdery Mildew <i>Erysiphe graminis</i>	Kentucky bluegrasses* Fine fescues	Early summer - October (most prevalent in September)	Reduce shade. Avoid excess Nitrogen. Improve air circulation.
Brown Patch <i>Rhizoctonia solani</i>	All species Tall fescues* Perennial ryegrasses*	July - September	Avoid excess Nitrogen (especially during active growth). Mow only when dry. Water early (5-10am). Avoid night watering.

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Pythium Blight <i>Pythium spp.</i>	All species Perennial ryegrasses*	June - mid-September	Avoid excess Nitrogen. Mow only when dry. Fungicides are usually required.
Pythium Root Rot <i>Pythium spp.</i>	All species Annual bluegrasses*	March - November (periods of slow plant growth)	As above. Increase organic matter. Improve drainage.
Anthracnose <i>Colletotrichum graminicola</i>	Bluegrasses Fescues Annual bluegrasses*	July - September	Avoid drought stress. Avoid compaction. Balanced N-P-K**.
Summer Patch <i>Magnaporthe poae</i>	Fine fescues Kentucky bluegrasses* Annual bluegrasses*	July - September	Avoid compaction. Avoid drought stress. Raise mowing height (2-3"). Lower pH in top 1" soil to 6.0-6.5. Avoid overwatering.
Fusarium Blight <i>Fusarium culmorum</i>	All species	June - September	As for summer patch.
Snow Molds Gray <i>Typhula spp.</i> Pink <i>Microdochium ivale</i>	All species	November - April (during extended periods of cool, wet weather, 32-55° F)	Continue mowing until growth ceases in the autumn. Maintain pH of 6.5-7.0. Avoid late Nitrogen applications.

*Most susceptible species

**N-P-K is Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium

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