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Turf Diseases in Utah

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Turf Diseases in Utah

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Spring Diseases

- Pink Snow Mold
- Gray Snow Mold
- Melting Out

Pink Snow Mold

- Cause:
 - *Microdochim nivalis*
- Importance:
 - Major problem in late fall and early spring. Snow cover is not necessary.

Pink Snow Mold

- Symptoms
 - Irregular patches with light pink margins

Pink Snow Mold

- Control
 - Avoid heavy fertilization in the fall
 - Avoid heavy snow accumulations when shoveling snow
 - Apply fungicides to previously affected areas fall and spring

Pink Snow Mold

- Fungicides
 - Banner, Bayleton, Chipco 26019, Cleary 3336, Fore, Fungo, Rubigan, Terraclor (PCNB), Thiram, Vorlan



Gray Snow Mold

- Cause:
 - *Typhula* spp.--fungus
- Importance:
 - A serious problem where persistent snow cover is common

Gray Snow Mold

- Symptoms
 - Dead patches of grass in the spring after snow melt
 - Sandgrain-sized, brown fungal sclerotia embedded in dead leaf tissue.

Gray Snow Mold

- Control:
 - Avoid heavy snow accumulations when shoveling snow.
 - Physically spread piles of snow or apply black fly ash or graphite to hasten snow melt.
 - Apply fungicide in late fall where snow mold has been a problem.

Gray Snow Mold

- Fungicides
 - Banner, Bayleton, Chipco 26019, Dyrene, Prostar, Rubigan, Terraclor (PCNB), Thiram



Melting Out

- Cause
 - *Helminthosporium*-like spp.--fungus
- Importance
 - Prevalent every year. Major reason for dead areas in turf

Melting Out

- Symptoms
 - General thinning of grass with turf appearing to fade away
 - Circular purplish-brown around straw-colored spots on leaf

Melting Out

- Control
 - Aerate to reduce thatch in early spring.
 - Avoid a single heavy application of soluble nitrogen in the spring.
 - Water infrequently but deeply.
 - Mow at 2.5 - 3 inches during hot weather.
 - Apply fungicide to areas where problem has occurred in previous years.

Melting Out

- Fungicides
 - Banner, Chipco 26019, Cleary 3336, Curalan, Daconil, Dyrene, Fore, Terraclor (PCNIE3), Vorlan



Summer Diseases

- Necrotic Ringspot
- Summer Patch
- Fairy Ring
- Powdery Mildew

Necrotic Ringspot

- Cause
 - *Leptosphaeria korrae*--fungus
- Importance
 - Can be a serious problem in spring and fall.

Necrotic Ringspot

- Symptoms
 - Dead circles or arcs that range in size from several inches to several feet in diameter. Microscopic dark hyphae can be found on the grass crowns. Difficult to control even with fungicides.

Necrotic Ringspot

- Control
 - Aerate to reduce thatch in early
 - Apply low rates of acid type nitrogen fertilizer frequently when the grass is actively growing.
 - Keep mowing height at 2.5 - 3 inches.
 - Water infrequently but deeply.
 - Apply fungicides where necrotic Ringspot has been a problem.
 - Replant grass species resistant species.

Necrotic Ringspot

- Fungicides
 - Chipco 26019, Fungo, Rubigan



Summer Patch

- Cause:
 - *Magnaporthe graminicola*--fungus
- Importance
 - Can be a serious problem during the summer.

Summer Patch

- Symptoms
 - Dead circles or arcs that range in size from several inches to several feet in diameter. Microscopic dark hyphae can be found on the grass crowns. Difficult to control.

Summer Patch

- Control
 - Aerate to reduce thatch in early spring
 - Apply low rates of nitrogen fertilizer frequently when grass is actively growing.
 - Mow at 2.5 - 3 inches.
 - Water infrequently but deeply.
 - Apply fungicide where the disease has occurred.
 - Replant with grass resistant species.

Summer Patch

- Fungicides
 - Banner, Bayleton, Fungo, Rubigan



Fairy Ring

- Cause
 - Various basidiomycete fungi
- Importance
 - Common but only important in a few situations.

Fairy Ring

- Symptoms
 - Circle of dark green grass with mushrooms forming in the band. Occasionally, the grass dies within the ring.
 - Dry subsurface ring under soil even after watering, often contains white, fungal grouts.

Fairy Ring

- Control
 - Keep turf adequately fertilized to promote even turf growth and color.
 - Aerate or use surfactants to improve water penetration into rings.
 - If problem is severe, kill grass with glyphosate herbicide, rototil, and replant.

Fairy Ring

- Fungicides
 - Prostar provides suppression.
 - Consan label for fairy ring control.
 - Fungicides usually provide satisfactory results.





Powdery Mildew

- Cause
 - *Erysiphe graminis*--fungus
- Importance
 - Common but causes minor damage.

Powdery Mildew

- Symptoms
 - White powder on leaves, especially in shady areas.

Powdery Mildew

- Control
 - Do not plant turf in heavy shade.
 - Prune trees to increase light penetration.
 - Water infrequently but deeply.
 - Plant shade-adapted varieties (fine fescue).
 - Apply fungicides to turf with a history of mildew.

Powdery Mildew

- Fungicides
 - Banner, Bayleton, Rubigan



Disclaimer

- Some of the fungicides listed are not readily available for home lawn use but can be obtained from commercial businesses or applied by a commercial operator.

Disclaimer

- Listing of commercial products implies no endorsement by Utah State Cooperative Extension Service; criticism of products not listed is neither implied nor intended.

Disclaimer

- Use pesticides according to the current label directions. Pesticide labels are legal documents, and it is a violation of federal and state laws to use a pesticide inconsistent with its labeling. Applicators are legally responsible for its proper usage. Read and follow the label.