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BP-118-W

Turfgrass Disease Profiles

Gray Snow Mold
Pink Snow Mold
Leaf Spot/Melting Out
Red Thread
Dollar Spot
Brown Patch
Gray Leaf Spot
Anthracnose
Pythium Blight
Leaf Rust
Powdery Mildew
Slime Mold
Fairy Ring
Take All Patch
Summer Patch
Necrotic Ring Spot
Rhizoctonia Large Patch
Yellow Patch

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Yellow Patch

Richard Latin, Professor of Plant Pathology

Yellow patch, also referred to as cool season brown patch, is caused by *Rhizoctonia cerealis*, a fungus closely related to the pathogens that cause brown patch and the Rhizoctonia large patch of zoysia grass (for more on these diseases, see Purdue Extension publications Brown Patch, http://www.ces.purdue.edu/extmedia/BP/BP-106-W.pdf, and Rhizoctonia Large Patch, http://www.ces.purdue.edu/extmedia/BP/BP-117-W.pdf). Although symptoms can be striking, yellow patch causes only cosmetic damage and does not affect playability. It occurs on creeping bentgrass and annual bluegrass, and symptoms are limited to putting greens and collars.

Figure 1

Disease Characteristics

Yellow patch symptoms are readily identified by small- to medium-sized patches (6 to 12 inches in diameter), usually with yellow margins (Figure 1). Sometimes margins are reddish brown. In severe cases, patches may be distributed uniformly over the putting surface (Figure 2). Unlike summer patch, which does not affect creeping bentgrass, yellow patch seems to infect bentgrass and annual bluegrass equally.

Yellow patch is a cool season disease. In the Midwest, symptoms most often appear in early to mid-spring, but sometimes occur in mid-fall. Outbreaks will most likely occur in shaded sites and under

Figure 2

cloudy, cool, wet conditions. In the spring, symptoms will readily disappear after a few days of warm, dry weather. Symptoms that occur in the fall may be visible for up to two weeks if turf is growing very slowly. No correlations have been made between the appearance of symptoms and the nutritional status of the turf.

Disease Control

Control of yellow patch with fungicides is normally *not* recommended because the disease has only cosmetic effects and symptoms are usually very short-lived. The symptoms shown in Figure 2 disappeared after a week of warm spring weather, without fungicide application. There are several effective products for the rare cases where the fungicide option is warranted. Effective fungicides include strobilurin products (Heritage 50WG®, Insignia 20WG®, and Compass 50WDG®), DMI fungicides (Banner Maxx®, Bayleton 50WG®, and Eagle 20EW®), and polyoxin D (Endorse WP®).

For other Turfgrass Disease Profiles, visit www.agry.purdue.edu/turf/publicat.htm#BP.

All photos by Richard Latin.

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