Meehan's Brookside LAWN SERVICE

Dollar Spot Disease

What Are the Symptoms?

Symptoms of Dollar Spot Disease are small, circular patches of white to brown turf, depending on the stage of the disease. Light tan bands will cross the leaf blade. Patches can range in size from a few inches to several feet and can quickly spread on the lawn.



Why Does Dollar Spot Occur?

Dollar Spot disease is caused by fungi that are air borne. It flourishes during periods of humidity and warm weather. As weather conditions change, the turf grows out the damaged grass blades. The grass, humid conditions, and fungi come together and Dollar Spot appears on susceptible grasses.



Control Strategies

Control strategies include applications of disease prevention, curative disease applications, proper watering, proper mowing, and fertilizing. What action to take depends on one's expectations of the lawn. Dollar spot will generally not permanently hurt turf that is properly fertilized. Keeping the grass growing through drought times with proper watering allows the turf to grow out the affected leaves.



Treatment

Treatment with disease applications may be necessary in severe cases. Some lawns that have an annual history of Dollar Spot may consider a disease prevention program, prior to the time Dollar Spot appears and repeat while conditions remain. When treating with a curative application, the treatment will not remove the existing damage, but stop it from spreading. The grass will have to grow out the affected areas. If conditions persist it will be necessary to retreat every three weeks.



Cultural Practices

Selecting a seed blend that shows some resistance to Dollar Spot and other common turf problems is the best solution when given the opportunity to choose. Mowing at the proper height and frequency is also necessary for turf health. Shut off sprinkler systems during periods of frequent rainfall. Do not water in the evening. Water deeply and less frequently during dry periods which helps the grass recover by growing out the damaged turf.







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