



SUMMER PATCH DISEASE & NECROTIC RING SPOT

Summer Patch and Necrotic Ring Spot are a disease of the root system that affects Kentucky Bluegrass in home lawns. During times of stress the roots cannot support the grass plants and it is common that areas of turf will die. Usually occurs on sodded lawns with poor site preparation and that have a limited root system. Once the root system is infected it is common to have a repeat of symptoms the following seasons.



SYMPTOMS:

The symptoms appear as 4–6" diameter irregular shaped patches (Streaks, crescents, circles) with an orange-brown color edges. Patches can quickly spread into 12" patches that join together to cause larger areas of damaged turf. Often the small patches may have an area of grass that is not damaged in the middle.



SEASON:

The symptoms of Summer Patch and Necrotic Ring Spot appear during the heat of the summer. This is because the roots that are infected are unable to keep grass plants alive during periods of stress. The disease is most active when soil temperatures are 75–85.



CULTURAL MANAGEMENT:

The best way to avoid Summer Patch and Necrotic Ring is over seeding with varieties of grass that are resistant to Summer Patch. Consider a 50/50 Kentucky Blue Grass, Perennial Rye mix or Turf Type Tall Fescue. In addition relieve conditions that stress the lawn with good cultural practices.

- Immediately start watering daily to get the lawn through the Summer. This is a rescue approach to carry the lawn through the summer stress, not a long time practice.
- Avoid low mowing, 3-3 1/2" is appropriate.
- Perform soil sample to check for proper pH, and correct as necessary.
- Core Aerate 2 times in spring and 2 times in the fall to encourage deep root growth.
- Once the heat of summer is over, adjust your watering habits by watering deeply and infrequently, to a depth of 6 inches, only when necessary. Water early in the day so leaf blades will dry. Avoid watering in the late afternoon and early evening; do not water at night.
- Plan renovating damaged areas with resistant types of grass.



TREATMENT OPTIONS:

Treatments of fungicide applications after symptoms appear have limited results. Anticipating the conditions of high soil temperatures and applying preventative fungicide applications will be the most effective and need to be repeated at 28 day intervals while the conditions persist.



WHAT TO EXPECT:

Turf damaged in summer will not immediately recover. Unfortunately during the summer's high soil temperatures, very little root growth and recovery will take place until fall, when growing conditions return. Renovating and seeding should be delayed until the ideal seeding time, mid-August through Mid September.



(330) 721-TURF (8873)

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