Meehan's Brookside LAWN SERVICE

SUMMER PATCH DISEASE & NECROTIC RING SPOT

Summer Patch and Necrotic Ring Spot are diseases of the root system that affect 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 sod lawns with poor site preparation and limited root systems.



SYMPTOMS

The symptoms appear as 4–6" diameter irregular shaped patches (streaks, crescents, circles) with an orange-brown color on the edges. Patches can quickly spread into 12" patches that join together to cause larger areas of damaged turf.



WHEN IT HAPPENS

Symptoms typically appear during the heat of the summer (when soil temperatures are 75–85°F). The infected roots are unable to keep grass plants alive during periods of stress.



WHY IT'S A PROBLEM

Summer Patch and Necrotic Ring Spot weaken the root system, making turf thin and more vulnerable to insect damage, disease and drought stress. It can pull up easily and be difficult to maintain in a typical home lawn.



CULTURAL MANAGEMENT

- Use disease-resistant grass varieties (e.g. 50/50 Kentucky Bluegrass, Perennial Rye, or Turf Type Tall Fescue).
- Water deeply and infrequently (about 6" deep), early in the day.
- Maintain proper mowing height (3–3½").
- Core aerate 2 times in spring and 2 times in fall.
- Keep turf healthy with proper fertilization and soil pH (6.0–7.0).
- Plan to renovate severely damaged areas with resistant grass types.



TREATMENT OPTIONS

Fungicide applications have limited results. Preventative applications, combined with good cultural practices and improving soil conditions, are most effective. Treatments may need to be repeated at 28 day intervals while conditions persist.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Turf damaged in summer will not immediately recover. Recovery is slow and will take place until fall, when cooler growing conditions return. Renovating and seeding should be delayed until the ideal seeding time, mid-August through mid-September.

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A Healthier, Greener Lawn Starts Today!