



Turfgrass Diseases: Cultural Management Recommendations

Fact Sheet

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The following table gives a summary of common turfgrass diseases in New Hampshire and cultural management recommendations for each.

Turfgrass Diseases: Cultural Management Recommendations

Disease (Pathogens)	Turfgrass Hosts*	Season of Occurrence	Cultural Management Methods
Dollar Spot <i>Sclerotinia homeocarpa</i>	All species	Late spring - September	Avoid drought stress. Water early (5-10 a.m.). Avoid soil compaction. Balanced N-P-K.** Use slow-release nitrogen. Reduce thatch. †
Leaf Spot, Melting-Out <i>Bipolaris, Dreschlera, Exserohilum, (Helminthosporium diseases)</i>	All species Kentucky bluegrass* Fine fescues*	Spring - October	Avoid excess nitrogen, especially in spring. Use resistant varieties. Water early (5-10am). Reduce thatch. † Raise mowing height.
Red Thread <i>Laetisaria fuciformis, Limnomycetes roseipellis</i>	Most species Perennial ryegrass* Fine fescues*	Spring - October (most prevalent in spring and fall)	Maintain balanced N-P-K.** Remove clippings. Mow only when turf is dry. Water early (5-10am).
Powdery Mildew <i>Erysiphe graminis</i>	Kentucky bluegrasses* Fine fescues	Early summer - October (most prevalent in September)	Reduce shade. Avoid excess nitrogen. Improve air circulation. Use resistant varieties.
Brown Patch <i>Rhizoctonia solani</i>	All species Tall fescues* Perennial ryegrass*	July - September	Avoid excess nitrogen (especially during active turf growth, use slow-release formulations). Mow only when turf is dry. Water early (5-10am).

Turfgrass Diseases: Cultural Management Recommendations (Cont'd)

Disease (Pathogens)	Turfgrass Hosts*	Season of Occurrence	Cultural Management Methods
Pythium Blight <i>Pythium spp.</i>	All species Perennial ryegrass*	June - mid-September	Avoid excess nitrogen. Mow only when turf is dry. Improve soil and air drainage
Pythium Root Rot <i>Pythium spp.</i>	All species Annual bluegrass*	March - November (periods of slow plant growth)	As above. Improve drainage. Reduce thatch.‡
Anthracnose <i>Colletotrichum cereale</i>	Kentucky bluegrass* Fescues Annual bluegrass*	July - September	Avoid drought stress. Avoid compaction. Reduce thatch. ‡ Balanced N-P-K.**
Summer Patch <i>Magnaporthe poae</i>	Fine fescues* Kentucky bluegrass* Annual bluegrass	July - September	Avoid compaction. Avoid drought stress. Raise mowing height (2-3"). Improve drainage. Reduce thatch. ‡
Snow Molds Gray: <i>Typhula spp.</i> Pink: <i>Microdochium nivale</i>	All species Perennial ryegrass*	November - April (during extended periods of cool, wet weather, 32-60°F)	Continue mowing until growth ceases in the autumn. Avoid late nitrogen applications. Rake affected areas in the spring.

Notes:

*Most susceptible species.

**N-P-K is Nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. Soil testing is recommended.

‡ Thatch should be maintained at less than 1".

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Stop! Read the label on every pesticide container each time before using the material. Pesticides must be applied only as directed on the label to be in compliance with the law. All pesticides listed in this publication are contingent upon continued registration. Contact the Division of Pesticide Control at (603) 271-3550 to check registration status. Dispose of empty containers safely, according to New Hampshire regulations.

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