
Question of the Week

Q: I have what looks like pink threads in my lawn. What it is and how can I get rid of it?

A: This sounds like red thread, a fungal disease that occurs in cool, moist regions and is common in New Hampshire lawns, most often affecting fescue and perennial rye grasses.. The disease develops rapidly during periods of high moisture and cool temperatures. Symptoms include water-soaked, dark, irregular patches 2 - 24 inches in diameter, which gradually become bleached or tan-colored. As the disease advances, the fungus produces light pink or red strands of mycelium (the threadlike filaments that comprise the main body of a fungus) from the tips of the leaves.

Red thread is mostly a cosmetic concern and rarely kills turf grasses. It is most common on poorly fertilized, slow-growing turf during long periods of rain, high humidity, and temperatures between 40° and 70°F. You can control it effectively with good lawn-care practices: maintain adequate soil fertility, avoid overwatering and provide good soil drainage.

For a proper diagnosis and control recommendations UNH Cooperative Extension recommends sending a turf sample into the UNH Plant Diagnostic Laboratory. Download a form and submit with sample by visiting <http://extension.unh.edu/Home-Soil-Testing/2013-Forms>

Got questions? UNH Cooperative Extension's Education Center Info Line offers practical help finding answers for your lawn and garden questions. Call toll free at 1- 877-398-4769, M-F, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. You can also email us at answers@unh.edu