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LAWN FUNGI



Fungus: an Overview

Thank you for downloading our Lawn Fungi guide, we hope it will shed some light on the disease attacking your lawn and give you the confidence to fix your lawn.

It's important to realise that while conditions remain favourable for disease development you will continue to have problems with disease. This is why we recommend both a treatment option as well as cultural practices you can put in place to remove these conditions in the aim of prevent further infection.

Don't forget if you have further questions to check our blog or contact us.

This guide has been developed with the most common lawn fungi in mind and does not include all diseases that affect all grasses. If you have any questions it is recommended you contact us before purchase or application.

Anthracnose



Scientific name: *Colletotrichum graminicola*

What causes it:

Wet, soil and high humidity. Stress caused by heat when temperatures reach above 26 degrees. Soils low in the major nutrients nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium are affected. Compacted soils especially the first 20mm are particularly affected.

Prevention:

Apply fertiliser and reduce compaction through aeration as well as improve drainage

Susceptible grasses:

Fescues, Ryegrass, Wintergrass,

Treatment: Impala

Brown Patch



Scientific name: *Rhizoctonia* spp.

What causes it:

Wet and humid but cooler temperatures of 12-21 degrees. Short days with low light and high soil nitrogen. This is generally brought on by rainy conditions.

Prevention:

Improve drainage, good nitrogen levels, raise cutting height, control thatch

Susceptible grasses:

Bentgrass, Couch, Fescues, Kentucky Bluegrass, Kikuyu, Ryegrass, Buffalo, Zoysia

Treatment: Impala

Couchgrass Decline



Scientific name: *Gaeumannomyces graminis* var. *graminis*

What causes it:

Periods of intense rainfall in high temperatures, close cutting height and excessive thatch. Symptoms become more visual under moisture stress.

Prevention:

Raise cutting height, maintain moderate nitrogen, control thatch

Susceptible grasses:

Couch, Zoysia

Treatment: Impala

Dollar Spot



Scientific name: *Sclerotinia homoeocarpa*

What causes it:

Low nitrogen in the soil and lawn, rain following an extended dry period

Prevention:

Increase fertiliser particularly nitrogen and iron, control excessive thatch, raise cutting height, improve air movement, maintain a moist root zone

Susceptible grasses:

Bentgrass, Couch, Blue Couch, Fescues, Kentucky Bluegrass, Ryegrass, Zoysia, Kikuyu

Treatment: Impala, Chlortan, Bumper



Grey Leaf Spot



Scientific name: *Pyricularia grisea*

What causes it:

Wet, humid but warmer temperatures of 26-32 degrees, heavy dews, high nitrogen, close mowing and excessive irrigation

Prevention:

Use low or slow release nitrogen, provide adequate drainage, control thatch levels, keep irrigation at the right level

Susceptible grasses:

Buffalo, Bentgrass, Kentucky Bluegrass, Fescue, Zoysia, Couch, Kikuyu

Treatment: Impala, Chlortan

Pythium



Scientific name: *Pythium spp.*

What causes it:

Wet soils, high nitrogen fertility, very common on new seed

Prevention:

Ensure good drainage, avoid excessive irrigation, use high quality seed

Susceptible grasses:

Most lawn grasses

Treatment: Impala

Leaf Spot (Helmo.)



Scientific names: *Helminthosporium spp.*, *Dreschlera spp.*, *Bipolaris spp.*, *Exserohilum spp.*

What causes it:

Rainy, humid but cooler temperatures of 12-21 degrees, low light, high nitrogen, close mowing.

Prevention:

Improve drainage, maintain good nitrogen levels and raise cutting height

Susceptible grasses:

Bentgrass, Couch, Blue Couch, Fescues, Kentucky Bluegrass, Kikuyu, Ryegrass, Buffalo, Zoysia

Treatment: Impala

Rust



Scientific name: *Puccinia spp.*

What causes it:

Low nitrogen, shaded lawn, infrequent close mowing.

Prevention:

Increase fertiliser particularly nitrogen, raise mowing height.

Susceptible grasses:

Bentgrass, Couch, Blue Couch, Fescues, Kentucky Bluegrass, Ryegrass, Zoysia, Kikuyu

Treatment: Chlortan

Spring Dead Spot



Scientific name: *Ophiosphaerella namari*

What causes it:

Late Summer early Autumn nitrogen, dry soil and excessive thatch

Prevention:

Less susceptible cultivars, maintain moderate soil nitrogen and moisture. Remove thatch.

Susceptible grasses:

Buffalo, Bentgrass, Kentucky Bluegrass, Fescue, Zoysia, Couch, Kikuyu

Treatment: Impala

Prolonged leaf wetness is a contributor to lawn diseases, in particular leaf diseases.



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Take All Patch



Scientific name: *Gaeumannomyces graminis var. avenae*

What causes it:

Wet, cool temperatures (15-24 degrees), low nitrogen and alkaline soil

Prevention:

Improve soil pH to 5.5-6.0. Coring and maintain good moisture

Susceptible grasses:

Bentgrass, Fescues, Kentucky Bluegrass, Ryegrass

Treatment: Impala

Winter Fusarium



Scientific name: *Microdochium nivale*

What causes it:

Wet, cloudy weather, cool temperatures (0-6 degrees), high nitrogen in Autumn

Prevention:

Early autumn fertilising, control thatch, remove dew, improve air movement, provide surface drainage

Susceptible grasses:

Bentgrass, Fescue, Ryegrass, Kentucky Bluegrass, Couch and Kikuyu

Treatment: Impala

Impala



Active ingredients:

Triticonazole, Azoxystrobin

Diseases treated:

- Anthracnose (*Colletotrichum graminicola*),
- Brown Patch [leaf, crown & root] (*Rhizoctonia solani*),
- Dollar Spot (*Sclerotinia homoeocarpa*, *Clarireedia homoeocarpa*),
- Fusarium (*Fusarium nivale*, *Microdochium nivale*),
- Grey Leaf Spot (*Pyricularia grisea*),
- Helminthosporium Disease (*Bipolaris spp*, *Drechslera spp*, *Exserohilum spp*),
- Pythium Leaf Blight, Pythium Root Rot, Seedling Damping Off (*Pythium spp*),
- Take-All Patch (*Gaeumannomyces graminis var. avenae*)
- Couchgrass Decline (*Gaeumannomyces graminis var. graminis*),
- Spring Dead Spot (*Ophiosphaerella narmari*)

Tips for use:

Identify the disease and follow the label. Depending on if the disease is impacting the leaf, crown or roots it requires a different application technique.

Why we love it:

It treats a wide range of fungal issues, moves through the plant which means good results even if application is not perfect. It also comes in a great size pack for the home lawn.

Chlortan



Active ingredients:

Chlorothalonil

Diseases treated:

- Brown Patch (*Rhizoctonia solani*)
- Dollar Spot (*Scelrotina homoeocarpa*)

Tips for use:

Chlortan is best applied after mowing, that way you can treat as much of the remaining plant as possible.

Why we love it:

It's cost effective for one off treatments and works quickly.

Just like our own bodies, the nutrients that lawns receive, and the form it comes in, can play a big part in its health and ability to fight disease



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