



A Few Spring Diseases to be on the Watch For



If conditions are favorable, early spring diseases can cause damage to cool season turfgrasses and to some extent warm

season turfgrasses. Below are a few diseases to be on the lookout for.

Microdochium patch (pathogen: *Microdochium nivale*) also known as Fusarium patch and pink snow mould is active during cool wet weather of spring. *Microdochium patch* is mainly a problem on annual wintergrass and creeping bentgrass. Symptoms may appear as circular patches reddish-brown in color. Symptoms also appear in a streaking pattern along drainage areas, in mowing patterns or in low lying areas. *Microdochium nivale* produces an abundance of spores that spread by water causing the streaking pattern. Often times this streaking pattern is mistaken as cool temperature pythium. If you think you have cool temperature pythium, you probably have *Microdochium patch*.

Helminthosporium melting-out/leaf spot (pathogen: *Drechslera poe* (primarily), also *Bipolaris sorokiniana*) attacks several cool season turfgrasses during the cool wet weather of spring. Severity of this disease increases if weather patterns follow a cyclic pattern of cool wet weather followed by cool dry conditions. If this cycle persists the disease can become quite severe on Kentucky wintergrass, perennial ryegrass, and to some extent on creeping bentgrass. In contrast, annual wintergrass rarely gets this disease in the spring.

Yellow Patch (pathogen: *Rhizoctonia cerealis*) also known as cool temperature brown patch and winter brown patch appears during the cool wet weather of early spring. Symptoms appear as light brown, yellowish rings or patches with lesions often absent. The disease commonly occurs on annual wintergrass/creeping bentgrass greens, but also occurs on couchgrass. Yellow patch is normally of minor concern because it will often disappear with the arrival of warm dry conditions.

Anthracnose (pathogen: *Colletotrichum graminicola*) is often thought of as a summertime disease. However, it can also occur from early to late spring. The symptoms appear as bright yellowish-orange color patches or areas. During spring, anthracnose occurs almost exclusively on annual wintergrass. A sign of anthracnose is the presence of the fruiting structures in the crown area called acervuli. Often the presence of this disease is a sign that annual wintergrass is under some sort of stress. (traffic, low height of cut, too wet, etc.).

Photograph below shows the yellow ring patch of Yellow Patch. This picture was taken on an annual wintergrass green. Often times *Microdochium patch* is present along with yellow patch.



Questions?

If you have questions about the Syngenta TechNotes—SH contact Sam Hole at sam.hole@syngenta.com, your local Nuturf representative or visit www.greencast.com.au