

Rhizoctonia Can Be A Problem During Winter Months



On both cool and warm season turfgrasses, Yellow Patch, also



known as cool

temperature Brown Patch, can occur through the winter into early spring.

This disease is caused by *Rhizoctonia solani* and its common names include Yellow Patch, Cool-weather Brown Patch, Cool-temperature Brown Patch, and Winter Brown Patch.

Symptoms on cool season turfgrasses appear as light brown, yellowish rings or patches with lesions often absent.

On warm season turfgrasses, this disease occurs less often. These natural enemies are primarily insects.

However, if patches do occur it is normally when the warm

Does Your Creeping Bentgrass Turn Blue During The Winter Months?



Creeping bentgrass from late autumn to early spring may appear bluish, or

purplish in colour. The colour may be rather uniform but most of the time appears as patches. This purplish appearance is often found on older creeping bentgrass turfs but can occur on some of the newer creeping bentgrass cultivars. Although, some discolouration can occur in most of the cultivars.

The major cause of the purplish colouring is the attachment of sugars in the leaf to a plant pigment. Conditions favorable for the trapping of sugars is during bright sunny days with temperatures in the 60's (16 C) followed by a rapid

drop in temperatures with the setting of the sun. Under these types of environmental conditions, the plant is actively photosynthesizing during the day but with the rapid temperature drop at dusk, some of the photosynthates fail to be transported to the plant storage areas. The photosynthates (sugars) in the leaf attach to a purple pigment, anthocyanin, resulting in the expression of purplish leaf symptoms.

Once temperatures warm the purplish pattern will disappear. This phenomenon is often misdiagnosed as *Helminthosporium* melting-out, or phosphorus deficiency.

Rhizoctonia cont.

season turfgrass breaks dormancy in spring. Patches may reach several metres in diameter. As with cool season turfgrasses, leaf lesions are

often absent. Favourable conditions for disease development on both cool and warm season turfgrasses include prolonged cool to wet conditions.

Questions?

If you have questions about the Syngenta TechNotes SH contact Kate Dorahy at kate.dorahy@syngenta.com, Peter Sullivan at peter.sullivan@syngenta.com or your local Nuturf representative.

