

Be on the lookout for spring diseases**April 27, 2016**

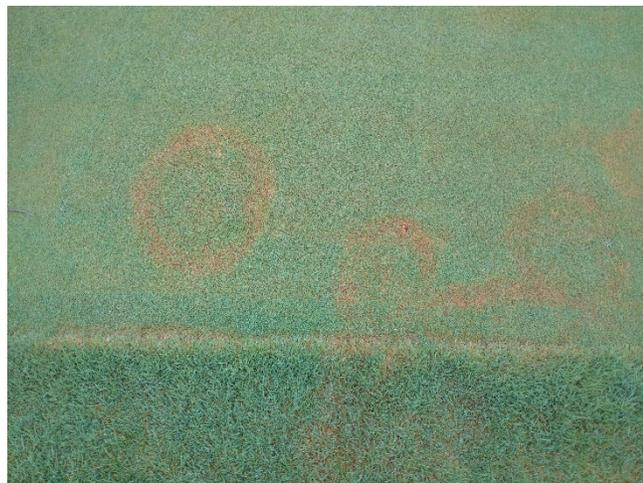
The recent rain and humidity has increased turf disease pressure. It is also an ideal time to apply important preventative applications for diseases like take-all and dollar spot. Below are a few diseases to keep in mind over the next couple of weeks:

Lawn:

- **Powdery Mildew (*Blumeria graminis*)** covers turfgrass leaves with white mycelium. While it may look funny, it does not present serious harm to the turfgrass. It is favored in wet and shaded sites. Chemical treatment is not recommended.
- **Leaf spot (*Bipolaris and Drechslera spp.*)** commonly occurs during wet spring weather, especially when excessive nitrogen fertilization and thatch are present. You will notice small lesions on infected turfgrass leaves that may cause the leaves to wither and die. Try to reduce early-season fertilization and reduce irrigation. Some control can be achieved with curative applications of fungicides in severe cases.

Golf and Sports Turf

- **Take-all patch (*Gaeumannomyces graminis*)** is an important root disease of young creeping bentgrass turf (<10 years old). This disease is common in Nebraska because its host can also be found on cereal grasses such as oats and wheat. The pathogen is active now but symptoms rarely show up until summer heat and drought stress. Symptoms may have appeared this spring with the dry and warm weather. Take-all kills turfgrass roots, which inhibit water and nutrient uptake. This leads to drought symptoms when ET is high. Preventative fungicide applications during spring and fall are important



Take-all patch on a 2-year-old bentgrass green at the JSA Turf Center. The dry spring caused the symptoms to become visible earlier than normal. Photo Matt Sousek.

- Symptoms may have appeared this spring with the dry and warm weather. Take-all kills turfgrass roots, which inhibit water and nutrient uptake. This leads to drought symptoms when ET is high. Preventative fungicide applications during spring and fall are important on young stands of bentgrass. Fungicides like azoxystrobin, fenarimol, pyraclostrobin, and triadimefon need to be applied and deeply watered in immediately after application. Applications are most effective when soil temperatures are between 45-60F, so we are nearing the end of this application window. Applications of manganese at 0.75 oz/1000 ft² can also help.
- **Dollar Spot (*Sclerotinia homoeocarpa*)** is one of most important diseases in Nebraska turfgrass. The risk of outbreak is greatest with extended high humidity and moderate air temperatures. There are many cultural and chemical controls for this disease. Systemic (penetrant) applied in

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early May can reduce the onset of dollar spot symptoms. Dr. Paul Koch at the University of Wisconsin Madison has studied early season dollar spot control for several years. A research report on the topic can be found [here](#).

- **Yellow Patch (*Rhizoctonia cerealis*)** is a cool- and wet-weather disease that typically creates thin yellow rings on annual bluegrass and creeping bentgrass. It will disappear with warming weather, but it can be controlled with fungicides like azoxystrobin, fludioxonil, flutolanil, and propiconazole.

This list is brief and not inclusive to all possible spring diseases. Learn more about how to control these pathogens here: <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/ppa/ppa1/ppa1.pdf>

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