

COMMON TURF PROBLEMS



BROWN PATCH (RHIZOCTONIA BLIGHT)

Circular patches of discoloured turf with a 'smoke ring' of gray or purple that disappear later in the day during hot-weather. Avoid excessive use of nitrogen before hot weather and eliminate thatch build-up.



DOLLAR SPOT

Thrives in high humidity with dry soil. Straw coloured circles and faint cobwebby growth visible in dew coloured grass. Fertilize and water regularly. Use fungicide as necessary. Avoid watering in late afternoon/evening.



EUROPEAN CHAFFER

One generation per year. Over-winters as larvae in the soil below the frost line. Larvae will migrate closer to the soil surface in April to mid-May to feed on plant roots. Larvae pupate in mid-May to mid-June.



EUROPEAN CRANE FLY

Larvae known as leatherjackets. Present beginning of October through August. In fall and early spring, larvae feed on top of thatch and leaf blades. In late spring, larger instars live in soil 1-3cm and feed at night.



PYTHIUM ROOT ROT

Irregular chlorotic, yellow/orange patches, discolor, or thin turf. Roots look water-soaked/rotted or show significant reduction in mass/root hair production. Occurs in cool or heat, especially in wet soil or with stress.



RUST

In hot and humid conditions, fungus produces orange pustules on leaf blades giving turf an orange appearance. Control with adequate fertilization and watering. Remove clippings when mowing.

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SUMMER PATCH

Emerges in hot, humid or wet weather in stressed turf. Establish disease resistant grass, aerate and assure good drainage. Use slow-release nitrogen fertilizer and deep irrigation.



BILLBUGS

Results in small, dead patches. When turf is pulled up, stalks break easily, are hollowed out or packed with sawdust. Hard shells are resistant to insecticide. Avoid with insect resistant seed blends.



CHINCH BUGS

Larvae suck the plant juices from grass, producing yellow patches. To diagnose, spread grass and look for small red and black bugs. Regular watering often eliminates chinch bugs.



DOG SPOTS

Brown circles that resemble dollar spot or brown patch. Caused by dog urine. Heavy watering will dilute excess salts. Overseeding may be necessary.



DROUGHT/HEAT STRESS

Happens during prolonged hot weather and the surface soil hardens making moisture penetration difficult. Use a wetting agent or surfactant to break down the barriers. Water 4" per week to minimize damage.



WEAR & TEAR FROM PLAY

Compacted soil and bare spots. Aerate and reseed with blends designed to withstand high traffic and wear.