

## TURF DISEASES AND CONTROLS

Disease is usually caused by overuse of fertilizers, fungicides and herbicides that disturb the balance of the soil system, and reduce activity and populations of beneficial organisms. The following chart may help you identify common turf diseases.

SYMPTOMS	DISEASE	CONTROLS	CONDITIONS FAVORING DISEASE DEVELOPMENT
Under snow 2" - 24" spots or circles. Grayish or reddish brown in color. As snow melts, pink around edges.	Pink Snow Mold (Fusarium Patch)	Fungus spreads in cool weather (32-61 degrees). Remove snow. Aerate and allow turf to dry out.	Cold, humid weather, especially under snow cover.
Patches 6" - 3' in diameter. Matted leaves grayish in color. As snow melts, gray around edges.	Gray Snow Mold (Typhula blight)	Fungus oversummers as dark-colored sclerotia on infected leaves. Sclerotia need temps of 50-64 degrees to germinate.	Cold, humid weather, especially under snow cover.
Small, dark purple or black leaf spots occur during cool weather in spring or fall. Center of spots may turn light tan. As spots enlarge to point, entire leaf looks tan.	Melting Out	Clear all turf debris. Thatch. Spot treat with Captan or Fore.	High nitrogen levels. Too much water. Mowing too low.
Round straw-colored spots the size of quarter to silver dollar.	Dollar Spot	Water only in daylight hours. Use commercial organic fertilizers containing actinomycetes.	Low nitrogen levels. Dry soil. High humidity. Moderate temperatures.
Rough circular brown patches from a few inches to several feet in size. Leaves turn purplish green, then brown and die.	Brown Patch (Rhizoctonia)	Highly resistant to fungicides. Remove turf debris. Thatch. Aerate.	High nitrogen levels. Too much water. Warm wet weather.
Circles or arcs of dark green grass. May contain mushrooms. Dead area to inside or outside of ring.	Fairy Rings	Remove affected soil to 2' deep. Aerate soil in ring area to 12". Thatch turf area yearly.	Decomposing lawn clippings.