

Disease Management in Home Lawns

Extension Bulletin 0938

**Cooperative Extension
College of Agriculture and Home Economics**

DISEASE CONTROL IN HOME LAWNS

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Disease	Symptoms	Conditions	Presence in Washington	Management	
		Favoring Disease		Cultural	Fungicidal ^(a)
BROWN PATCH <i>Rhizoctonia solani</i>	Brown irregular-shaped or circular patches.	Moist, warm (above 80°F).	Common in <i>eastern</i> Washington. Not common in <i>western</i> Washington.	Avoid excessive irrigation and high nitrogen fertility.	fenarimol, flutolanil, chlorothalonil, triadimefon.
FAIRY RING <i>Marasmius oreades</i>	Rings of dark green grass and sometimes dead zones, with or without tan mushrooms 1-2" in diameter.	Mild, moist. Mushrooms mostly in spring and fall.	Common on all turf-grasses in <i>western</i> Washington. Fairly common on turfgrasses in <i>eastern</i> Washington.	Open soil mechanically. Daily soakings of rings with water for one month. Keep turf well fertilized.	flutolanil
FUSARIUM PATCH <i>Microdochium nivale</i> (<i>Fusarium nivale</i>)	Browning and thinning of turf in large (1-8") indefinite spots. Also see Pink Snow Mold.	Cool, wet.	Very common on bentgrass and annual bluegrass in <i>western</i> Washington. Common in <i>eastern</i> Washington.	Promote air and soil drainage. Avoid excessive nitrogen. 2.0 lbs. sulfur per 1000 sq. ft. per year may help.	fenarimol, mancozeb, triadimefon. Use twice in spring and twice in fall.
HELMINTHOSPORIUM DISEASES <i>Bipolaris</i> , <i>Drechslera</i> and <i>Exserohilum</i> species (<i>Helminthosporium</i> sp.)	Root and crown rot resulting in yellowing and thinning of turf or tan to purple spots on leaves.	Moist.	Common on bluegrasses and rye grasses.	Water in morning; pick up clippings. Do not let grass get matted. Avoid excessive nitrogen.	chlorothalonil, mancozeb
NECROTIC RING SPOT <i>Leptosphaeria korrae</i>	Dead circles, arches, and patches several inches to several feet in diameter.	Spring and fall in <i>eastern</i> Washington; spring through fall in <i>western</i> Washington.	On seeded and sodded bluegrass. Most common on sodded turf, 2 to 3 years after establishment.	Promote deep rooted turf by proper fertilizer and water management.	fenarimol
RED THREAD <i>Laetisaria fuciformis</i> (<i>Corticium fuciforme</i>)	Bleached or tan-colored irregular areas 2-24" with red fungus strands.	Cool, moist.	Very common in <i>western</i> Washington. Occasional in <i>eastern</i> Washington.	Use adequate nitrogen in a balanced NPK nutritional program. Late fall fertilizer applications especially important.	chlorothalonil, fenarimol, flutolanil, mancozeb, triadimefon See EB1016.
RUST <i>Puccinia</i> sp.	Leaves turn yellow. Yellow to orange to reddish-brown powdery growths on leaves.	Variable.	Most common on certain bluegrasses, especially Merion. Also on perennial ryegrasses.	Increase nitrogen. Water during dry periods. Mow frequently.	Usually not necessary. if needed: chlorothalonil, mancozeb, triadimefon.

SLIME MOLDS	White to yellowish slimy growth, usually turning to masses of small, dark, powdery "pin-heads" on large leaves; occasionally large (1-3") gray powdery mounds. Not parasitic.	Mild, moist.	Occasional spring and fall.	Mow, rake or wash off with water. Usually disappears after 1-2 weeks.	Common turf fungicides may prevent reappearance. See EB1083.
SNOW MOLDS Gray Snow Mold <i>Typhula</i> sp.	Irregular dead, bleached areas 2-24" with a gray mold, usually under or near melting snow	Cold, wet; worse under prolonged snow cover.	Not common in <i>western</i> Washington. Very common in <i>northeastern</i> area.	Avoid late, heavy nitrogen fertilization.	Apply before snowfall: chlorothalonil, fenarimol, triadimefon, flutolanil. See EM4047.
Pink Snow Mold <i>Microdochium nivale</i> (<i>Fusarium nivale</i>)	Circular light brown to dark brown patches 2-12" Patches commonly bleached under snow and covered with pink fungus. Also see <i>Fusarium</i> patch.	Cold, wet; worse under prolonged snow cover.	Not common in <i>western</i> Washington. Very common in <i>northeastern</i> area.	Avoid late, heavy nitrogen fertilization.	Apply before snowfall: fenarimol, mancozeb, triadimefon. See EM4047.
TAKE-ALL PATCH <i>Gaeumannomyces graminis</i> var. <i>avenae</i> (<i>Ophiobolus graminis</i> var. <i>avenae</i>)	Thinning and/or dying of turf in circles 4-36" followed by invasion of weeds and annual bluegrass in center.	High moisture favors disease development, but symptoms do not show until turf is under moisture stress.	Common on bentgrass in <i>western</i> Washington. Occasional in <i>eastern</i> Washington.	Use ammonium sulfate in balanced NPK (3-1-2 ratio) nutrition. Avoid high lime. 2.0 lbs. of sulfur per 1000 sq. ft. per year may help.	fenarimol See EB0939.
YELLOW PATCH <i>Rhizoctonia cerealis</i>	Light brown to yellow patches and rings.	Prolonged moisture at 40-60°F	Common on bentgrass bluegrass and fescue	Avoid excessive irrigation and fertilization; manage to ensure deep rooting.	flutolanil

^(a) See last page for trade names of registered fungicides.

Use pesticides with care. Apply them only to plants, animals, or sites listed on the label. When mixing and applying pesticides, follow all label precautions to protect yourself and others around you. It is a violation of the law to disregard label directions. If pesticides are spilled on skin or clothing, remove clothing and wash skin thoroughly. Store pesticides in their original containers and keep them out of reach of children, pets, and livestock.

The law requires that pesticides be used as label directs. Uses against pests not named on the label and low application rates are permissible exceptions. If there is any apparent conflict between label directions and the pesticide uses suggested in this publication, consult your county Extension agent.

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FUNGICIDES REGISTERED FOR HOME LAWN USE IN WASHINGTON AGAINST TURFGRASS DISEASE⁽¹⁾

Common Name	Trade Name	Registrant
chlorothalonil	Blackleaf Lawn and Garden Fungicide	Wilbur-Ellis Company
	Cooke Daconil	Cooke Laboratory Products, Chas. H. Lilly Company
	Green Thumb Lawn and Garden Fungicide	Cotter & Co.
	Ortho Multi-Purpose Fungicide	Solaris Corp.
fenarimol	*Rubigan A.S.	Dow Elanco Company
flutolanil	*Prostar 50 WP	Nor-Am Chemical Company
mancozeb	Fore Lawn Fungicide	Black Leaf Products Company
	Maneb Plus with Zinc	Green Light Company
	Broad Spectrum Mancozeb Spray	Green Light Company
triadimefon	Bayleton 25 Turf and Ornamental Fungicide	Miles Agricultural Chemical Division
	Fung-away	Green Light Company

⁽¹⁾ Before you purchase any of these fungicides, read the label to make certain the package you have selected is labeled for your intended use, and then follow all label directions and precautions.

* These fungicides are registered for use by homeowners but are not commonly found in most garden centers. Check farm and feed stores as possible sources of these fungicides. They will only be available in larger containers (1-4 lb. bags, for example).