

## Apprentice Corner

### Red Thread Disease (*Laetisaria fuciformis*)

*This is a disfiguring, rather than a killing, disease. It attacks chiefly Festuca and Agrostis species in early to mid summer and again in autumn. It is most prevalent in wet seasons, giving a paradoxically droughted appearance despite heavy rain.*

*The characteristic pink or red outgrowths can be so prolific in muggy weather as to*

*give the entire affected area of fine turf a pink tinge.*

*It is rarely worth using fungicides to 'control' this disease - especially as a light, nitrogenous dressing will soon correct it. Beware of late nitrogen applications, of course, as red thread may be replaced by Fusarium patch disease.*



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