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.