

NECROTIC RING SPOT - LEPTOSPHERA KORRAE

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Necrotic Ring Spot, formerly considered part of the Fusarium Blight Syndrome, first appears as small dead patches or rings in Kentucky Bluegrass turf. Some amount of reddening of leaf tissues in the patch area may occur, particularly in cool weather during spring, summer or fall. New patch symptoms may appear throughout the season, from early spring through fall, with existing patches spreading during stress periods. In severe cases, patches may coalesce or may develop in a serpentine pattern over a whole lawn. This disease, as well as Summer Patch, caused by Phialophora graminicola, is characterized by dark, runner fungal hyphae on the roots, rhizomes, and crowns. These two diseases cannot be easily differentiated except by isolating the casual fungus from the roots of diseased plants.

Good cultural practices, such as raising the mowing height and avoiding drought stress are important in areas prone to patch diseases. Adequate balanced fertility will aid in recolonization of the dead areas with new tillers and plants, but symptoms may appear again under the right conditions.

Because of inadequate disease data from our test sites, fungicide recommendations are highly speculative. Several fungicides have shown promise in control of this disease however. These include Rubigan, Tersan 1991, Clearys 3336, Fungo 50, and Banner. Chipco 26019 has occasionally given satisfactory results, but its effectiveness is debatable.