

## Sample plans for Summer Patch at three different sites

EACH SPECIFIC PROBLEM SITE requires a different course of action that reflects the contributing factors involved. Here are three different kinds of sites and a sample course of action for each site.

### Site #1

SPRING at a recent up-scale development with four-year old bluegrass sod, which was installed by the developer. A sprinkler system was also installed, and is set to run every other day for 15–20 minutes per location. The homeowners have been fertilizing the lawn two to three times a year for the past three years. Thatch has reached 3/4", and is dry and undecomposed. The sod soil is loose and open. The subsoil is fine textured, dense clay. Roots are 1.5" deep. Summer Patch damage to the front of the lawn is moderate to heavy.



#### RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION

##### Current year

1. Test soil, and apply soil amendments as recommended.
2. Dethatch the whole front lawn—with heavy emphasis on damaged areas to remove a source of re-infection.
3. Slit seed the whole lawn with top quality ryegrass at 2 lbs./1000 ft.<sup>2</sup>, in one direction. Slit seed damaged areas a second time with Summer Patch resistant bluegrass at 1 lb./msf. at 45° angle to first slit.
4. Base fertilization on recommendations of soil test, using as much slow release material as possible and at 3.5–4 lbs. of nitrogen/year.
5. Change settings on sprinkler system to once or twice a week for 1.5–2 hours per location, after seed is established. Water preferably in early morning hours.
6. Make at least 2 wetting agent applications per year at recommended rates, spring and mid-summer, to improve water and dissolved oxygen penetration.
7. Make 2 or 3 fungicide applications at recommended rates, starting at least 60 days before late July.

##### Next year out

1. Continue soil tests.
2. Begin twice annual coring program.
3. Continue to apply wetting agents.
4. Make one or two fungicides annually starting in June.

### Site #2

OLDER SITE where large trees were removed from a predominantly fine fescue turf. Extensive damage first year after trees removed. Site will be low maintenance.



#### RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION

##### Current year (spring)

1. Test soil, and apply soil amendments as recommended.
2. Slit seed area two ways with a dwarf tall fescue at 2 lbs./1000 ft.<sup>2</sup> in the spring and again in fall, to change dominant turf to a less susceptible tall fescue variety.
3. Fertilize 2 times per year with very slow release nitrogen source.
4. Make fungicide applications on a curative basis and only if tall fescue is infected. Vulnerable fine fescue varieties will fade out, because of disease pressure.

##### Next year and out

1. Continue soil testing.
2. Follow soil test recommendations.
3. Fertilize twice a year with slow release nitrogen source.
4. Slit seed area in fall a third and last time with dwarf tall fescue and a compatible bluegrass variety.

### Site #3

DRAINAGE AREA at local golf club—in the rough very close to the green of the 18th hole. Damage is chronic and severe. The turf is predominantly bluegrass.



#### RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION

##### Current year (fall)

1. Dethatch area to remove damaged turf.
2. Slit seed area with ryegrass or tall fescue.

##### Next year and out

1. Core area of damage and up hill of area heavily three or four times a year.
2. Use wetting agents monthly, at 1/2–3/4 recommended rates from spring through mid-summer, in drainage area and up hill of it to improve water infiltration and reduce time excess water spends in root zone.
3. Make moderate to heavy gypsum applications annually to compensate for calcium leaching out of the root zone.
4. Use root stimulating compounds to develop a stronger root structure.
5. Use fungicides after wet periods, when soil temperatures are in the maximum range. ■