

# Nine Turf Diseases



**Curvularia leaf spot:** Frequently, new growth at the tips remains green. Older leaves become chlorotic; eventually they turn brown and die. Susceptible grasses — centipede grass, zoysiagrass and bermudagrass.



**Brown patch:** Occurs in more or less circular areas varying from a few inches to several feet in diameter. Affected leaf blades first appear water-soaked and dark-colored, then wilt and become light brown as tissue dies.



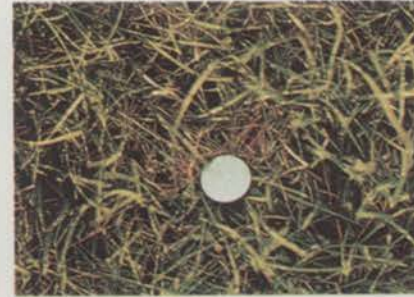
**Copper spot and dollar spot:** With copper spot, spots first appear as small red to brown water-soaked lesions becoming straw-colored with purple borders and elongated. Diseased leaf blades usually covered with copper-colored fungus spores.



**Stem rust:** Small, elongated brick-red pustules of spores on leaves. Lesions may be surrounded by a green, yellow or brown border depending on age of pustule and susceptibility of the grass.



**Dollar spot:** Lesions are light tan with a reddish brown border and may extend downward from the leaf tip to an inch or more in length. Stems may also be affected. In early morning, when grass is wet, wisps of white fungus *mycelium* or threads may be observed on diseased turf.



**Red thread:** Coral-pink to red fungus strands may be seen on leaves and leaf sheaths binding leaves together. Affected turf areas are more or less circular and vary from two to 15 inches in diameter. When dry, the pink strands resemble red threads.



**Helminthosporium leaf spot:** Symptoms include general thinning out of grass in scattered areas. Often, general browning is evident on affected plants. Circular to elongated purplish, brown to dark brown, or reddish brown spots with white, tan brown or straw-colored centers on leaf blades, sheaths and stems.

**Gray leaf spot:** Lesions are round to oval, gray with brown or purple borders on leaf blades. Under warm, humid conditions, spots may be covered with gray mold. Lesions on stem are gray to brown.

