

COOL-SEASON TURFGRASS DISEASES

DISEASE	SUSCEPTIBLE GRASS	FAVORABLE CONDITIONS	MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES
Brown patch/ rhizoctonia blight	TALL FESCUE, ryegrass, Kentucky bluegrass, fine fescue	hot/wet	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. avoid excessive nitrogen; 2. avoid excessive watering and poor drainage; 3. increase air circulation and sunlight
Dollar spot	BLUEGRASS, fine fescue, ryegrass	moderate/wet leaves and dry soil	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. avoid nitrogen deficiency; 2. choose resistant grass varieties; 3. water to increase growth
Gray leaf spot	PERENNIAL RYEGRASS, tall fescue	warm/humid; wet foliage (often late summer and fall)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. avoid stress on turf; 2. water adequately but with extending time foliage is wet; 3. avoid high fertilizer in summer; 4. reduce soil compaction; 5. young ryegrass plantings are more sensitive than mature
Leaf spot/melting out	KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS, fine fescue, ryegrass, tall fescue	leaf spot — cool/wet (spring/fall); melting out — hot/dry (summer)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. raise cutting height; 2. mow frequently to avoid stress; 3. avoid excessive nitrogen; 4. avoid light frequent watering and prolonged wet grass
Necrotic ring spot	KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS, fine fescue	warm/extremes in soil moisture	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. avoid low mowing heights; 2. reduce excessive thatch; 3. use Kentucky bluegrass and perennial mixtures; 4. avoid excessive watering or drought stress; 5. use slow-release fertilizer
Powdery mildew	KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS, fine fescue	moderate/high humidity; shade	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. reduce shade; 2. increase air circulation by removing surrounding vegetation; 3. use resistant Kentucky bluegrass varieties
Pythium blight	PERENNIAL RYEGRASS and new seedlings of all types	very hot/wet	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. improve soil drainage; 2. increase air circulation by removing surrounding vegetation 3. avoid excess watering; 4. avoid high rates of nitrogen
Red thread	PERENNIAL RYEGRASS, FINE FESCUE	moderate/wet foliage	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. balanced fertilization program; 2. promote growth by aeration and watering; 3. use resistant varieties
Rust	PERENNIAL RYEGRASS, Kentucky bluegrass	moderate/wet foliage, dry soil	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. avoid nitrogen deficiency; 2. use resistant varieties; 3. water if dry and promote growth
Summer patch	KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS, fine fescue	warm/extremes in soil moisture (fluctuating from wet to dry)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. avoid low mowing thatch buildup; 2. maintain soil pH between 6 and 7; 3. frequent watering in dry periods to avoid heat stress; 4. use slow-release nitrogen; 5. use Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass mix

* Turfgrass in all capital letters have highest potential for severe problems

* Check your county cooperative extension agent for fungicide recommendations