

TURFGRASS DISEASES BY SEASON

TURF TYPE	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL
Kentucky bluegrass	snow mold; leaf spot; yellow patch; red thread; fairy ring	melting out; necrotic ring spot/summer patch; dollar spot; brown patch; powdery mildew; rust	leaf spot; red thread; rust; powdery mildew
Perennial ryegrass	snow mold; red thread; leaf spot/blight; fairy ring	brown patch; dollar spot; pythium; rust; red thread; leaf spot/blight; gray leaf spot	rust; red thread; leaf spot/blight; gray leaf spot
Tall fescue	snow mold; leaf spot; fairy ring	brown patch	leaf spot
Fine fescue	red thread; leaf spots; fairy ring	red thread; dollar spot	red thread; leaf spots

* These are general time frames for disease occurrence. Depending on local weather and site conditions, disease outbreaks and the duration of activity may vary. Remember the genetic susceptibility of the grass and the environment are the predominant factors driving the occurrence of disease development.

** All the above turfgrasses are prone to fairy ring when there are favorable weather conditions.

Source: Joseph Rimelspach & Michael Boehm, *Landscape Management*, May 1999, page 48.

WARM-SEASON TURFGRASS DISEASES

Disease	Susceptible grass	Favorable conditions	Management strategies
Brown patch	ST. AUGUSTINEGRASS, ZOYSIAGRASS, all major warm-season grasses	moisture/warm temperatures, heavy nitrogen applications	1. moderate nitrogen applications; 2. water when soil is dry and let it soak in; 3. apply fungicide when disease is diagnosed
Dollar spot	BERMUDAGRASS, ZOYSIAGRASS	dry soil/surface moisture, mild weather, low nitrogen	1. moderate nitrogen applications; 2. adequate morning irrigation to soil; 3. moderate fungicide applications to control
Pythium blight	OVERSEEDED COOL-SEASON GRASSES, bermudagrass, zoysiagrass	moist/warm (cool days for cool-season grasses)	1. use treated seed; 2. delay overseeding until cool weather or as late as possible; 3. water sparingly during disease activity times
Gray leaf spot	ST. AUGUSTINEGRASS	humid/warm, high nitrogen, semishade	1. use nitrogen sparingly; 2. water in the morning; 3. water infrequently but thoroughly; 4. treat with appropriate fungicides
Spring dead spot	BERMUDAGRASS	high nitrogen/low potassium, heavy thatch	1. remove thatch; 2. avoid excessive nitrogen; 3. promote slow, even growth for winter hardiness; 4. use appropriate fungicides

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

**Check your county cooperative extension agent for fungicide recommendations.

SOURCE: ED A. BROWN, LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT, MAY 1999, PAGES 42-46