



# Fusarium Patch

## › Causal Agent: *Microdochium nivale*

## › Susceptible Turfgrass

Wintergrass, Bentgrass, Fescue, Ryegrass & Kentucky Bluegrass.

## › Symptoms

- Circular patches appear as small, water-soaked spots less than 5cm in diameter.
- Patches change in colour from orange-brown to dark brown and finally to a light gray.
- Spots may enlarge indefinitely, but are usually less than 20cm in diameter.
- On low cut turf a halo-like “smoke ring” may appear on the outer margin of the patch. The outer ring may have a water-soaked appearance.
- In very wet conditions a thin to fluffy covering of white mycelium may be seen on matted leaves.
- The mycelium is white, but on exposure to sunlight induces spore production which is a pink colour.

## › Conditions Favouring Disease

- More than 10 hours a day of foliar wetness for several consecutive days.
- Cool temperatures.
- Soil high in nitrogen fertility and low phosphorous and potassium.
- Areas with slow growing conditions and heavy thatch.

## › Management Tips

- Maintain balance fertility.
- Avoid using lime. Alkaline soils enhance disease development.
- Maintain low soil pH.
- Use slow release fertilisers when fertilising in Autumn.
- Increase air circulation to speed turf’s drying process.
- Minimise the amount of shade.
- Avoid excessive thatch.

## › General Comments

Symptoms are evident from May to September in the southern states of Australia.



## › Distribution

New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania.