



# Leptosphaerulina Leaf Blight

## › Causal Agent: *Leptosphaerulina* spp.

## › Susceptible Turfgrass

Wintergrass, Kentucky Bluegrass, Bentgrass, Fescues & Ryegrass.

## › Symptoms

- Individual leaves generally start dying back from the tip and may have uniform yellow to brown lesions extending down to the leaf sheaths.
- Water-soaked spots on the leaf blade, may occur, these quickly fade to a bleached white colour.
- The overall effect of such lesions closely resembles bleaching from high temperatures, frost or dull mower injuries.
- Large areas of turf may become uniformly blighted or appear patchy because of local pockets or more heavily infected grass.
- Tiny brown fruiting bodies (perithecia) develop on the dead tissue.

## › Conditions Favouring Disease

- Periods of warm, humid weather.
- Stressful soil conditions.
- Severe on turf stressed by herbicides applied to control annual grass weeds.

## › Management Tips

- Practice good turfgrass management to prevent severe turfgrass stress.
- Apply adequate amounts of balanced fertilisers to ensure a healthy turf.
- Irrigate thoroughly, deeply and infrequently as possible to avoid moisture stress.
- Do not irrigate turf in the later afternoon or evening.
- Do not mow grass when it is wet.
- Avoid applying herbicides or installing new sod during or before extended periods of hot, humid weather.

## › General Comments

Symptoms of this disease may be confused with those of Nigrospora Leaf Spot, Ascochyta Leaf Blight or Dollar Spot.



## › Distribution

New South Wales, Queensland & Victoria.