Curvularia Leaf Spot

› Causal Agent: *Curvularia* spp.

› Susceptible Turfgrass
  Wintergrass, Kentucky Bluegrass, Bentgrass, Fescue, Couch.

› Symptoms
  • Individual leaves initially show yellow and green dapple patterns that extend downwards from the leaf tip.
  • Infected leaves turn brown, then grey as they shrivel and die.
  • Irregular shaped patches of thinned turf appear, often coalescing to affect larger areas.
  • Stolons and leaf sheaths may also rot.

› Conditions Favouring Disease
  • Curvularia Leaf Spot occurs in areas that experience prolonged leaf wetness for several consecutive days.
  • Curvularia occurs at temperatures, 25 to 35°C.
  • Soil compaction and excessive levels of nitrogen and thatch.

› Management Tips
  • Maintain balanced fertility.
  • Increase the height of cut.
  • Avoid nitrogen applications in the spring when the disease is active.
  • Increase the air circulation.
  • Avoid over watering.
  • Improve the drainage of the turf.
  • Reduce thatch accumulation.

› General Comments
  • Curvularia is a secondary disease after primary pathogens such as Spring Dead Spot and Helminthosporium, have infected turfgrass.
  • However it can be found to cause minor disease infections on its own.
  • Physiological changes in the turfgrass plant can increase susceptibility to Curvularia when the light intensity is low or when the mowing height is lower than recommended for the specific situation.

› Distribution
  Found in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.