



# Fairy Ring

## › Causal Agent

*Basidiomycetes* in the order *Agaricales* are capable of causing Fairy Rings.

The most common ones in Australia are; *Lycoperdon*; *Marasmius*; *Tricholoma*; however there are over 50 causal agents of this fungus.

## › Susceptible Turfgrass

Occurs in all turfgrasses.

## › Symptoms

- Fairy Ring symptoms vary with causal agents (fungal species).
- Circular or arc shaped rings of darker or faster-growing turf appears in moist turf.
- A concentric ring of dead grass may develop inside the circle of lush grass.
- The size of the rings can vary from a few centimetres to indefinitely large.
- Activity in the turf stops when the individual rings come into contact with each other.
- Mushrooms or toadstools may be produced in the outer ring of lush growth.
- As mycelium grows the soil becomes hydrophobic.
- In a mature Fairy Ring, the outer ring of lush grass may be missing, leaving an outer ring of plant death and an inner ring of green turf.

## › Conditions Favouring Disease

- Fairy Rings are more severe on light soils, which have low fertility and low moisture content.
- Turf with a significant thatch layer.
- Drier areas have significantly more Fairy Rings than higher rainfall areas.

## › Management Tips

- Avoid using root zone mixes with high levels of undecomposed organic materials.
- Reduce thatch by vertical cutting.
- Core aerify.
- Irrigate deeply.



- Use nitrogen and iron fertilisers to mask symptoms on some types of fairy ring.
- Use soil wetting agents to help penetrate hydrophobic areas.

## › General Comments

- Fairy Rings are more prevalent and damaging on lightly irrigated and fertilised fairways and lawns than on well irrigated and fertilised turf.
- Fairy Rings typically occur in spring and summer, however they can also occur on cool season turfgrass in mild winter climates.

## › Distribution

Found in all states of Australia.

NO CHEMICAL CONTROL OPTIONS  
CURRENTLY REGISTERED