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.