



Red Thread

› Causal Agent: *Laetisaria fuciformis*

› Susceptible Turfgrass

Cool season turfgrasses.

› Symptoms

- Circular or irregularly shaped, small to large patches (5 to 15cm) in diameter of infected grass become water-soaked and die rapidly.
- First symptoms observed is the tan colour of dead leaves.
- Dead leaves are generally interspersed among uninfected leaves giving an overall diffuse, scorched or ragged appearance to the patch.
- Only the foliage is infected and death usually proceeds from the leaf tips downwards.
- Pink to pale red or orange fungal growths (red threads) may extend up to 10mm beyond the leaf tips.
- Pink, cottony flocks of mycelium may be produced.
- When red threads or strands are present, the patched of blighted grass take on a reddish, pink or tan cast that is easily detected.

› Conditions Favouring Disease

- Foliar wetness, heavy dews, light rains and fog resulting in more than 10 hours a day of foliar wetness for several consecutive days.
- Thrives in temperatures between 17°C to 29°C.
- Severe when potassium, phosphorus, calcium and nitrogen are deficient.
- Red Thread causes disease primarily during periods when grass is growing slowly as a result of low temperatures, drought or inadequate fertility.

› Management Tips

- Mow turf frequently and collect clippings to remove diseased portions of the leaves.
- Maintain adequate nitrogen and a balanced fertility.
- Apply moderate to high amounts of phosphorous and potassium.
- Maintain the soil pH between 6.5 to 7.0.
- Reduce shade.



- Increase the air circulation to the turf.
- Irrigate turf deeply and as infrequently as possible.
- Avoid frequent watering in the late afternoon.

› General Comments

This disease is particularly difficult to diagnose when red threads or cottony strands are not present.

By increasing N levels we can reduce the disease incidence.

› Distribution

New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory, South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania.