



Brown Patch

› Causal Agent: *Rhizoctonia solani*

› Susceptible Turfgrass

Wintergrass, Couch, Bentgrass, Fescues, Kentucky Bluegrass, Ryegrass & Buffalo Grass.

› Symptoms

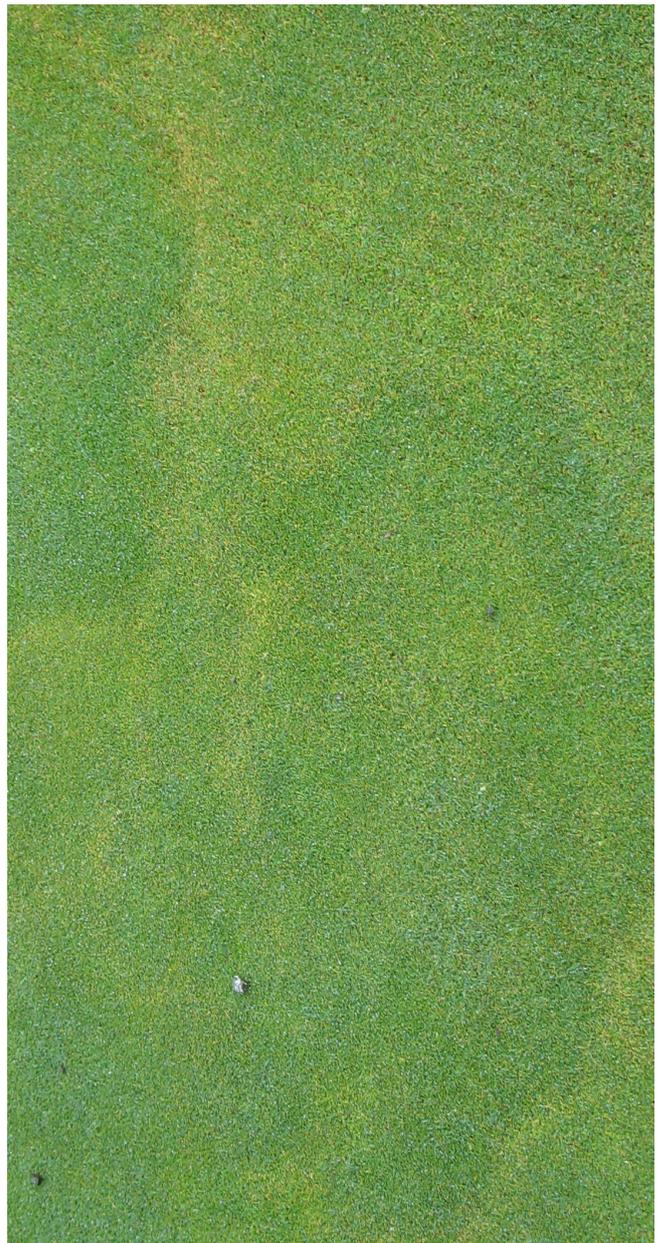
- Brown discoloured circular patches, from a few centimetres up to a metre in diameter, sometimes with a smoke ring of mycelium around the edges.
- “Smoke rings” appear as thin brown borders around the diseased patches appearing in the early morning.
- Infected leaves are water-soaked and dark, later dying and turning dark brown.
- After the infected leaves die, new leaves can emerge from the surviving crowns.
- On wide bladed species, leaf lesions develop with tan centres and dark brown to black margins.

› Conditions Favouring Disease

- High relative humidity and temperatures of over 28°C during the day and over 15.5°C at night.
- More than 10 hours a day of foliar wetness for several consecutive days.
- Turfgrass species are most affected when night temperatures are consistently above 20°C with high humidity or moisture.

› Management Tips

- Use low to moderate amounts of nitrogen, moderate amounts of phosphorous and moderate to high amount of potassium.
- Avoid nitrogen applications when the disease is active.
- Increase the height of cut.
- Increase the air circulation.
- Minimise the amount of shade.
- Irrigate turf early in the day.
- Improve the drainage of the turf.
- Reduce thatch.
- Remove dew from turf early in the day.



› General Comments

- The symptoms of brown patch can vary depending on the grass cultivar, climatic and atmospheric conditions, soil and intensity of the turfgrass management.
- Brown Patch is most severe in Spring and Autumn.
- Brown Patch infestation is more severe when the turf is cut to a height less than the optimum for the turfgrass being grown.

› Distribution

Found in all Australian states.