



Downy Mildew

› Causal Agent: *Sclerophthora macrospora*

› Susceptible Turfgrass

All cool season turfgrass species.

› Symptoms

- Early symptoms are slightly stunted growth and slightly thickened or broadened leaf blades without any discolouration.
- When the disease is severe, small yellow circular patches 1 to 10cm in diameter appear in the turf.
- Patches contain a dense cluster of excessively tillered yellow shoots with shortened roots, which are easily pulled from the turf.
- Infected new seedling turf form individual clusters of dense shoots that are yellow in colour.
- A white downy growth may occur on leaf surfaces during cool, wet periods.

› Conditions Favouring Disease

- Wet conditions are required for Downy Mildew to develop.
- The yellow tufting symptom occurs more commonly in temperate climates, with the downy growth occurring only in warmer weather.
- Typically occurs in wet, poorly drained low areas.

› Management Tips

- Improve drainage of the turf.
- Increase air circulation.
- Use proper surface contours to minimise water movement and accumulation on the turf's surface.
- Avoid high or excessive levels of nitrogen that result in lush growth.

› General Comments

- Downy Mildew symptoms are difficult to diagnose in mown turfgrass.
- Symptoms for Downy Mildew vary depending on the grass cultivar.



- The disease typically infects cool season turf in early to late spring and mid to late autumn.
- Warm season grass are affected primarily during the humid weather of summer and can be more severe in shaded areas.
- Called Yellow Tuff in Victoria.

› Distribution

Victoria & New South Wales.

NO CHEMICAL CONTROL OPTIONS
CURRENTLY REGISTERED