



Drechslera

› Causal Agent: *Drechslera* spp.

› Susceptible Turfgrass

Cool season turfgrasses.

› Symptoms

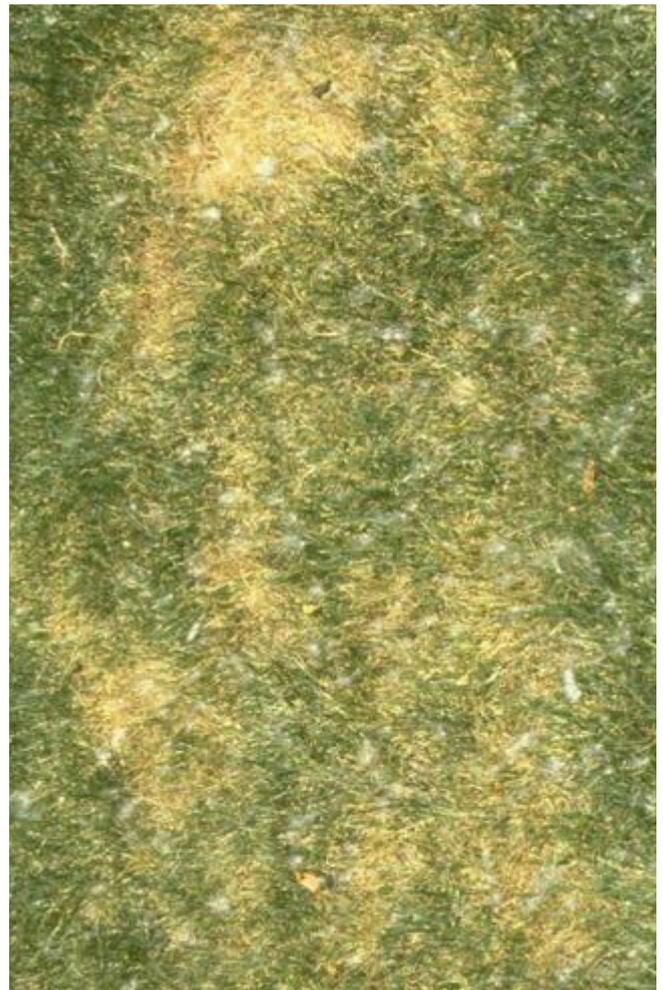
- Small, water-soaked lesions may initially appear in infected foliage.
- Lesions may then become dark reddish purple to brown in colour with a yellow chlorotic margin.
- Deepening of lesions occurs until lesions become pitted and ulcerous in appearance, resulting in the angled collapse of infected leaf blades.
- Lesions are generally ovular to oblong in shape, running parallel to the leaf blade or rhizome and as they enlarge they may coalesce to blight entire leaves.
- Patchy blighted areas of turf may result in melting out of large areas, where turf becomes thin and unthrifty.
- Crown and root rot may also occur resulting in wilting and chlorosis.

› Conditions Favouring Disease

- *Drechslera* is active year round with a temperature range for conidia germination of 3-27°C and an optimum temperature of 15-18°C.
- The pathogen has survival mechanisms allowing it to persist through temperature extremes of hot and cold.
- Cool wet conditions are most favourable for leaf spot symptoms to occur.
- Moisture on the leaf surface is necessary for infection to occur.
- Poor air movement (high humidity in the micro-climate).
- Excessive nitrogen fertiliser.
- Excessive thatch and loose leaf clippings provide a source of food for the fungus.
- Any stress situation such as drought, herbicide injury or heavy traffic can increase the severity of the disease.

› Management Tips

- Maintain healthy turf through proper fertilisation. Pay particular attention to potassium and nitrogen levels.
- Avoid overstimulating the plant through excessive fertilisation, particularly of nitrogen.
- Irrigate infrequently and deeply.



- Avoid late afternoon or evening irrigations to reduce foliar wetness.
- Do not allow the turf to become extremely dry during warm weather.
- Increase air movement.
- Avoid herbicide applications during critical periods of disease activity.
- Disperse traffic in high traffic areas.
- Mow turf at a height recommended for the turfgrass species.
- Improve turf drainage and aeration through light renovation.

› General Comments

Drechslera is typically a disease of turf growing under stressful conditions, particularly in poorly draining profiles and areas with shade issues.

› Distribution

Found in all states of Australia.