



Grey Leaf Spot

› Causal Agent: *Pyricularia grisea*

› Susceptible Turfgrass

Buffalo grass and Ryegrass.

› Symptoms

- Symptoms of Grey Leaf Spot vary depending on the grass cultivar.
- Grey Leaf Spot first appears as tiny, brown leaf and stem lesions, which enlarge rapidly into round to oblong spots.
- The largest spots may extend nearly across the entire leaf and become a bluish-grey in colour.
- Mature lesions are tan to grey with purple to brown borders.
- A halo or general chlorosis may occur around or near spots.
- The spots may be covered with a grey mould during periods of warm, humid weather.
- When the disease is severe, the entire planting may appear scorched as if it were suffering from severe drought.

› Conditions Favouring Disease

- Grey Leaf Spot is most severe during warm, humid weather.
- Temperatures between 25°C to 30°C.
- When turfgrasses are stressed by various factors, including drought, soil compaction and excessive nitrogen.

› Management Tips

- Avoid medium to high nitrogen levels during mid-summer.
- Irrigate turf deeply and as infrequently as possible to avoid water stress.
- Allow water to remain on leaves for only a short period of time.
- Reduce thatch by vertical cutting.
- Prevent compaction of the soil.
- When possible, plant turfgrass that is resistant to Grey Leaf Spot.



- Avoid using herbicides or plant growth regulators when the disease is active.

› General Comments

- Grey Leaf Spot is more severe in newly established planting with high nitrogen levels.

› Distribution

Found in all states of Australia.