



Anthracnose

› Causal Agent: *Colletotrichum* spp.

› Susceptible Turfgrass

Wintergrass, Bentgrass, Kentucky Bluegrass, Fescue & Couch.

› Symptoms

- Leaves of infected plants turn yellow to a light tan to brown before dying.
- Younger leaves often turn red.
- Basal stem and leaf sheath rot, affected plants are easy to pull out.
- Infected areas are seen as irregular shaped patches.
- Affected patches are a reddish brown colour turning yellow then tan to brown.
- A black stain may occur at the base of infected plants, this is an acervulus, a black fungal fruiting body.

› Conditions Favouring Disease

- Disease development is favoured by warm humid conditions.
- Anthracnose favours temperatures over 25°C.
- It is necessary for a film of moisture to be present on either the roots or foliage for infection to occur.
- More than 10 hours a day of leaf wetness for consecutive days.
- Hot summers in cool temperature areas are when the disease is most noticeable.
- Soil compaction and low amounts of nitrogen also contribute to disease occurrence.

› Management Tips

- Decrease surface traffic.
- Maintain adequate nitrogen and a balanced fertility level.
- Irrigate the turfgrass just enough to prevent wilting.
- Do not core aerate while disease symptoms are present.
- Core aerate and overseed in autumn.
- Convert to less susceptible varieties of turfgrass on fairways.
- Avoid management practices which encourage humidity and extended leaf wetness.
- Make preventative fungicide applications where the disease is a chronic problem.



› General Comments

- Anthracnose typically infects turfgrass, particularly Wintergrass during warm weather when the turfgrass canopy is wet and or humid.

› Distribution

Found in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania.

Disease is increasing, particularly in coastal New South Wales.