



Bipolaris

› Causal Agent: *Bipolaris* spp.

› Susceptible Turfgrass

Warm season turfgrasses.

› Symptoms

- Irregularly shaped brownish green to black lesions may appear.
- Severely infected leaves begin to die back turning tan to dark brown.
- Irregularly shaped patches of infected foliage may range from 5cm to 1m in size.
- Chlorosis may occur in infected foliage before the leaf turns brown.
- Extensive crown and root rot may occur in severe infections.
- Plants may lose vigour, becoming weak and flaccid.

› Conditions Favouring Disease

- Foliar blight and lesions occur during cool, wet periods from autumn to spring.
- Crown and root rots may occur in warm humid weather throughout summer.
- Possesses a wide temperature range of activity depending on the *Bipolaris* species.
- More than 10 hours a day of leaf wetness for several consecutive days.
- 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.
- Irrigate infrequently and deeply.
- Avoid late afternoon or evening irrigations.
- 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.

› General Comments

- *Bipolaris* is most commonly a disease of turf growing in stressful conditions with a poorly draining surface.

› Distribution

Found in all states of Australia.