



Curvularia Leaf Spot

› Causal Agent: *Curvularia* spp.

› Susceptible Turfgrass

Wintergrass, Kentucky Bluegrass, Bentgrass, Fescue, Couch.

› Symptoms

- Individual leaves initially show yellow and green dapple patterns that extend downwards from the leaf tip.
- Infected leaves turn brown, then grey as they shrivel and die.
- Irregular shaped patches of thinned turf appear, often coalescing to affect larger areas.
- Stolons and leaf sheaths may also rot.

› Conditions Favouring Disease

- Curvularia Leaf Spot occurs in areas that experience prolonged leaf wetness for several consecutive days.
- Curvularia occurs at temperatures, 25 to 35°C.
- Soil compaction and excessive levels of nitrogen and thatch.

› Management Tips

- Maintain balanced fertility.
- Increase the height of cut.
- Avoid nitrogen applications in the spring when the disease is active.
- Increase the air circulation.
- Avoid over watering.
- Improve the drainage of the turf.
- Reduce thatch accumulation.

› General Comments

- Curvularia is a secondary disease after primary pathogens such as Spring Dead Spot and Helminthosporium, have infected turfgrass.
- However it can be found to cause minor disease infections on its own.
- Physiological changes in the turfgrass plant can increase susceptibility to Curvularia when the light intensity is low or when the mowing height is lower than recommended for the specific situation.



› Distribution

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