



# Slime Mould

› **Causal Agent:** *Mucilago* spp., *Didymium* spp. & *Physarum* spp.

› **Susceptible Turfgrass**

All turfgrass species.

› **Symptoms**

- Fruiting bodies may smother grass blades turning them grey, pink, purple, white or yellow.
- Affected turf forms rings up to 60cm in diameter as the Slime Mould grows outwards.
- No immediate damage to turfgrass is evident as slime moulds are not plant parasitic.
- Fruiting bodies may become so thick on leaf blades that they may reduce the photosynthetic ability of individual leaves.
- The rings normally disappear within 2 weeks.

› **Conditions Favouring Disease**

- Excessive thatch favours slime mould development.
- High levels of soil organic matter are a food source for Slime Mould so contribute to a favourable environment.
- Cool, wet, humid weather is ideal for fruiting body development.
- High cut, unmaintained turfgrass with infrequent mowing.

› **Management Tips**

- Physical removal of Slime Mould by spraying with water jets or raking is possible.
- Ensure thatch and organic matter is not excessive.
- Maintain frequent mowing to reduce physical development of fruiting bodies.
- Good hygienic practices between affected and unaffected surfaces will reduce spore transport.



› **General Comments**

While not a pathogen in turf, Slime Moulds are extremely compromising to the aesthetic value of the turf stand, and in severe cases may even disrupt play.

› **Distribution**

Found in all states of Australia.