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“Your Home Turf Advantage”

COMMON LAWN FUNGAL DISEASES_DOLLAR SPOT



Dollar Spot is a common lawn disease.

As its name implies, Dollar Spot, in its early stages, develops small, light tan or straw-colored roughly circular patches from 2 cm (1 inch) to 15 cm (6 inches) across, about the size of a dollar coin or a small pancake sunken in the turf. Occasionally, small cottony mycelial strings of the fungus can be seen growing from the diseased leaf blades.

Dollar Spot commonly occurs on golf greens but it may also become a severe problem on residential lawns growing within dry soil but yet very humid air conditions.

It affects most types of warm-season and cool-season grasses, but especially fescues, ryegrasses, bentgrasses, bluegrasses, bermudagrasses, and zoysiagrasses.

Individually, these spots may not look very serious but because the Dollar Spot fungus kills the grass right down to the roots, potentially serious damage to lawns can occur. If it's a serious bout of this disease you may need some lawn renovation or reseeding once the disease is brought under control.

It's also important to note that the disease fungi are spread from one area to another by water, wind, mowers, other equipment or shoes, etc.

Dollar Spot can occur from late spring to late fall, and is at its worst in low rainfall summer seasons marked by warm days with high humidity when nights are cool and morning dew is heavy. The peak of disease activity occurs when temperatures are between 21C (70F) to 32C (90F).

When the turf roots are low on water but the leaves of your grass are wet for longer periods of time from either heavy dew, excessive rainfall over a few days, or late in the day irrigation, outbreaks of this lawn disease can increase. As the disease progresses, individual spots may coalesce and destroy large patches of lawn.

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PREVENTION/TREATMENT OPTIONS

As with all lawn fungal diseases, prevention is key, and can be much more effective than fighting the disease once it has already made its home in your yard. It's proper lawn care practices that will always promote a healthy lawn and reduce the occurrence of Dollar Spot ---

- ✓ **Mow your grass at the recommended maximum height.**
 - Ideally cut it to around 3 to 4 inches in the peak of summer as shorter height lawns will be more susceptible to this disease.
 - Ideally, try not to remove more than 1/3 of the leaf surface in any one mowing.
 - And don't mow when the grass is wet.
 - And if possible, due to how it can easily spread as mentioned earlier, bag all your grass clippings and wash your mower between cuttings with a 10% bleach solution.

- ✓ **Remove excess thatch and aerate compacted soils.**
 - Since Dollar Spot often occurs on thatched, drought-stressed lawns, power-raking and core aeration can be an effective way to control thatch and improve moisture penetration in your lawn.

- ✓ **Keep lawns well watered, but avoid irrigating in the late afternoon or evening — do *NOT* over water either.**
 - Water less frequently (once to twice a week), but when watering ideally in the early morning, water deeply... put down more water so that your lawn is sufficiently saturated.
 - If you wake to heavy dew on repeated mornings, it can help to drag the turf with a water hose to remove the precipitation.

- ✓ **Apply a slow-release fertilizer high in nitrogen.**
 - In most cases, adequate fertilization can help your grass outgrow Dollar Spot.
 - Applying liquid seaweed and chelated iron is also helpful.
 - But do not over-fertilize, since this can potentially result in an increase of other grass diseases such as Brown Patch.

- ✓ **Over-seed in the fall with resistant grass seed varieties.**

- ✓ **Promote good air circulation and light penetration** by pruning any adjacent trees, shrubs , plants, etc. which may be nearby or shading the grass and thereby increasing the humidity.

- ✓ **With severe outbreaks of Dollar Spot the following organic fungicides may be required -**
 - Bonide® Liquid Copper is a natural formulation used to protect everything from turf to vegetables, to flowers and fruits.
 - Mix 1.5 to 6 oz with 2.5 gallons of water and apply to 1,000 sq. ft.
 - For best results, start 2 weeks before problems normally occur.
 - Repeat at 7 to 10 day intervals for as long as needed.
 - Physan 20 works on a variety of disease outbreaks affecting lawns, turf and grass.
 - Add 1 Tbsp per gallon of water and spray over problem areas, repeat as needed.
 - One pint treats 6,400 square feet.

...Please see next page...

*** GENERAL USAGE DISCLAIMER ***

Please note that some of the above illustrative photos are SQLC's, and some are not. We do not claim ownership of every photo within this document. Nor does our inclusion of them, mean that any rightful owners of these photos necessarily agree with or endorse what we've written within this document. We therefore give credit to those who may be the original owners of these photos --- We've seen them likewise displayed on numerous lawn care websites without links to the original sources, so we're honestly not sure who may be the original photographers. That being said, if anyone wants to use our SQLC photos, they may do so, too, as we're totally fine with that --- Our purpose is nothing more than wanting to educate you about such lawn diseases. We gratefully acknowledge that the following photos, no matter who took them, are some near-perfect examples of various fungal diseases. Whoever photographed them, did so at the perfect time to clearly indicate the main and most obvious symptoms of the diseases --- Our hats go off to them for a job very well done. In utilizing them, we simply wanted to give you the best possible photographic examples of what these particular lawn diseases would look like, to help you identify and know what you're dealing with.

***** SPECIAL NOTE *****

We love helping our clients have great-looking lawns! Of course, we always welcome your inquiries, but we also want to help educate you, too. So many of you have told us how much you appreciate the articles we make available to you.

If there are any questions you may have about your lawn or any challenges or problems you may occasionally encounter with your lawn, don't hesitate to give us a call. As with the above info article you've just read, we also have other highly beneficial lawn care articles, too...

Here are some we've created to support you with your lawn care efforts. They can help you identify any problems as well as offer some possible solutions for some of those occasional challenges lawns can encounter.

These info articles are not meant to be one-time definitive cures for whatever might ail your lawn. We all wish it was only that simple... But, there are no magic "spray this once and your lawn will be perfect thereafter" solutions... Unfortunately, those don't really exist, as much as we might all like them to. However, there are many things you can do to get your lawn in great shape and keep it that way. We encourage you to glean what you can from any of the following articles that may interest you. And for what you're not sure about, give us a call, let's talk about it, and we'll do what we can to help you.

You may reach us at 780-678-6450 if you'd like to receive any of these via email. It would be our pleasure to do our part to help you "make your lawn the envy of your neighbours"...

From Our "**PROACTIVE LAWN CARE**" Series Of Articles —

7 Steps To A Great Lawn

Caring For Our Lawn Over The Winter

Proactively Preparing Your Lawn For Drought Conditions

From Our "**WHAT YOU'RE NOT TOLD**" Series Of Articles —

What You're Not Told About All-Natural & Organic Lawn Care Alternatives

What You're Not Told About Bats & Their Guano

...See more on next page...

"Your Home Turf Advantage"

From Our **“WHY?”** Series Of Articles —

Why Is My Grass So Thin?

Why Dead Spots On My Lawn?

Why Am I Getting Mushrooms In My Lawn?

Why Are The Pine Needles Killing My Grass?

From Our **“HOW TO GET RID OF...”** Series Of Articles —

How To Get Rid of Ants

How To Get Rid of Dew Worms

How To Get Rid of Fairy Rings

How To Get Rid of Quackgrass

How To Get Rid of Thistles

From Our **“DAMAGE BY DOGS & OTHER CRITTERS”** Series of Articles —

Fixing & Preventing Dog Spots

Damage Caused by Voles

From Our **“SEEDING LAWNS”** Series Of Articles —

Grass Seeding For New Lawns

Overseeding For Existing Lawns

From Our **“DIY”** Series Of Articles —

DIY_Alternate Ways To Remove Weeds In Gravel Areas

From Our **“COMMON LAWN FUNGAL DISEASES”** Series Of Articles —

Common Lawn Fungal Diseases (Compendium Of All Common Ones)

Common Lawn Fungal Diseases_The Usual Causes

Common Lawn Fungal Diseases_Snow Mold

Common Lawn Fungal Diseases_Leaf Spot & Melting Out

Common Lawn Fungal Diseases_Ascochyta Turf Leaf Blight

Common Lawn Fungal Diseases_Brown Patch

Common Lawn Fungal Diseases_Summer Patch

Common Lawn Fungal Diseases_Pythium Blight

Common Lawn Fungal Diseases_Red Thread

Common Lawn Fungal Diseases_Rust Diseases

Common Lawn Fungal Diseases_Powdery Mildew

Common Lawn Fungal Diseases_Dollar Spot

Common Lawn Fungal Diseases_Fairy Ring

INFORMATION ON OUR FIVE PRIMARY LAWN CARE SERVICES —

FERTILIZER & WEED CONTROL:

Our Fertilization & Weed Control Program

Possible Reasons For Still Having Weeds

Ten Reasons Our Program is Different

ENRICH SOIL ENHANCER:

Our Enrich Soil Enhancer Program

Different Soil Types Have Different pH Levels

...See more on next page...

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WEEKLY MOWING:

How The Weekly Lawn Mowing Works
Our Quality Control Program
Ten Reasons We Are Different

CORE AERATION:

Why Aerate Your Lawn?

POWER RAKING:

Why Power-Rake Your Lawn?