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“Your Home Turf Advantage”

COMMON LAWN FUNGAL DISEASES_POWDERY MILDEW



Powdery Mildew is a common fungal disease. It is more apt to affect turf that is already under stress and experiencing high humidity. Poor air circulation and temperatures between 15°C (60°F) and 22°C (72°F) are also favorable for the growth of Powdery Mildew. That being said, it can even occur at temperatures between 1°C (34°F) and 30°C (86°F).

Powdery Mildew affects nearly all northern cool-season grasses and favours Kentucky bluegrass, ryegrass, fine fescue, and Bermuda grass. Fortunately, Powdery Mildew is usually not severe enough to cause significant problems though it can kill weakened, already-struggling lawns.

It can appear quickly on a lawn, mainly in shady areas and more frequently during cloudy or overcast periods.

You're more likely to notice it when cool, damp nights follow warm, humid days, especially if your lawn is shady or has been overfertilized, so to speak. The grass blades will look like they have been dusted with flour. Closer inspection will reveal a whitish-grey, dusty, powdery growth primarily on the upper surface of the individual grass blades. As the mildew forms, the grass blades will start to yellow.

Advanced stages of the disease will cover the whole leaf with mycelium, eventually turning the foliage yellowish-orange and then brown. As the disease progresses, the grass blades may wither and eventually die. In the meantime, the grass becomes more susceptible to other stresses and diseases.

PREVENTION/TREATMENT OPTIONS

It's been said before, but like most lawn fungal diseases, prevention is the best treatment. Powdery Mildew like any other disease is unsightly but treatable.

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It's not as damaging as other diseases and with the right amount of time and patience it will go away naturally or can be controlled or alleviated with the assistance of routine good maintenance and proper lawn care practices such as:

- ✓ **Be mindful that the type of grass seed is important ---**
 - In shady areas, change the type of grass to a more shade-tolerant variety.
 - Or overseed with shade-tolerant seed.

- ✓ **Water properly... Avoid watering at night ---**
 - Lawns thrive on deep watering once every week depending upon local weather conditions.
 - Don't let your lawn wilt during really hot weather.
 - If it does, start watering right away.

- ✓ **Feed your lawn regularly ---**
 - It is beneficial to follow a proper balanced fertilization regimen and to water the appropriate amount at the appropriate times.
 - However, avoid excessive nitrogen which can contribute to the disease.

- ✓ **Improve air circulation in affected areas and reduce the amount of shade the grass is getting ---**
 - Prune surrounding trees and shrubs for better air circulation and to allow light penetration.
 - Consider eliminating any fencing or allowing for a more breathable fencing, as well as removing any children's toys or lawn ornaments that may be blocking air flow or producing shade.

- ✓ **You should aerate your lawn annually to improve soil drainage.**

- ✓ **During hot summer months, raise your mowing height to 3 to 3½ inches or higher ---**
 - Healthy grass is thick grass. But if you cut it too low, it will stress your lawn and it may not grow back very well, and weeds may also arise.
 - Therefore set your mower higher, keep your blade sharp, and never cut off more than the top third of your grass.
 - Also, be sure to bag any grass clippings to prevent any further fungal spread.

- ✓ **Fungicides such as Manzocob, preferably in combination with the chemical Myclobutanil, can be used for severe bouts of Powdery Mildew ---**
 - However, they are not normally necessary to stop an outbreak or prevent the spread of this fungal disease.

*** 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.

...Please see next page...

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***** 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

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

...See more on next page...

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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

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?

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