

FUSARIUM PATCH DISEASE (Microdochium Nivale)

WHAT IS IT?

FUSARIUM PATCH disease is the most common fungal disease of lawns and golf courses in the U.K. A survey found 98% of courses suffered from fusarium patch each year. The disease is caused by the fungus *Microdochium Nivale*. These are fungal spores.

HOW TO IDENTIFY IT?

A white or pale pink "cottony" mould appears on the leaf blades. It appears as brown or orange circular patches 1-2" in diameter. These patches can expand to 12" or more within 48 hours.

WHY HAVE I GOT IT?

The fungal spores are present in most turf areas in the U.K. The incubation periods for the spores are very short and turf can be affected soon after laying. It will affect not only new-turfed areas but existing lawns also.

IDEAL CONDITIONS FOR FUSARIUM

- Damp mild weather. (Mid September onwards).
- Extended leaf wetness by ground fog, mists or frequent light rain.
- Enclosed and shady areas causing poor air circulation and lack of sunlight.
- Neutral to alkaline soil conditions.
- Damaged and stressed grass tissue.
- After extended snow cover

PREVENTION OF DISEASE: (New Turf and Existing Lawns)

KEEP GRASS SURFACE DRIER. Switching or Brushing surface to remove the dew each morning.

IMPROVE DRAINAGE AND AIR FLOW

ACIDIFY the surface with application of **IRON SULPHATE** from September onwards.

AVOID use of **NITROGEN RICH** fertilisers after **AUGUST**

REDUCE AMOUNT OF SHADE – Tree pruning, Avoid high fences.

AT COUNTY TURF, we carry out all the above practices and also we have a comprehensive fungicide programme using systemic fungicides. However these fungicides will offer protection for 7-14 days only.

WHAT IF I HAVE 'ACTIVE' DISEASE?

Fungicides will give some control of the disease.

CONTACT FUNGICIDES – To kill the live spores present.

SYSTEMIC FUNGICIDES – To enter the plant to limit further infection.

IRON SULPHATE with control very mild attacks.

Apply both contact and systemic fungicides using amenity approved fungicides, such as Daconil Turf, Heritage, Rovral Green and Turfclear. Follow manufacturers recommended rates.

RECOVERY from DISEASE.

If the disease runs its course it will normally scar the grass plants. These scars heal very slowly due to the colder winter months. Watch out for weeds establishing in these old scar and remove if they are present.

PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE:!

Inspect turf regularly from mid September onwards. Carry out preventative methods. At first signs of disease use an approved fungicide at the recommended manufacturers rates. This fungus can grow very quickly under the ideal conditions, so early treatment is recommended.