

DISEASE

BROWN PATCH



Brown Patch is the most common disease of St. Augustine grass. It can occur in the late spring; however, it is usually the most active in the fall when conditions are the most favorable.

Ideal conditions are cloudy days, excess moisture, 65 – 70 degree nighttime temperatures and daytime temperatures in the mid 70's to mid 80's and with excess nitrogen available. Typical symptoms are circular areas with brown centers with a yellow to light green area outlining the brown area. The fungus is active in the yellow to green area.

Prevention of Brown Patch is difficult. Some suggestions are: do not use urea or nitrate based nitrogen fertilizers in the late summer or fall, do make sure your lawn drains and there are not any areas where excess moisture stands.

Organic Method:



Apply MicroLife Brown Patch 5-1-3 at a rate of 20 lbs. per 1000 Square Feet. When using as a preventative apply 30 days prior. The MicroLife Brown Patch has Microbial Bacteria that eat the Fungi. Cool Huh? No Chemicals

Treatment should begin at the first sign on yellowing rings in the lawn. Fungicides are available such as Ortho Fungicide for Brown Patch or other equivalent products.

Depending on which fungicide is used, treatments are made every 14 days to as much as every 30 days. Treatment must continue as long as conditions are right for brown patch to occur.

TAKE ALL PATCH

Take all patch was identified some years back and looks similar to Brown Patch, except it occurs when the temperature is too high for Brown Patch to be active in the summer and too cold for it to occur in the spring. Take All Patch is a soil borne disease. Unlike Brown Patch, this disease can kill the St. Augustine if it is not treated. Multiple treatments of fungicide are usually needed.

If it is diagnosed in your lawn, it can be treated with fungicides that are not readily available at Home Depot or Lowe's. Some of these Fungicides are no longer available to the public. We have only seen a few cases of Take All Patch in the past 10 years.

FALL ARMY WORMS

The Bermuda varieties of Turf are susceptible to these. The Army Worms usually will surface in August and September. A simple preventative for these would be Eco Smart Granules or Triazicide Granules. If noted in your lawn, you may spray them with Eco Smart Liquid, Sevin or use the granular Triazicide watering it in after the application. Fortunately this is the only problem Bermudas have with Pests.

We hope that these few pointers will help you in your installation and everyday care of your lawn. If you have a question not answered by this care sheet, Please, feel free to contact us at anytime or check our website for further instructions. We would also appreciate any feedback or ideas on improving our care sheet.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!!!!

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Texas Grown and Proud
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A Healthy Lawn is the Heart of a Perfect Garden

“The Grass is always Greener on our Side.”

Going Green is the key to solving most of the Turf Problems we encounter.

Using Organics and Organic Fertilizers that have beneficial Microbial Bacteria's is the key to good soil health, pests, our water supplies and ultimately the planet.



Installation - Care Sheets

**** Note the Section dealing with Grub Worms; it has become one of our biggest problems with St. Augustine and Zoysia varieties**

PLANTING

Remove all plant debris, rocks, sticks and all other foreign objects that might keep the pad of sod from making good contact with the soil. Never install Sod on top of Dead Sod or Thatch, Fungus will certainly result. Lay the sod end-to-end and edge to edge as close as possible.



Roll the grass with a sod roller or tamp down with the back of a shovel as soon as Sod is installed to insure complete contact of the Sod to the soil below.

WATERING



Water immediately! Water the new sod so that the water penetrates the blocks to the soil, and check to make sure by lifting up some of the blocks to see that the soil below is wet as well as the blocks of sod.

Water the new sod every day for 10 days. After that, water the new sod every other day for 10 days; however, if it rains you can skip those days. Water as needed when you first observe wilting, and water longer less often to promote deep rooting of the grass.

FERTILIZING



With Synthetics

This is the recommended method to use for long term soil health. Upon Installation, apply Microlife Humates Plus 0-0-4 at rate of 10 lbs per 1000 Square Feet and Microgro Granular at a rate of 10 lbs. per 1000 Square Feet. 4-6 weeks later Fertilize with Microlife 6-2-4 at a rate of 20 lbs. per 1000 Square Feet. Repeat this Fertilizer in the Fall, adding the Microlife Humates plus & Microgro Granular. Your next Fertilization will be after March 10 with Microlife Ultimate 8-4-6 for the best results. 18-5-9 Majestic Gro would be a good Nitrogen spike around the 4th of July

With Organic

After 4 to 6 weeks fertilize with a complete fertilizer like 13-13-13. Then fertilize around the 4th of July with 21-0-0. Fertilize with liquid Iron, (Ferro- Mec), as needed for color. Fall fertilization in October or early November, fertilize with 15-5-10 or a 3-2-1 ratio at 6 lbs per 1000 square feet. Your next fertilization will be after March 10 with a complete fertilizer 13-13-13 or 15-15-15. We do not recommend using Weed n Feed fertilizers, as they tend to set back the existing Turf.

MOWING

St. Augustine mowing height is from 1 ½” to 2 ½”. Mow the grass at the shorter height in early spring and as it gets hotter and drier increase the mowing height. Also if the grass is growing in an area that is not getting at least 3 ½ hours of sun light a day set the mowing height at least at 2 ½”. Other Turf varieties have different mowing heights, ask us or refer to the website.

INSECTS

CHINCH BUGS

The best treatment is a preventative treatment of Triazicide granules in late May and again in August. After the granules are spread, be sure and water. Chinch bug damage first appears as slight yellowing of the St. Augustine like it is dry. Chinch bugs feed on the plant juices and dry the plant out.



Organic Method: Were researching an Organic solution for Chinch Bugs on St. Augustine's & Zoysia's, we found one that works, "Eco Smart".

To control them, water the St. Augustine thoroughly in the late evening, then spray the entire lawn area with Malathion at the recommended rate on the container. A repeat treatment may be needed 10 – 14 days later because of new chinch bugs hatching. The Granular treatments with Triazicide are more effective than spraying.

GRUBS

Grub damage is similar in appearance to Chinch bug damage except areas of brown grass will not have any roots. You can lift grass from the ground because it will not be attached to the soil because the grub worms eat the roots.



Organic Method:



Apply Microlife Humates Plus 0-0-4 at a rate of 15 lbs. per 1000 Square Feet upon observing Grub Worm activity. There are Microbes contained in the Microlife that eat the Eggs of the June Bugs, preventing the Grubs Worms from maturing. Cool Huh? No Chemicals AND YOU CAN APPLY "ECO SMART", an organic insecticide that works.

Preventative treatment is the best. We recommend Triazicide Granules, made by Spectracide; it can usually be found at your local garden shop or Home Depot / Lowe's. Treat when planting Sod by applying the insecticide on top of the soil prior to planting to assure proper rooting. Treat again in late May and again in July / August with Triazicide granules.

The insecticide must be watered in to kill the grubs while they are close to the surface of the soil feeding on the roots of the sod.