

Cool Springs Landscape Resources

Brown patch (Rhizoctonia solani)

What does it look like?

Brown patch is a common summertime disease that has almost circular patches ranging from 3 inches to several feet in diameter. Symptoms include leaf tip browning and leaf lesions. In turf cut below 1 inch, the outer edge of the brown patch may develop a bluish ring called the smoke ring. The smoke ring is not apparent in higher- cut lawns.

When is a lawn susceptible?

The much hated brown patch forms in the summer, when humidity is high and temperatures climb over 85°F. If the temperature and the humidity add up to more than 150°F, you have brown patch conditions, so it's time to go on the defensive. Take care not to over water or over fertilize. Although all grasses can get brown patch, Tall fescue and Perennial ryegrass lawns are the most susceptible. Warm-season grasses, such as St. Augustine and Bermuda grass, invite brown patch in the spring or fall.

How can we get rid of it?

Make sure you do not over-fertilize or over-water. Water early in the morning to help keep wetness down, and avoid late-evening watering, especially on nights when the temperature doesn't drop below 65°F. With warm-season grasses, avoid heavy fertilization in the fall. Fungicides can help stop brown patch severity, but the real key is not to stimulate growth during those high-risk conditions.



Remember and respect the 150°F rule!