



Control Brown Patch in Fescue Lawns

If patches of your lawn are beginning to turn brown or discolored ... your lawn probably has a fungus known as brown patch. Most fescue lawns experience some brown patch during periods of high humidity and warm night time temperatures (65-70°+). Symptoms develop rapidly (24-48 hours) during these conditions. Brown patch may look like roughly circular patches of blighted turf or may be a more diffuse pattern of off-color turf.

The severity of the damage depends on how long the weather remains hot and humid. Mild to moderate cases of brown patch will recover 2-3 weeks after weather conditions cool down. Unfortunately, the turf looks terrible when the disease is active and during the recovery period. Severe cases of brown patch attack the crowns, rhizomes and roots and large portions of the turf may be killed.

There are steps you can take to control the spread of brown patch, but first let's go over some things you can do to prevent this disease from getting started in your lawn.

STEPS TO PREVENT BROWN PATCH

- Apply a preventative systemic fungicide on a regular basis during the summer. (This is similar to putting down a preventative grubworm control.) Make your first application just as soon as weather conditions are favorable. Keep in mind that the preventative application rate is usually HALF that of the curative application rate. For example, a bag may cover 3,000 sq. ft. as a preventative but only 1,500 sq. ft. as a curative. (Thus, it's less expensive to prevent brown patch with fungicides than it is to control with fungicides.)
- Water your lawn early in the morning, allowing grass blades to dry before night. When nights are hot (65-70°+) and humid, and grass blades are wet, the fungus spreads rapidly.
- Do not fertilize when conditions are right for the spread of brown patch.
- Make sure your mower blade is sharp. Nothing injures grass more than a dull blade which tears the grass instead of cutting it cleanly. Ragged grass blades increase the susceptibility of disease.
- When seeding in the spring or fall, don't be fooled into thinking "more seed is better." Lawns that are too thick are a breeding ground for disease.

STEPS TO CONTROL THE SPREAD OF BROWN PATCH

- As soon as you start to see symptoms, apply a curative fungicide to suppress further disease development. Use either a fungicide spray to spot treat the brown areas and the adjacent healthy grass or apply a granular fungicide to the entire yard to prevent spreading of the disease. Keep in mind that the curative application rate is usually TWICE that of a preventative application rate. For example, a bag may cover 3,000 sq. ft. as a preventative but only 1,500 sq. ft. as a curative application.
- Rake seriously affected areas to remove brown, dead grass. This will help increase air circulation and improve available light for the surviving grass plants.

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GRANULES FOR LARGE AREAS

When deciding how much product you need to apply, remember that the term CURATIVE does not mean that your lawn will green up after treatment. Diseased areas will stay brown until weather changes in the fall. A CURATIVE application prevents brown patch from getting worse and from spreading to other areas of your lawn.

- **ferti•lome F-STOP** - containing Eagle® Fungicide provides systemic (absorbed by the grass blades and won't wash off) protection and curative fungicide to control turfgrass diseases in established lawns. Available in 8 lb. bags.

PREVENTATIVE - Apply every 2-4 weeks depending on weather conditions. One bag covers 2,000 sq. ft.

CURATIVE - Apply every 2-4 weeks depending on weather conditions. One bag covers 1,000 sq. ft.

- **Bayer Fungus Control for Lawns** with **Bayleton** - systemic lawn fungicide formulated to be rapidly absorbed and retained by the turf grass. Available in 6 lb. bags.

PREVENTATIVE - Apply at 15-day to 30-day intervals until cooler, drier weather arrives. One bag covers 4,000 sq. ft.

CURATIVE - Apply at 14-day intervals until control is achieved, then reduce to the preventative rate and timing. One bag covers 2,000 sq. ft.

LIQUID CONCENTRATE and READY TO SPRAY

- **ferti•lome Liquid Systemic Fungicide** containing **Banner** - concentrate and RTS

PREVENTATIVE - Apply 10 tablespoons in one gallon of water per 250 sq. ft. of lawn. If needed, repeat treatment every 10 days. First application should be in May or June before disease is present. This product is highly effective when used to prevent diseases or applied at the first sign of disease. This product will not eliminate disease already present.

- **Bonide Fung-onil** - systemic fungicide in a convenient hose-end sprayer

PREVENTATIVE - Spray 2 oz. per 100 sq. ft. (at this rate a bottle covers 1600 sq. ft.) starting in May or June before disease occurs. Apply every 14 days.

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