Sclerotium Blight / Southern Blight

Hosts: bentgrasses, bluegrasses, fescues, ryegrasses

Environmental Conditions: Optimal temperatures for the development of southern blight are between 85 and 95 degrees Fahrenheit. High humidity, moisture and heavy thatch also make a turfgrass stand more susceptible to infestation.

Symptoms: Circular patches of affected turf turn reddish brown, and then die. The disease is accompanied by abundant mycelium and tiny, hard bodies similar to mustard seeds that develop at the base of stems.

Picture: http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/r785100911.html
Text: http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/r785100911.html

For more information and control options:

University of California – Sclerotium Blight (Southern Blight)
http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/r785100911.html

Slime Mold

Hosts: all turfgrasses

Environmental Conditions: Slime mold most commonly appears on turfgrass leaves during periods of extended leaf wetness from late spring to late autumn. Areas with poor drainage and excessive thatch may also promote the fungus.

Symptoms: Slime mold is caused by the fungus producing excessive spores. It can appear as an irregular patch that can be white, blue, purple, or yellow. As the turf dries, the spores become powdery. There may be chlorosis of the leaves due to the masses blocking photosynthesis from occurring.

Picture: http://turfgrassmanagement.psu.edu/turfdis8.cfm
Text: http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/3000/3074.html

For more information and control options:

Purdue University – Turfgrass Disease Profiles: Slime Molds
http://ces.purdue.edu/extmedia/BP/BP-112-W.pdf

Ohio State University – Slime Molds on Turfgrass
http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/3000/3074.html

University of Illinois – Slime Molds in Turfgrasses
http://web.aces.uiuc.edu/vista/pdf_pubs/401.PDF

Spring Dead Spot

Host: bermudagrass, zoysiagrass, buffalograss

Environmental Conditions: Spring dead spot symptoms are most apparent from April to September. During the fall and winter, the fungus attacks roots, rhizomes and stolons.

Symptoms: Spring dead spot appears on turf in the spring as circular patches of blighted leaves that remain dormant as the grass begins to green up. As temperatures increase, these patches eventually die. The disease attacks roots, stolons and rhizomes and cause them to rot. The disease grows in size and recurs in the same location year to year.

Picture: http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/dp_hfrr/extensn/problems/spdead.htm
Text: http://www.turffiles.ncsu.edu/Diseases/Spring_Dead_Spot.aspx

For more information and control options:

University of California – Spring Dead Spot
http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/r785102111.html

North Carolina State University – Spring Dead Spot
http://www.turffiles.ncsu.edu/Diseases/Spring_Dead_Spot.aspx

University of Arkansas – Bermudagrass Spring Dead Spot
http://www.uaex.edu/Other_Areas/publications/PDF/FSA-7551.pdf

University of Missouri – Spring Dead Spot
http://extension.missouri.edu/explore/agguides/pests/ipm1029spring.htm

Stripe Smut

Hosts: bentgrasses, perennial ryegrass, fescues, bluegrasses

Environmental Conditions: Stripe smut is most common in spring and fall when temperatures are between 60 and 78 degrees Fahrenheit. Hot, dry weather may cause the plants to die.

Symptoms: Turfgrass leaves turn pale green and have long, black stripes of spore pustules. The fungus causes the leaves to curl, die and then become shredded. Stripe smut also causes stunted growth.

Picture: http://plantclinic.cornell.edu/FactSheets/stripesmut/stripesmut.htm
Text: http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/r785101711.html

For more information and control options:

University of California – Stripe Smut
http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/r785101711.html

University of Illinois – Leaf Smuts of Turfgrasses
http://www.ipm.uiuc.edu/diseases/series400/rpd409/index.html

Summer Patch

Hosts: annual bluegrass, Kentucky bluegrass, creeping red fescue

Environmental Conditions: Summer patch is most severe in hot, wet years on poorly drained, compacted soil. Low height of cut, frequent, light irrigation and quick release nitrogen also favor disease development.

Symptoms: Small, circular patches of yellow to brownish turf may expand into larger patches and coalesce. Weeds or other types of grasses may colonize the centers. The crowns of infected grasses often turn black.

Picture: http://turfgrassmanagement.psu.edu/turfdis9.cfm
Text: Compendium of Turfgrass Diseases by Richard Smiley, Peter Dernoeden, and Bruce Clarke; Dr. Wakar Uddin, Penn State University

For more information and control options:

Purdue University – Turfgrass Disease Profiles: Summer Patch
http://ces.purdue.edu/extmedia/BP/BP-115-W.pdf

University of California – Summer Patch
http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/r785100611.html

North Carolina State University – Summer Patch
http://www.turffiles.ncsu.edu/Diseases/Summer_Patch.aspx