



# Lawn Diseases

What they look like and how to treat them

In a very timely manner, typically at some point in July, we start to see spots in our lawns. Is it grubs? Dry spots? Maybe, but it could also be a fungus making its way into our lawns. Applying *Fertilome F-Stop* as a disease preventative in mid spring and mid summer is a preferred method of prevention, as treating it after symptoms have shown themselves is usually too late. However, there are also cultural practices that can be done to make your lawn healthy and disease free!

## Brown Patch

Like the name suggests, this disease appears as patches of brown, dead and dying grass. Brown patch appears in hot and humid weather, on saturated or very wet lawns. To prevent brown patch from occurring, water your lawn deeply but infrequently to allow the soil to slightly dry out between watering. Over fertilization with excess nitrogen is also a factor in the growth of this disease.



Photograph Courtesy Penn State

## Rust

If you walk across your lawn in mid to late summer and have a rusty colored powder on your shoes, you have rust. Rust will typically be more common in shady areas, in times of high humidity. While you can apply *Fertilome Systemic Fungicide*, trimming plants in the area to maximize airflow and sunlight will be beneficial.



## Necrotic Ring Spot

When we have springs and early summers of wet, cooler conditions, followed by hot, dry summers, necrotic ring spot can happen. The grass will die back in circles to a straw color, with the center often regrowing green, often having this disease called “frog eye”. Soil compaction is often a culprit of necrotic ring spot. Improving soil drainage will be very important in ensuring it does not reoccur, as well as using a regular program of lawn fertilization.



Photograph Courtesy Michigan State Extension