What you need to know about fungicides!

During the hot months of the year, fungus is a common problem in new lawns. Because the new sod is already stressed out from being harvested and transplanted to your lawn, it is at a heightened risk for diseases and must be treated with utmost care. If your lawn contracts a fungus, complete loss could take place in as little as one week.

It is recommended to apply a fungicide on your new turf within 24 hours of installation.

What are fungicides?

Fungicides are chemicals used to treat fungal diseases such as brown patch and grey spot. Fungicides are effective because they can : 1) suppress or slow down fungal growth 2) prevent fungus from spreading or reproducing. Fungicides DO NOT promote growth of the turf grass. This means that if spots are present on the blade, they will remain there until the blade has grown out. This may take time as your new turf grass will need to establish and root before it really starts to grow.

Types of fungicides

There are four types of fungicides: 1) contact fungicides, 2) systemic fungicides, 3) local-penetrant fungicides and 4) mesostemic fungicides.

Contact fungicides are generally applied to the leaf and stem surfaces. The inhibit the fungi on the plant surface so that the fungus is not able to enter/infect the plant. They remain active only as long as the fungicide remains on the plant (usually 7-14 days). Leaves that emerge AFTER the application are NOT protected. If fungus is inside the plant it will NOT be effected by this type of treatment.

Systemic fungicides are chemicals that penetrate the plant's surfaces and are then translocated (moved) within the plant's vascular system. Because systemic fungicides are absorbed by the pants, they work inside the plant to 1) control pathogenic fungi that have already entered the plant and initiated a disease and 2) inhibit fungi that enter the polant from initiating a disease (preventative action). Once it's applied, it cannot be removed by water.

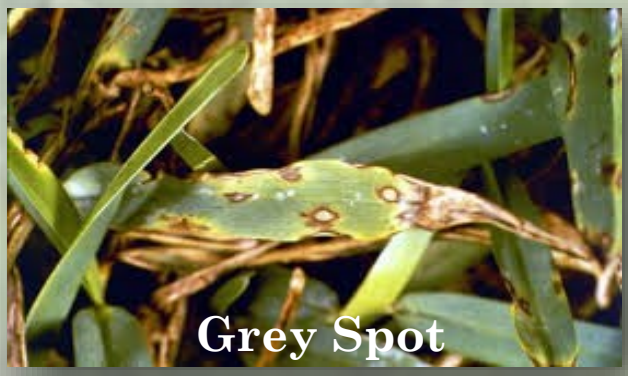
Local-penetrant fungicides are capable of penetrating the pant surface, but they only move very short distances within the plant. They do not enter the xylem (inner most core) or the phloem (inner core surrounding the xylem) of the plant tissue, so the majority of the fungicide remains on the plant's surface. This group of fungicides are considered a prevention or protective measure to use prior to getting a fungus.

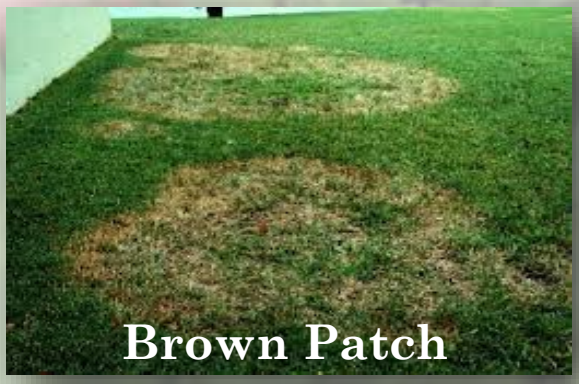
Mesostemic fungicides are strongly attracted to the plant surface and is absorbed by the waxy plant layers. It continuously penetrates the leaf's surface. It is NOT translocated in the plant's vascular system so it is not truly a systemic application. This group of fungicides work best as a preventative method.

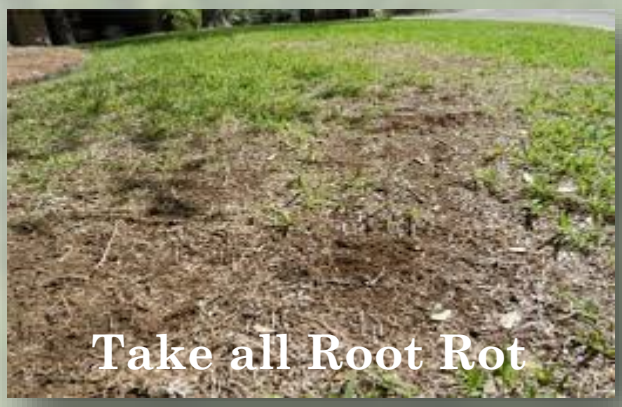
Prevention

The best prevention against fungus is to maintain healthy management practices and keep your lawn free of stress. Mow at the proper height, water appropriately and at the correct time of day, applying fertilizers properly and avoiding excessive thatch accumulation. **The healthier you keep your lawn, the less chance you have of disease and weed infestation.**

EXAMPLES OF FUNGUS IN LAWNS


Grey Spot


Brown Patch


Take all Root Rot


Brown Patch