



Ascochyta Leaf Blight



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For the last several years, a minor disease has been affecting many lawns during the late spring into the early summer:

- It usually occurs during the period of time when the weather switches from cool and wet to hot and humid.
- Lawns have been growing well and then heat and humidity blankets the area.
- Mowing during the heat of the day seems to be one of the factors that may cause this disease to become active.
- It mainly affects bluegrass and it is usually on lawns that are not irrigated
- The lawn disease is called Ascochyta Leaf Blight.

The one good thing about this disease is that it is not a crown killer and the plant will recover on its own. If you see sections of your lawn that look like the picture on the previous page, you will notice that the grass blades have turned tan from the tip down, but are green at the base. The turf will recover, but it will take a couple of weeks. ***Since it has been dry, water will help the grass recover at a faster rate.***

A fungicide will not help as the disease has already done its damage.

Information Courtesy of Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

WATERING GUIDLINES

WATERING ESTABLISHED TURF GRASS:

Established turf grass requires infrequent but **heavy** watering.

Remember you're watering the soil, not the grass.

Generally established turf grass requires 1 inch to 1-½ inches of water per week for optimum health. Use a rain gauge and/or a straight-sided container, like a tuna fish can, to monitor the rainfall for the week. If we receive any rain, this amount may be deducted from your weekly requirement. Rain gauges and/or straight-sided containers are also useful tools to monitor the amounts of water being applied during irrigation.

It is best to start watering early mornings.

Evening watering's are not recommended unless watering restrictions only allow for evening watering's. During extreme conditions when the temperatures reach 90 degrees or higher for a prolonged period of time with windy days, watering twice per week may be required. Watering twice per week should still be performed infrequently but heavy. Separate the watering's to the early part of the week and the later part of the week with a minimum of 1 inch per watering.