

# Lawn Fungus



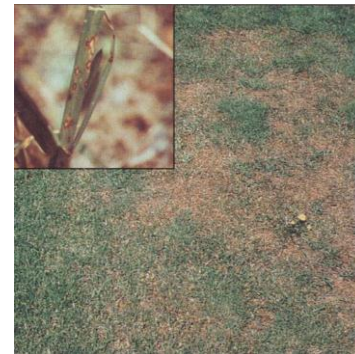
*Rust*



*Powdery Mildew*



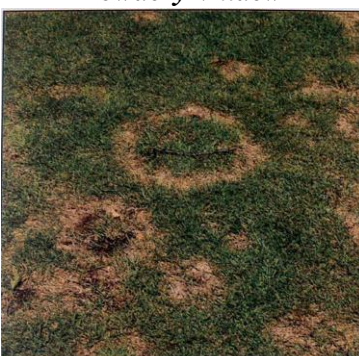
*Fairy Ring*



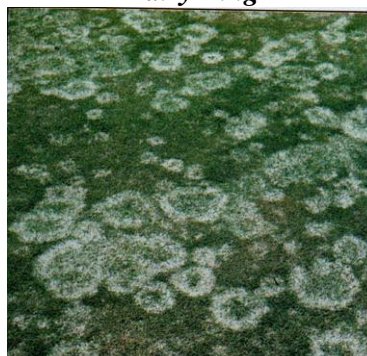
*Leaf Spot*



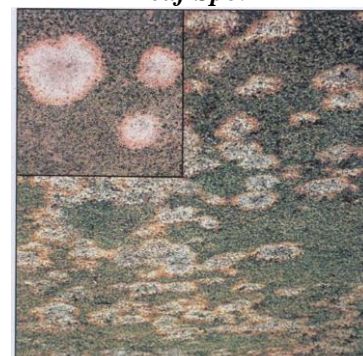
*Fusarium Blight*



*Necrotic Ring Spot*



*Snow Mold*



*Fusarium Patch*

Pictures from The Ortho Problem Solver

## Prevention

The best way to avoid fungus problems in the lawn is by just practicing good lawn maintenance. **Control thatch and water and fertilize properly.**

**Thatch** Thatch is a spongy layer of dead leaves and debris that builds up between the soil and the grass leaves. Some thatch is good and protects the roots of the grass, but when the thatch gets deeper than ½" it starts to block water and nutrients from the roots and create the wet environment fungi loves. **Aerate twice a year to manage thatch.** Aerators are as easy to use as a lawn mower available for rent at most hardware or rental places. Make two passes over your lawn to make holes at 2" intervals.

**Water** After you water, let the top 2" of soil dry out before watering again. **Overwatering can make your lawn vulnerable to weeds and fungi.**

**Fertilize** Be sure to follow a fertilizer schedule closely. A lack of nitrogen can weaken the grass and expose it to disease. In the same way, over-fertilizing can invite fungi with the excess food.

## Control

For extensive fungus problems, there are several lawn fungicides available. Two that we recommend are **Green Light's Fung-Away** and **Bayer's Fungus Control for Lawns**. Both work systemically to cure and prevent further fungal diseases. Both **Fung-Away** and **Fungus Control** list all of the common fungi pictured above and many more.

