

Leaf Spot & Melting-Out

TREE DOCTOR TIPS | LAWN

Leaf Spot & Melting-Out

DESCRIPTION:

Leaf spot and melting-out are turfgrass fungal diseases that can cause indefinite yellowing and thinning of grass, as well as large patches of dead turfgrass.

HOSTS:

Cool-season turfgrasses, especially Kentucky bluegrass, are most susceptible to leaf spot and melting-out diseases. A landscape professional can tell you which turfgrass cultivars are most disease-resistant in your growing region.

BIOLOGY AND SYMPTOMS:

Prolonged periods of cool to warm and humid conditions can lead to these diseases, although the melting-out phase is often not evident until it's warm and dry. Look for a yellow to rust-colored cast over all or part of the lawn, as well as yellow-brown spots with purple-black borders on grass leaves.

MANAGEMENT:

Follow a preventive maintenance program as prescribed by a certified arborist, including applying fungicides if appropriate. To help limit the severity of the disease, seed or sod with disease-resistant cultivars, remove excess thatch, never overfertilize and try not to water in the early evening.



FIGURE A. LEAF SPOT AND MELTING-OUT, KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS
(Photo credit: Lee Miller, University of Missouri, Bugwood.org)

*The scientists at **The Davey Institute** laboratory and research facility support our arborists and technicians in diagnosing and prescribing based on the latest arboricultural science. For specific treatment and application details, your arborist may consult *The Davey Institute PHC Handbook*.*

