

Red Thread and Pink Patch

TREE DOCTOR TIPS | LAWN

Red Thread and Pink Patch

(Laetisaria fuciformis and Limonomyces roseipellis)

DESCRIPTION:

Red thread and pink patch are closely related fungal pathogens that infect turf, appearing with a reddish-brown covering and wilted patches.

HOSTS:

Both red thread and pink patch disease can cause damage to almost all cool-season turfgrasses, meaning grasses that grow in areas with cold winters and hot summers. Creeping red fescue and ryegrasses are especially vulnerable.

BIOLOGY AND SYMPTOMS:

These diseases favor lawns with moist soil, excessive layers of dead grass called thatch, or lack of nitrogen—one of the main ingredients in lawn fertilizer. When an infection occurs, turf will turn a reddish-brown color. Patches of infected leaves appear water soaked, then turn brown and die. Pink threads emerge on red thread-infected grass leaves and pink patch infected leaves develop jelly-like pink blobs.

MANAGEMENT:

Proper fertilization and use of fungicides can help slow down red thread and pink patch. Fertilizers that contain nitrogen may both promote lawn growth and help protect against injury from disease. Lawns could also benefit from improved air circulation and soil drainage. Excessively moist grass creates an ideal environment for diseases like red thread and pink patch to develop. One way to help avoid damp turf is by watering

grass early in the day to allow it to dry before evening. A fungicide treatment could add an extra layer of protection, but may be affected by what stage the disease is in. Talk to a local landscape professional about a fungicide treatment regimen that will work best for your lawn.

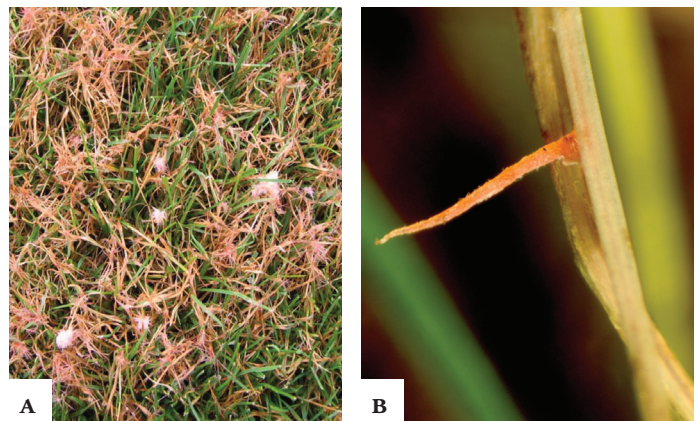


FIGURE A. PINK PATCH INFECTED LEAVES ON RED THREAD GRASS
(Photo credit: Dr. Peter H. Dernoeden, University of Maryland)

FIGURE B. CLOSE-UP, RED THREAD PROJECTING FROM LEAF
(Photo credit: Bruce Watt, University of Maine, Bugwood.org)

FIGURE C. REDDISH-BROWN PATCH IS A SIGN OF FUNGAL DISEASE
IN TURF

*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's Plant Health Care Book*.*

