

## Red Thread



pink turf about 4-8 inches in diameter.

**R**ed thread is a foliar disease that usually occurs on lawns during late spring and summer. The disease is often associated with slow growing turf and the effects of the disease are largely cosmetic. Red Thread almost always infects ryegrass and is seen less often in Kentucky bluegrass and fescues. Red thread symptoms create an undesirable appearance, but crowns and roots are not infected, so plants are not killed and turf eventually will recover. From a distance, red thread symptoms appear as circular patches of tan or

### Managing Red Thread

#### 1. Increase the Nitrogen

The most important nonchemical (cultural) control option involves increasing the nitrogen fertility program. A good fertility program will significantly reduce further red thread problems.

#### 2. Cultural Practices: Proper Mowing Height, Returning your grass clippings, Core Aeration

Cultural practices that promote healthy turf and vigorous growth also help suppress red thread.

These would include:

- A mowing height of at least 3 to 3.5 inches.
- No bagging of clippings. Returning your clippings to your lawn provides extra nutrients.
- Aerating the soil to reduce thatch

#### 3. Avoid Overwatering

Outbreaks may be reduced further by avoiding irrigation practices that extend dew periods (such as watering in the late afternoon and early evening).

### Fungicides

Fungicides are not usually advised for red thread control on residential turf for various reasons. A red thread outbreak signals a more important problem concerning the lawn's health and vigor. In almost all cases, practices that result in a well-nourished, actively growing lawn also will suppress red thread. With even a small amount of care, turf will recover to some extent because red thread does not affect turfgrass crowns so it will not kill the plants.

