

Dollar Spot

DESCRIPTION OF THE DISEASE



Dollar Spot appears as tiny yellow spots on individual grass blades. The spot expands to a straw colored or tan band with dark reddish-brown margins. The tip of the affected grass often remains green. The tan band, or lesion, is often narrower in width than the leaf, resulting in the lesion taking on an "hourglass" shape. The entire blade soon becomes bleached. Dollar spot is a foliar fungus and does not

harm the crown of the turf plants. It is a cosmetically unsightly, but does not kill infected areas.

SUSCEPTIBLE TURFGRASSES

Dollar spot is most prevalent in annual bluegrass, creeping bentgrass, and Kentucky bluegrass.



CONDITIONS FAVORING DISEASE

Temperatures between 60 and 85 degrees F and long periods of leaf wetness from dew, rain or sprinkler irrigation favor growth of this fungus. Prolonged wet foliage is a key factor. Growth of the dollar spot fungus is inhibited when temperatures exceed 90 degrees F. Spread of the pathogen to new areas occurs primarily by wind and water. Damage is usually more severe if there is a deficiency of nitrogen.

MANAGEMENT

- **Adequate fertilizer program.** Proper nitrogen fertility will greatly reduce the occurrence and severity of dollar spot.
- **Avoid periods of prolonged leaf wetness.** Avoid over watering and frequent late afternoon or evening irrigation that prolongs the time grass stays wet. A short, light watering every morning to knock dew off the grass is a good idea.
- **Irrigate turf during dry conditions.** Provide adequate soil moisture for continuous and optimal turf growth.