

Force<sub>of</sub>  
Nature



# Overview

## Types of Anthracnose

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There are two types of infection — Anthracnose Leaf Blight which occurs during the summer months, and Anthracnose Basal Rot which is found during cool and moist conditions.

## Period of Activity

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Anthracnose Leaf Blight is quite evident during the months of June, July, and August, but may also exist in May and September.

## Susceptible Species

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Annual bluegrass and creeping bentgrass, located on golf course putting greens, tees, and fairways, are attacked by this disease.

## Identification

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Anthracnose Leaf Blight may be injurious to the roots and crowns, but it will damage especially the leaves.

During the summer months, turf may be completely burned within forty-eight hours after the beginning of conditions favourable to disease development.

Some species, such as annual bluegrass, may be subjected to a rapid

death in the form of spots or irregularly-shaped patches.

The oldest outer leaves will be attacked first.

Eventually, the entire plant will seem to age rapidly, in a process that is called « senescence », which is the aging of the plant parts.

The leaves will become infected from the tip to the base, especially after a recent mowing.

In the beginning, the leaves will become discoloured and yellow.

( In comparison to drought damage, which produces its typical purplish colour. )

Turf will lose its vigour.

Once the leaves are yellow, they will rapidly change colour, to speckled reddish-brown, or bronze.

The colour will change one last time to an entirely reddish-brown colour, which is the classic symptom of Anthracnose Leaf Blight.



# Anthracnose Leaf Blight Disease

## Conditions Favouring Development

### Environmental Extremes

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This disease will become infectious and damaging when turf is UNDER STRESS.

Examples —

- compaction,
- drought,
- excess humidity,
- heat,
- lack of nitrogen,
- poor soil drainage,
- shade, and
- wear.

Stress caused by weather extremes during spring and summer WILL INCREASE the damage associated with this disease.

### Cultural Practices

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The prevailing maintenance practices will greatly affect the development of this disease.

Examples —

- mowing that is TOO SHORT,
- nitrogen fertilization that is IN-ADEQUATE OR EXCESSIVE,
- irrigation that is EXCESSIVE,
- topdressing that is damaging to foliage, and
- thatch accumulation that is HIGH.

A mowing height that is too short and nitrogen level that is too low will have the most pronounced effects on this disease.

A Look At ...

# Anthracnose Leaf Blight Disease

## Conditions Favouring Development



The severity of this disease is greatest on soft and SUCCULENT TURF maintained with VERY HIGH LEVELS OF NITROGEN, especially when compared to levels that are more moderate.

### Temperatures

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High temperatures occurring for an extended period will increase damage.

Ideally ... day-time temperatures ranging from 30 to 33 °C ( 86 to 91 °F ), and night-time temperature of 21 °C ( 70 °F ).

However, the turf may also be infected when temperatures range between 25 and 35 °C ( 77 and 95 °F ).

### Moisture

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This disease will develop when the SURFACE MOISTURE and ATMOSPHERIC HUMIDITY are HIGH. Frequent rain showers and 100 per cent saturated relative humidity will GREATLY ACCELERATE the development of this disease.

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The information presented in this Report is for preliminary planning only. Before making a final decision, the turf manager is expected to obtain trusted expert advice from extension specialists, local distributors and/or agronomists. All decisions must take into account the prevailing growing conditions, the time of year, and the established management practices.

All products mentioned in this Report should be used in accordance with the manufacturer's directions, and according to provincial, state, or federal law. For the official advantages, benefits, features, precautions, and restrictions concerning any product, the turf manager must rely only on the information furnished by the manufacturer. The mention of trade names does not constitute a guarantee or a warranty.

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Force Of Nature is the brainchild of William H. Gathercole and his entourage. Mr. Gathercole is a principal founder of the Modern Professional Lawn Care Industry in both Ontario and Quebec. He holds a degree in Horticulture from the University of Guelph, and another pure and applied science degree from MCGILL University. He has worked in virtually all aspects of the Green Space Industry, including golf, professional lawn care, and distribution. Mr. Gathercole has supervised, consulted, programmed, and/or overseen the successful execution of hundreds of thousands of management operations in the urban landscape. He has trained, instructed, and advised thousands of turf managers and technicians. Mr. Gathercole has also been an agricultural agronomist. Mr. Gathercole is personally credited for crafting the Exception Status that has allowed the Golf Industry to avoid being subjected to the prohibition of pest control products. He is also the creator of the signs that are now used for posting after application. Mr. Gathercole is now retired from Force Of Nature, although his name continues to appear as the founder.

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