



A Look At Managing Turfgrass Disease

Names Associated with Brown Ring Patch

BROWN RING PATCH, Waitea Patch (English names)

Waitea circinata var. circinata (Latin name)

Rhizoctone brun du gazon (French name before the re-classification)

BROWN RING PATCH, also known as WAITEA PATCH, is caused by a species closely related to Rhizoctonia oryzae and Rhizoctonia zeae, which are known to cause SHEATH AND LEAF SPOT or HIGH-TEMPERATURE BROWN PATCH in the United States.

is Waitea circinata var. circinata (abbreviation Wcc).

Susceptible Species and Likely Location

BROWN RING PATCH, also known as WAITEA PATCH, is a « new » disease of ANNUAL BLUEGRASS PUTTING GREENS that has recently appeared thoughout the United States and Canada, including Kelowna, British Columbia.

Although infected ANNUAL BLUEGRASS generally does not entirely collapse, TURFGRASS THINNING AND/OR PLANT DEATH CAN OCCUR.

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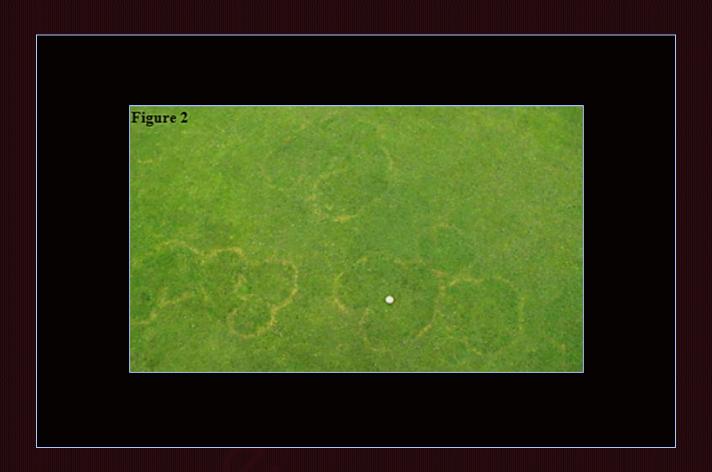
Identification

During the spring and early summer months, disease symptoms appear as YELLOW RINGS ranging from a few centimetres up to 30 centimetres (1-

Initial symptoms on putting greens begin as DIFFUSE, THIN YELLOW RINGS or CRESCENTS that can turn GOLDEN-BROWN under hot or wet conditions.

See Figure 1.

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Identification (continued)

Often, the RINGS will be UNEVEN and have a « scalloped » appearance.

See Figure 2.

TURFGRASS THINNING AND/OR PLANT DEATH CAN OCCUR.

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Identification (continued)

On LOW FERTILITY putting greens, sometimes a GREEN HALO can be seen SURROUNDING or INSIDE of the YELLOW RINGS.

Symptoms can be CONFUSED with those of YELLOW PATCH, FAIRY RING, or NECROTIC RING SPOT.

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Identification (continued)

FLUFFY, EXTENSIVE, and ABUNDANT MYCELIA can be seen on the foliage, down in the crowns, stolons, and in the thatch, WHEN THE SOIL IS MOIST.

See Figure 4.





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Conditions Favouring Disease Development

The disease has been observed at DAY-TIME TEMPERATURES ranging from 10°C to 32°C (50°F to 90°F), with optimal temperatures of 21°C to 29°C (70°F to 85°F).

Because it can actively colonize thatch, the disease may be MORE SEVERE on putting greens with EXCESSIVE ORGANIC MATTER ACCUMULATION.

Under hot and dry conditions, disease symptoms generally disappear, or may remain visible until treated with an effective fungicide.





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Chemical Control

Recommendations for control are based on *in vitro* testing of fungicides in ports from golf course superintendents.

plates against Chipco 26 GT® (iprodione), Banner MAXX®, Cleary's 3336® (thiophanate), Heritage® and ProStar® fungicides.

With the exception of Cleary's 3336[®], all fungicides evaluated in this study EFFECTIVELY SUPPRESSED MYCELIUM GROWTH.

(Wcc) appears to be NATURALLY RESISTANT TO THE BENZIMIDAZOLE FUN-GICIDES.

Superintendents have reported MIXED RESULTS for Brown Ring Patch control with fungicides — ProStar, Heritage, Medallion and Endorse fungicides seem to consistently provide the greatest level of control.

Since Brown Ring Patch is often in the thatch layer, ADEQUATE APPLICATION VOLUME ($\geq 7\frac{1}{2}$ litres or 2 gallons U.S. of water per 1000 square feet) and/or watering-in materials into the upper thatch layer is important.

If the disease is already well-established in the thatch or turf, MULTIPLE AP-PLICATIONS may be needed to completely stop the pathogen.

In SEVERE CASES, RECOVERY FROM DAMAGE IS SLOW due to the amount of crown damage and thatch degradation.

PREVENTIVE or EARLY CURATIVE CONTROL is likely MOST EFFECTIVE.

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A LOOK AT, and its various incarnations, 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-TERRORISM policies 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, although his name continues to appear as the founder of A LOOK AT.

