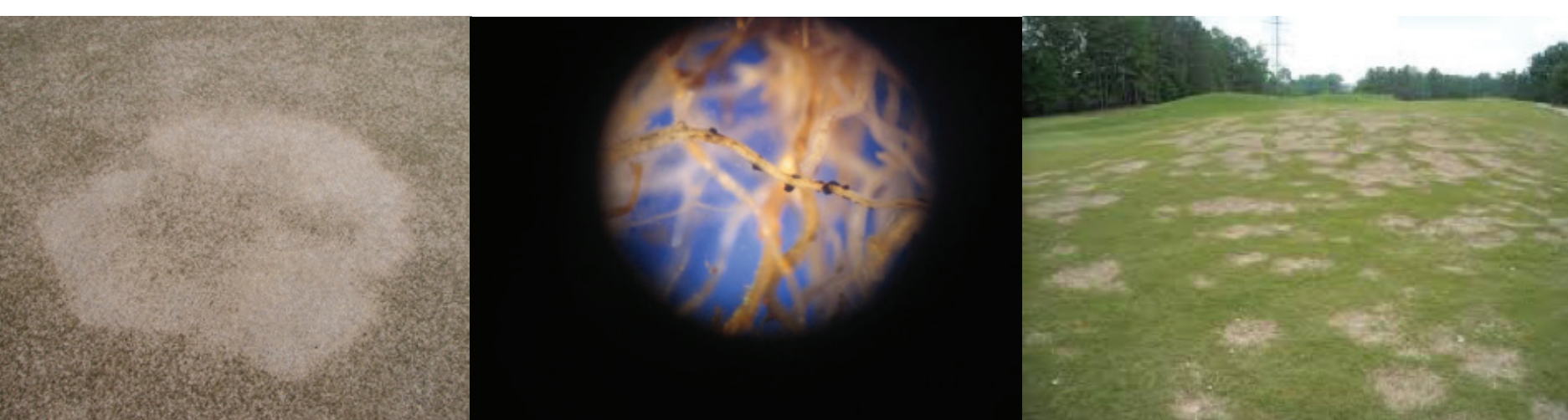




syngenta®

Spring Dead Spot Solutions



Disease Cycle: What Spring Dead Spot Does

During the early stages of this disease, the inside of the patches remains alive, but die off as the infection progresses. The entire plant structure inside these rings dies, including the shoots, rhizomes and roots. Regrowth in these dead areas must occur from the expansion of surrounding healthy plants and is very slow. The rings often fill with weeds or with stunted new turf plants. This appears to be because the lawn disease leaves a toxin in the area of dead grass which makes regrowth difficult.

Causal Agent: *Leptosphaeria korrae*

Susceptible Turfgrasses:

Common couch grass, South African couch grass and their hybrids.

Symptoms

- Circular patches of bleached, straw coloured dead grass appear in Spring as the dormant grass resumes growth.
- Patches are also visible in Autumn and Winter after a series of unusually cool days or wet, cold weather.
- Patches are a few centimetres to 1m in diameter.
- Patches reappear and expand in the same spot for 3 or more years.
- After 2 to 3 years, the centres of active patches may remain alive, and the patch takes on a “ring like” appearance.
- Rings that coalesce can appear as serpentine arcs.
- Roots of affected plants turn dark brown to black and are severely rotted.
- Regrowth of grass into affected patches is slow and patches may remain barren of fill with weeds.
- When the grass recolonises an affected area it remains stunted.

Conditions Favouring Disease

- Most active when temperatures are cool (12 to 14°C) and soil is moist.
- Roots of Couch grow most rapidly at 24 to 29°C and extremely slowly at 15°C, thus the fungus has a competitive advantage at low temperatures.
- Spring Dead Spot favours cool, wet weather in the spring and autumn and daily temperatures of less than 15°C.
- This disease is typically found where thatch is more than 1.2cm thick and in locations with poor drainage and low potassium levels.
- Heavy applications of nitrogen in late summer often increase disease severity the following spring.
- Spring Dead Spot is more severe on turf that is over three-years old and in locations with long dormancy and cold temperatures.

Spring Dead Spot (Kikuyu Patch - Treat in autumn)

Although the symptoms of this disease are seen in spring it needs to be treated in autumn.

PREVENTATIVE:

Banner 2 litres/ha in March & follow up 21 days later

CURATIVE:

Banner 4 litres/ha in March & follow up 21 days later

Banner®
Fungicide

1 Spring Dead Spot control

Easy Edge

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Distributed in South Africa by Talking Turf cc

Registration number: 2004/106765/23

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