Plant Pathology Fact Sheet

Destructive Diseases Common on Turfgrasses in Kentucky

By Paul Vincelli

The following is a list of diseases that are common in Kentucky on the host grasses indicated. This list includes only common diseases, and is not meant to provide a comprehensive list of all diseases diagnosed on turfgrasses grown in Kentucky.

**Kentucky Bluegrass**
- Leaf spot/Melting out
- Necrotic ring spot
- Powdery mildew
- Red thread/Pink patch
- Rust
- Summer patch

**Creeping Bentgrass**
- Anthracnose
- Brown patch
- Curvularia leaf blight
- Dollar spot
- Fusarium patch, Pink snow mold
- Pythium blight, Cottony blight
- Pythium root diseases
- Take all patch

**Tall Fescue**
- Brown patch
- Dollar spot
- Pythium blight, Cottony blight
- Red thread/Pink patch
- Rust

**Bermudagrass**
- Dollar spot
- Rhizoctonia large patch
- Spring dead spot
**Perennial Ryegrass**
- Brown patch
- Dollar spot
- Gray leaf spot
- Leaf spot & melting out
- Pythium blight, Cottony blight
- Red thread/Pink patch
- Rust

**Poa annua**
- Anthracnose
- Dollar spot
- Pythium root rot
- Summer patch

**Zoysia**
- Rhizoctonia large patch

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**HOW TO DIFFERENTIATE COMMON TURFGRASSES BY THEIR LEAF CHARACTERISTICS**

**TALL FESCUE**
- Leaf blade = flat
- Leaf tip = pointed

**KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS**
- Leaf blade = V-shaped
- Leaf tip = canoe-shaped

**PERENNIAL RYEGRASS**
- Leaf blade = 
- Leaf tip = pointed

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