

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

Anthraxnose
 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

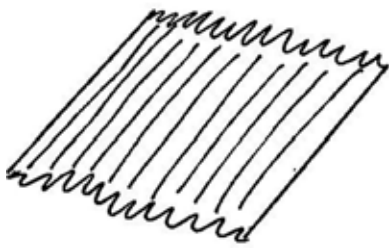
Poa annua

Anthracnose
Dollar spot
Pythium root rot
Summer patch

Zoysia

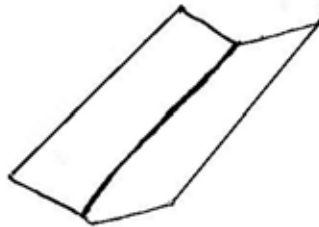
Rhizoctonia large patch

HOW TO DIFFERENTIATE COMMON TURFGRASSES BY THEIR LEAF CHARACTERISTICS



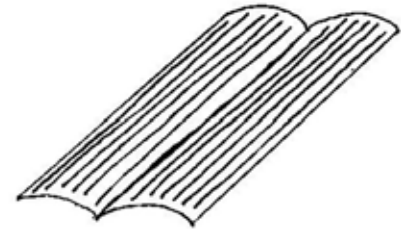
TALL FESCUE

Leaf blade = flat
Leaf tip = pointed




KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS

Leaf blade = V-shaped
Leaf tip = canoe-shaped



PERENNIAL RYEGRASS

Leaf blade = 
Leaf tip = pointed

(Revised May 2009)

Photo courtesy of William C. Nesmith, University of Kentucky