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Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

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Turf

If you had a problem, last season with a patch disease in your lawn, now is the time to think about treatment this season. One of the most important diseases of turf is Large Patch, caused by the fungus *Rhizoctonia solani*. Zoysia, Bermuda, St. Augustine, and Centipede are all susceptible. The damage occurs in the spring and fall when the pathogen is active. Stolons and basal leaf sheaths develop water soaked black to reddish brown lesions. Irregular circular patches develop that may be from several feet to more than 25 feet in diameter. Sometimes a smoke colored or orange halo may be observed early in the morning at the margins of the patch. Diseased shoots are easily detached from their points of attachment. Roots are discolored but not rotted. In the most badly affected turf, entire lawns may be blighted. Symptoms on Bermuda usually occur earlier in the spring than on Zoysia. Symptoms in Zoysia occur two to eight weeks after green up, or in the autumn. Sometimes symptoms slowly disappear during the growing season as surviving tillers start filling in the killed spots. Night irrigation, shade, and excessive amounts of nitrogen increase both severity and incidence of patch diseases. Complete fertilizers with

time-release nitrogen should be used instead of quick release nitrogen. Apply 0.5 pound of nitrogen per thousand square feet approximately three weeks after the grass turns green in late May. No more than two pounds of nitrogen total should be applied per growing season to Zoysia. A soil test is useful to see where fertility levels are. Good drainage is essential for a healthy lawn. The turf should be de-thatched if thatch accumulates to more than 0.5" thick. De-thatching should be done while grass is actively growing. Fungicides may be applied once in the spring between March 15 and April 15, and again in the fall between September 20 and October 10. Heritage, Prostar, Eagle, Instrata, and Bayleton are labeled for Large Patch. Soil test for pH and nutrients. Avoid night watering. Homeowners may use Spectracide Immunox Plus Insect Control for Lawns, Scotts Lawn Fungus Control, or Bonide Infuse Systemic Disease Control for Lawn and Landscape. Follow label for timing and rate.

Zoysia Large Patch-*Rhizoctonia solani*



Photo by Michelle Mobley, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

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Zoysia Large Patch-*Rhizoctonia solan*



Photo by Brad McGinley, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Rose

Spring is at our doorstep. Homeowners are beginning to address spring gardening chores such as clearing beds and spring pruning of roses. Some homeowners are weeding chemically, using glyphosate products such as Roundup. Unfortunately, roses are extremely sensitive to Roundup drift. Symptoms are yellowing, reddening, leaf deformity, and witches-broom type of growth. The symptoms can closely resemble those of Rose Rosette Virus. However, the virus symptoms often include unnatural proliferation of thorns. These thorns are usually soft and pliable. Viruses in plants are not curable. If you observe any of these symptoms, review any herbicide used in the vicinity, keeping in mind that Roundup can drift for long distances. Also be aware that the exposure could have occurred the previous

season. If there is no history of herbicide use, removal of the afflicted bush should be on the safe side.

Rose Glyphosate (Roundup) Damage-Abiotic



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension



Rose Glyphosate (Roundup) Damage-Abiotic



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas
Cooperative Extension

This bulletin from the Cooperative Extension Plant Health Clinic (Plant Disease Clinic) is an electronic update about diseases and other problems observed in our lab each month. Input from everybody interested in plants is welcome and appreciated.

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Rose Glyphosate (Roundup) Damage-Abiotic



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas
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