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**Picks**  
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# Common Lawn Problems

## Turf Diseases

### Brown Patch

Grass dies within a circular area. Common on bentgrass and warmseason grasses, but may affect others as well. Will often appear in mid-May through mid-September.

### Dollar Spot

Kills grass in small, tan circles on cool weather grasses and in larger circles on warm season grasses. Will appear in May through mid-October.

### Fusarium Blights

Shows as irregular patches of wilted turf that change from reddish brown to tan. Aerate and remove thatch; raise mowing height in summer.

### Leaf Spot

Leaf blades with streaks or discolored markings are probably under attack by various fungi. Appears in March through mid-June.

### Pythium Blight

Most common in warm, wet conditions, this blight causes the turf to look wilted and greasy, possibly with a cottony appearance.

### Rusts

This fungus causes orange and brown leaf discolorations and thinning of the turf.

### Snow Mold

This fungal disease will first appear as a light yellow to grayish white circular area during spring thaw. Affected patches are a few inches to a few feet in diameter.

*(Information obtained from Rodale's "Lawns, grasses, and Groundcovers" and Ortho's "All About Lawns")*

## Common Lawn Pests

### Armyworms

Large greenish brown, white striped caterpillars that devour grass blades, leaving bare patches.

### Billbugs

Larvae (white grubs) feed on roots; adults (brown weevils) eat the crowns. Both cause yellow or brown patches in the turf.

### Chinch Bugs

Adults have dark bodies with a triangular pad between white, folded wings. Nymphs are bright red with a white band across their backs. Both feed on plant juices, causing yellowed, round patches in the lawn.

### Mole Crickets

These large, light brown insects have short forelegs and shovel-like feet. They tunnel under the lawn and feed on roots, causing irregular streaks of brown grass.

### Spider Mites

These tiny, 8 legged creatures feed on foliage, causing yellowed grass blades and thin, browned turf.

### Webworms

Webworm moths often invade lawns in early spring, laying eggs that hatch into night-feeding caterpillars. These larvae cut off grass blades at the base of the plant, causing small, irregular dead spots.

### White Grubs

These curved, fat whitish beetle larvae chew on grass roots, causing patches of loose, browned turf.

*(Information obtained from Rodale's "Lawns, grasses, and Groundcovers")*