

Anthracnose¹

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Anthracnose

Pathogen: *Colletotrichum graminicola*

Turfgrasses Affected: Primarily centipedegrass, but it is known to occur on all warm-season turfgrasses.

Occurrence: This disease primarily affects centipedegrass. It is normally ob Table 5.4. Common names of chemical fungicides with examples of trade name products

Fungicide	Common Name	Trade Name
azoxystrobin	Heritage	chloroneb
Terraneb	etr Diazole (ethazol)	Koban, Terrazole
flutolanil	ProStar	fosetyl-al Aliette
fludioxonil	Medallion	mancozeb Dithane T/O
mefenoxam	Subdue	MAXX
myclobutanil	Eagle	polyoxin D
Endorse	propamocarb	Banol
propiconazole	Banner	MAXX
quintozene (PCNB)	Terraclor	thiophanate methyl Fungo, Cleary 3336
triadimefon	Bayleton	trifloxystrobin
Compass	served in the spring during periods of high moisture (rain or heavy fog) and warm temperatures. Disease severity is often greater on stressed turfgrass, especially during springs following cold winters.	

Symptoms/Signs: Leaf infection appears as reddish brown to brown spots that are often surrounded by a narrow yellow halo. Single spots may span the blade width, causing leaf yellowing and then death of the leaf. Tiller infection results in death of stems and the development of small, yellow patches of turfgrass (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Anthracnose symptoms on centipedegrass. Credits: G. W. Simone

The fungus can be observed with a hand lens. It will appear as small, black, cushion-like structures (acervuli) with black spines (setae) extending from the cushion. These structures will be found at the base of leaves next to the stem.

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1. This document is SS-PLP-56, a series of the Plant Pathology Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. This information is included in the Florida Lawn Handbook, SP-45, available for purchase at <http://ifasbooks.com>. First published: April 2001. Revised March 2008.
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Cultural Controls: Avoid potassium deficiency.

Do not apply excessive nitrogen during potential disease development periods. Do not use readily available forms of nitrogen such as soluble liquids or quick-release nitrogen sources just prior to or during these periods. Instead, use slow-release nitrogen sources. Apply a balanced fertilizer containing equivalent amounts of potassium, preferably a slow-release potassium form. Avoid drought stress. Irrigate deeply to saturate the root zone. Irrigate only in the early morning hours (between 2:00 and 8:00 a.m.) when dew is already present. If the diseased areas are associated with compacted soils, alleviate the compaction. If thatch is excessive, renovate.

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Chemical Controls: Azoxystrobin, myclobutanil, propiconazole, thiophanate methyl, triadimefon, and trifloxystrobin

Chlorothalonil cannot be applied to a residential lawn, but it can be applied to turfgrass in a business or industrial landscape.

Refer to "Turfgrass Disease Management" section of the *Florida Lawn Handbook* for explanations of cultural and chemical controls.