



Bayer

Late summer Dollar Spot threat

Dollar Spot is a looming threat to turfgrass with low nitrogen levels. So, it's likely to strike at this time of year, when fertiliser applications are slowing down. In addition, this fungal disease has the ability to devastate turfgrass because it can spread rapidly. It thrives in a range of mowing heights, but on close-mown turf the symptoms can be dramatic.

Dollar Spot mainly affects common grasses in fine turf situations, including Annual Meadow Grass (*Poa annua*), Bentgrass (*Agrostis sp*), and Fescue (*Festuca rubra ssp*).

"The combination of low nitrogen levels in these grasses, high daytime temperatures and low night time temperatures, together with heavy dew or surface moisture, is an ideal condition for Dollar Spot," says Neil Pettican from the Bayer Turf Solutions team.

It appears as 2-4 cm diameter bleached spots, which don't grow in size, but will 'bleed' together to form larger areas of bleached turf.

"For the management of this disease it's best to employ cultural controls. Infrequent irrigation, that's more intense is advisable, so the plant is watered sufficiently, but the overall period of leaf wetness is minimised. The removal of dew is essential," says Neil.

"To reduce the chance of dollar spot taking hold, adequate nitrogen levels are encouraged. At this time of year this is difficult, because fertiliser applications are slowing down," he says.

An effective broad-spectrum, dual-action fungicide for use on managed amenity turf with full control of Dollar Spot is Interface® with StressGard™ Formulation Technology, used as part of an integrated programme to manage the disease.

"Interface® protects against turf grass stress, including drought tolerance and offers better UV stress management, and this is important when treating for Dollar Spot, because the more stressed the turf grass is, the more susceptible it is to the disease," adds Neil.

