



GARDENING BY THE MOON

PYTHIUM ATTACKING TURF!

Submitted by

Dr. Robert E. Moon

September, 2022

Following this summer's drought, many of you are seeing brown areas in your turf. Unfortunately, this is not all drought. It can be a disease that has started to attack weakened areas in your turf due to the drought. This disease is called pythium blight or greasy spot and if left untreated, it can kill turf areas in bermudagrass lawns. The diseased areas will turn dark brown and feel oily to the touch. Pythium can attack roots, crowns and foliage of turf. Disease will start in small patches on the foliage but can quickly spread to large areas in the turf if left uncontrolled. Pythium is very active after rain events and high humidity when temperatures are in 80's or 90's during the day and 70's or 80's during the night. Disease spreads at night when turf is wet or during long periods of rain causing wet turf.



To help prevent this disease, always water early in the morning hours so turf will dry out when the sun comes up. Do not water in the early evening where turf can stay wet throughout the night.

To control Pythium, you can use Spectricide Immunox, Scotts Disease EX or Bio-Advanced Fungus Control for Lawns. If you see this disease, treat quickly!

