

Problems in your Lawn

Lawn Pests:

There are several potential pests that can attack your lawn either at establishment or when fully established. The worst of these is Grass Grub and Porina.

Grass Grub :

Attacks the lawn by eating the root system of the grass and must be controlled very soon after you discover the problem or else major damage will be suffered. Damage becomes noticeable normally in the mid - late autumn / winter however grass grubs can be present up to the mid spring period. If they are present you will notice brown patches appearing over the lawn and you can very easily lift the thatch up often you will see the small white grass grubs. Grass grubs can be controlled with several readily available products, please ensure you read the label carefully as these products are only successful and safe when applied in accordance with them. They include Diazinon prills & Diazinon Liquid.

Porina:

Lesser of the two evils as Porina will only attack the top growth of your lawn, however if not controlled will cause significant damage. Porina area most active from mid Summer / late Autumn. Porina live in tunnels under the ground with fine casts at the surface held together by silken threads. Once again there is a range of very suitable chemicals as mentioned for grass grub and Dimilin 25 W.



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Lawn Diseases:

The new cultivars of turf grasses are selected very heavily on disease resistance however from time to time these may become an issue. The three main diseases to be aware of are.

Damping off:

This disease attacks establishing lawns and is therefore a problem during the autumn, often cool wet weather conditions help its spread. Attacks all lawn seed types and rapid seedling death can occur. Using too much seed and water will increase your problems. Controlled with fungicides that include Thiram.

Dollar spot:

Very common during the spring / summer / autumn. Small, round dead patches generally no more than 50 cm in size (however patches will sometimes combine to form larger patches) appear over the whole lawn. A combination of humid weather and heavy dews help the occurrence of this disease. Controlled with fungicides that include Bravo and Green guard.

Brown Patch:

Over feeding, allowing the thatch build up and poor drainage can make the grass have a purplish - green look to it in irregular patches up to 0.5 cm in diameter. Usually clearly visible on closely mown lawns. More common during Summer and Spring as Brown patch is more of a problem during humid conditions. Controlled with fungicides that include Bravo and Green guard.



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