

Problem: Powdery Mildew of Turf - *Erysiphe graminis*



Host Plants: Kentucky bluegrass (most susceptible), bermudagrass, red fescue, others.

Description: Individual blades look like they have been dusted with flour. Closer inspection reveals a white, powdery growth primarily on the upper surface of the leaves. As the disease progresses, turfgrass blades wither and die. Kentucky bluegrass grown in the shade is the most likely to be affected. High relative humidity, poor air movement, and air temperatures around 65°F favor disease development. Disease normally occurs in August to September.

Recommendations: To control mildew, try to improve light and air penetration. The development of mildew often indicates areas of the lawn that are unsuitable for turfgrass. Consider other types of ground covers for these areas. Several fungicides, including triadimefon (Bayleton), propiconazole (Banner MAXX, Fertilome Liquid Systemic Fungicide II, Bonide Infuse Systemic Disease Control), and myclobutanil (Eagle, Immunox, F-Stop Garden Disease Control) are effective in reducing the incidence of powdery mildew.

References:

1. [Powdery Mildew](#), Purdue University, Purdue Extension Publication BP-111-W

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