

Rust

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Pathogen

Puccinia spp.

Turfgrasses Affected

St. Augustinegrass and zoysiagrass; it may also be observed on perennial ryegrass used to overseed lawns in the winter months.

Occurrence

This disease can occur from late fall to early spring when the turfgrass is not growing rapidly due to cool weather. It will be more severe on turfgrass areas that are stressed from nutrient deficiencies or shade (ex: under trees, north side of building). The leaves must be wet for infection to occur. This wetness may be from dew, high humidity, rain or irrigation.

Symptoms/Signs

Initially, light yellow flecks will appear on the leaves. If the disease progresses, these flecks will enlarge into spots that are parallel to the leaf vein. Eventually, orange pustules (spots) will form containing spores (**Figures 1 and 2**). These pustules will also be parallel to the leaf vein. The spores will rub off on your fingers. Heavily infected areas will appear thin and chlorotic (yellow to light brown).

Cultural Control

Maintain an adequate, balanced fertility program using slow-release nutrient sources. In shady areas, monitor the irrigation closely to keep the leaves as dry as possible. In most situations, the disease will disappear as soon as the weather warms and the turfgrass starts to grow vigorously again. The disease may cause the turfgrass to look ugly, but it will not kill the turfgrass.

Chemical Controls

azoxystrobin, mancozeb, propiconazole, thiophanate methyl, triadimefon, trifloxystrobin.

Mancozeb can be applied to a residential lawn only by a professional pesticide applicator.

Refer to “Turfgrass Disease management” PPP-64 for explanations of chemical and cultural controls.



Figure 1. Rust symptoms on zoysiagrass.

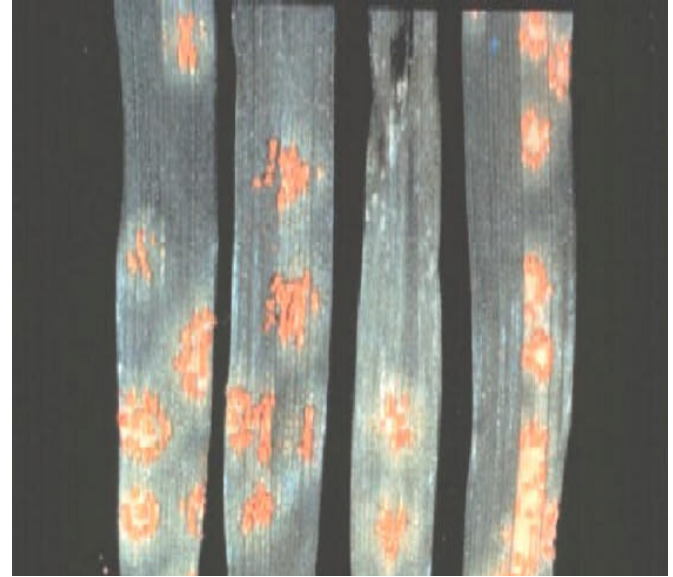


Figure 2. Rust symptoms on ryegrass. Orange spores will rub off.