

Brown Patch

By: Melinda Sperl

Even with the drought there is still a fair amount of Brown Patch showing on lawns this year. Brown Patch is evident by yellowing or brown smooth edged circular spots on the lawn. It is usually in a low spot or an area that is getting too much water and fertilizer. It will usually an indication heavy nitrogen fertilizers and will show up in the cooler season and in heavily irrigated lawns. Unlike other funguses or insect infestation, Brown Patch only turns the leaves brown but the roots survive to grow back the following spring.

There are many over the counter treatments for Brown Patch available. Treatment will only cure the fungus that causes the disease but the actual grass area will not fill in until the grass starts growing in for the next growing season. Do not fertilize the grass until the fungus is cured or you could actually feed the disease with the fertilizer.

Agricultural grade Corn Meal, which is an organic product, has been used for years as a fungal treatment. It is available at many local stores but can be pricey.

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