



Lawn weeds, pests & disease



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Common lawn weeds



They may be green, but **weeds are plants growing where they're not wanted within your lawn.** Weeds can take any form and can vary depending on where they grow and typically produce large numbers of seeds, assisting their spread.

Unfortunately, weeds are often excellent at surviving and reproducing and are commonly the first plants to colonise and dominate.

The trick to preventing weeds from taking hold is to keep your lawn in good condition.

Always remove seed heads from weeds and take care when digging them out to remove all of the roots.

myhomeTURF offers lawn lovers this comprehensive guide to help identify Common Lawn Weeds and gives guidance on prevention, control and recommended herbicides to use.

Bindi Weed

Bindi Weed is a broadleaf winter annual that is also known as Lawn Burweed and Spurweed.

It is a very invasive, low growing weed that produces bur-like fruit that poses a hazard to humans and animals due to their sharp edges.

The weed evolves during winter and develops carrot-like leaves, during spring it produces a single flower that matures to form a prickly seed pod with three spines.

How to control Bindi Weed

The best time to remove Bindi Weeds is during late winter or spring.

If you only have a small amount of Bindi in your lawn, then hand removal is suitable if you remove the plant along with the roots.

If your lawn is rife with Bindi, then **myhomeTURF** recommends a broadleaf weed herbicide with the Common Active Ingredients of Clopyralid, Diflufenican and Potassium Salt.



myhomeTURF suggests using Bow & Arrow, a broadleaf herbicide that can be purchased through our Partner LawnPride. If your lawn is rife with Bindi, then a suitable pre or post-emergent herbicide is recommended.

Common lawn weeds



Crabgrass

Crabgrass is one of the worst lawn weeds in the world, and when found the homeowner should never hesitate in removing or killing it as soon as possible. Due to the severity of Crab Grass weed and how fast it can spread, it simply must not be ignored.

Crabgrass is easily known by most people, it is most noticeable by its wide leaf blade and grass-like appearance.

This grass, however, will send out tough stems with fingers of seed heads at its tips. Crabgrass will become most prominent when its leaf blades grow faster than the surrounding lawn and when it reaches out and become taller than the other turf.

The seed production of Crabgrass is extremely prolific. Every season, a single weed can send out thousands of seeds, so it's easy to see how it can quickly spread and take-over and ruin an entire lawn.

How to control Crabgrass

Ongoing control of Crabgrass involves regular year-round lawn mowing which will aid in constantly



removing new weed seeds as they are produced and before they mature.

If you need to use a herbicide, **myhomeTURF** recommends a pre-emergent herbicide with the Common Active Ingredient of Oxadiazon.

myhomeTURF suggests using OxaFert, a combination fertiliser and pre-emergent herbicide that can be purchased through our Partner LawnPride.

Crowsfoot Grass

Crowsfoot Grass is a hardy annual weed that grows during spring, summer and autumn.

It is a tufted, short-lived, grass with spreading of semi-upright stems growing up to 60cm tall.

Crowsfoot has leaf sheaths that are prominently keeled with a membranous structure (5cm to 10cm long) at the base of the leaf blade.

Its narrow leaf blades (3cm to 35cm long and 30cm to 80cm wide) are mostly hairless.

Crowsfoot Grass has seed-heads with 1-15 branches (3.5cm to 15.5cm long) that radiate outwards from the same point.

Numerous flower spikelets (35cm to 70cm long) are densely arranged along the seed-head branches.

Crowsfoot grows in all soil conditions and can survive in heavily compacted areas where Couch grass won't grow and may survive for more than a year in climates not subject to frost.

This low-growing weed is capable of setting seed even when closely mown.



How to control Crabgrass

For the control of Crowsfoot, **myhomeTURF** recommends a pre-emergent herbicide with the Common Active Ingredient of Oxadiazon.

myhomeTURF suggests using OxaFert, a combination fertiliser and pre-emergent herbicide that can be purchased through our Partner LawnPride.

Common lawn weeds



Dandelion Weeds

Dandelions have green leaves edged with teeth' that grow mostly flat to the ground and are distinguished by their bright yellow flowers that fade to form a white puffball.

They appear in spring and autumn in lawns that aren't as full and healthy as they could be.

Above-ground, Dandelion seeds ride the wind currents, and drop into the slightest opening in your lawn and propagate.

Below-ground, the Dandelion weed lays down a taproot up to 25cm long however, pulling the taproot as a means of removal is problematic.

The Dandelion's thick, brittle roots easily split, and any fraction left behind will regenerate.

How to control Dandelion Weeds

With careful digging and pulling the Dandelion weed can be removed by hand.



Using post-emergence herbicides (referred to as broadleaf weed control) are the most effective dandelion killers that are safe for lawns. The Common Active Ingredient 2,4-D is an example of a selective and systemic post-emergent herbicide.

myhomeTURF recommends a post-emergence herbicide that can be purchased through our Partner LawnPride.

Mullumbimby Couch

Mullumbimby Couch grows year-round and is a mat-forming grass-like plant with long underground runners and upright flowering stems measuring up to 40cm in height.

The weed has tough long, rhizomes which are red to purple in colour and stems that are triangular in cross-section.

Mullumbimby Couch has bright green leaves (10cm to 30cm wide) that are hairless and sheath the stem at the base.

Its pale green seed-heads (60cm to 70cm long) have three or four green leafy bracts at the base and contain numerous small flower spikelets which appear throughout spring and summer.

Mullumbimby Couch has 'seeds' yellow to reddish-brown in colour.

Conducive growing conditions for Mullumbimby Couch occur when there is excessive soil moisture and humidity.

Mullumbimby Couch is a member of the Sedge family and can quickly colonise areas of the garden by setting seed and underground rhizomes.



How to control Mullumbimby Couch

Control of Mullumbimby Couch is difficult. You can use a spade to remove the weed but ensure that no roots or bulbs are left in the soil or it will reappear.

Alternately for the control of Mullumbimby Couch, **myhomeTURF** recommends a selective herbicide with the Common Active Ingredient of Halosulfuron-methyl.

myhomeTURF suggests using Indigo Halo-Force, a selective herbicide that can be purchased through our Partner LawnPride.

Common lawn weeds



Nut Grass

Nut Grass is a long-lived grass-like plant that is a member of the Sedge family and can be found in your lawn year-round.

The weed usually grows to about 20cm to 50cm in height and produces a network of creeping underground stems with small tubers (100cm to 250cm long).

Nut Grass has upright flowering stems that are smooth and three-angled in cross section.

The weed has very narrow leaves (7cm to 20cm long and 20cm to 60cm wide) which are borne in a tuft at the base of the stems.

Its seed heads have three to eight branches that vary in length (up to 10cm long) and are supported by two to four green leafy bracts.

The easiest way to distinguish Nut Grass is through the branches which have several elongated reddish-brown or purplish-brown flower spikelets (100cm to 250cm long and 20cm to 25cm wide).

How to control Nut Grass

Nut Grass control is very similar to that of Mullumbimby Couch and is also difficult to control.



A spade can be used to remove the weed but ensure no roots or bulbs are left in the soil or it will reappear.

Alternately for the control of Nut Grass, **myhomeTURF** recommends a selective herbicide with the Common Active Ingredient of Halosulfuron-methyl.

myhomeTURF suggests using Indigo Halo-Force, a selective herbicide that can be purchased through our Partner LawnPride.

Oxalis Weed

Oxalis can appear like a miniature clover plant, but it bears tiny yellow flowers.

Some gardeners occasionally grow Oxalis for groundcover but for most of us it is an annoying weed.

Oxalis is a perennial weed, which spreads through interlocking rhizomes that are easy to break apart, these rhizomes eventually produces tiny bulbils.

The seeds of Oxalis are prolific and ejected when ripe from tiny seed pods that look like mini okra.

Anywhere the stem touches the ground the Oxalis weed can root, potentially producing more and more plants.

Oxalis also forms a fleshy taproot and an extensive branching root system which can make it challenging to manage.

How to control Oxalis Weed

Hand removal can be done but it is slow and laborious, and it may take several seasons to remove



the Oxalis from your lawn.

For the control of Oxalis, **myhomeTURF** recommends a pre-emergent herbicide with the Common Active Ingredient of Oxadiazon.

myhomeTURF suggests using OxaFert, a combination fertiliser and pre-emergent herbicide that can be purchased through our Partner LawnPride.

Common lawn weeds



Paspalum

Paspalum is one of the most difficult weeds to control and predominantly found in the south-eastern states of Australia.

It is a long-lived tufted grass growing up to 1.5m tall with slightly folded leaf blades at the base which are usually hairless.

Paspalum's seed-heads are borne at the tips of upright flowering stems and have 2-11 branches (2.5cm-11cm long) that are alternatively arranged along a main stalk.

Each Paspalum seed-head branch bears numerous small flower spikelets that are covered with hairs.

Paspalum mainly grows throughout the warmer months from late spring to autumn.

The weed prolifically spreads through its sticky seeds which easily grasp onto pets and shoes before been relocated.



How to control Paspalum

Like with most weed control, removing by hand is the best method as long as the entire plant and roots are removed.

Alternately for the control of Paspalum, **myhomeTURF** recommends a pre-emergent herbicide with the Common Active Ingredient of Prodiamine.

myhomeTURF suggests using Barricade, a herbicide that can be purchased through our Partner LawnPride.

Summer Grass

Summer Grass is a common fast-growing weed, found Australia-wide, that sends out shoots in all directions from its centre during conditions of high heat and humidity.

Summer Grass spreads prolifically through its stolons, with stems that can be brown or red in colour and thin grey-green leaves with fine spiky seed heads that shoot upwards.

When first noticed in your lawn, Summer Grass should be removed immediately by hand as it competes with your turf for nutrients and growing space.

Summer Grass goes to seed during autumn and if not controlled re-emerges the next year.

Competition is greatest from Summer Grass when it is thin and open, the mowing height is incorrect and light frequent irrigations are applied.

How to control Summer Grass

Once Summer Grass appears it is hard to control so prevention is the key and feeding your lawn with fertiliser will assist.

Therefore, for the control of Summer Grass, **myhomeTURF** recommends a pre-emergent



herbicide with the Common Active Ingredient of Oxadiazon.

myhomeTURF suggests using OxaFert, a combination fertiliser and pre-emergent herbicide that can be purchased through our Partner LawnPride.

Common lawn weeds



White Clover

White Clover is a classic three-leaf clover with bright green leaves adorned with white crescent shapes.

It appears from spring through to autumn and usually in thin lawns with nutrient-poor soil.

White Clover grows in a creeping manner and develops roots wherever a stem node touches the ground.

The flowers on White Clover are spiky and white with a brownish green centre.

How to control White Clover

If White Clover is established in your lawn you can start by hand removal.

However, if White Clover is prolific throughout your lawn then a pre or post-emergent herbicide is recommended but first check with your local garden cCentre to ensure it is suitable for your lawn type.

It is important to note that killing White Clover weed is easy but killing the White Clover seed is not.



White Clover has seeds that can survive high heat, low temperatures and can stay dormant for years before germinating.

Therefore, be prepared to hand weed or, **myhomeTURF** recommends a pre-emergent herbicide with the Common Active Ingredient of Oxadiazon.

myhomeTURF suggests using OxaFert, a combination fertiliser and pre-emergent herbicide that can be purchased through our Partner LawnPride.

Winter Grass

Winter Grass is a widespread weed problem throughout Australia and is more prevalent in winter and spring.

Winter Grass is characterised by its prolific seed production which makes it hard to manage.

If seeds appear, they are quick to germinate, and it is more than likely you will have Winter Green in your lawn again the following year.

The Winter Grass weed is a pale green colour with smooth leaves and has a white cotton-like root zone.

While Winter Grass is easy to remove my hand, as there is so much of it often it grows back.

How to control Winter Grass

There are two methods of controlling Winter Grass – post-emergent and pre-emergent herbicide control.

Post-emergent control is when you selectively poison out the Winter Grass weed after it germinates (for example, during the autumn and winter months).

The most important thing is to apply the post-emergent control exactly as directed. The herbicide can take a considerable amount of time to work, anywhere from between two weeks and two months.



If the post-emergent is applied too late into the winter, it can be hard to get a result.

Pre-emergent control works on the basis that you control the seed before it germinates which is an easier way to manage the problem. Application is usually going into winter.

myhomeTURF recommends a pre-emergent herbicide with the Common Active Ingredient of Oxadiazon.

myhomeTURF suggests using OxaFert, a combination fertiliser and pre-emergent herbicide that can be purchased through our Partner LawnPride.

Common lawn pests



Having a perfect lawn is a dream many homeowners strive for. While managing all the basics, including watering, mowing, and fertilising, is fairly straight forward, **there's one aspect of lawn care that's less easy to control – lawn pests.**

Lawn pests can be numerous and varied. For example, underground, your grass could become a meal for White Curl Grubs and Mole Crickets.

Other lawn insects, including Armyworms and Two Spotted Mites, could attack the stalks of your favourite turf grass.

With a little understanding of the different lawn pests that exist within your area, you can easily keep them under control with good lawn management or an effective pre or post-emergent insecticide.

Wondering what pests may be the problem? Read on for a comprehensive list of Common Lawn Pests and solutions to get rid of them!

Top 10 most Common Lawn Pests and their treatment...

African Black Beetle

The African Black Beetle is a shiny jet-black scarab soil-dwelling pest, up to 1.5cm long, with serrated front legs and looks very similar to a cockchafer.

African Black Beetle's larvae are white to creamy-white, soft bodied curl grubs up to 2.5cm long.

The most active time of the year for African Black Beetles in your lawn is during spring and summer.

The female African Black Beetle can lay up to 80 eggs that hatch in 2 to 5 weeks.

How to control the African Black Beetle

myhomeTURF recommends a suitable insecticide with the Common Active Ingredient Chlorantraniliprole for long-term residual control.



myhomeTURF recommends using Acelepryn, an effective insecticide that can be purchased through our Partner LawnPride.

Common lawn pests



Ants

Ants can be beneficial in your lawn by moving organic material into the soil, creating tunnels and aerating the soil.

Ants, however, can cause cosmetic damage to your lawn as they create tunnels and mounds of excavated soil on the lawn's surface.

Ants are small, long and thin insects ranging in size from 0.1-5cm in length and vary in colours of black, brown, yellow, and are sometimes metallic.

Ants prefer well-drained soil in lawns that is not compacted – so healthy lawns are not removed from ant damage.

How to control Ants

Homemade Ant killer is an option and can be done by simply pouring boiling water onto the Ants nest that is on your lawn. This homemade method can take several attempts and result in wet, boggy areas in your lawn as well as cause your grass to turn brown through scalding.



Using both dishwashing detergent and olive oil to control Ants in your lawn is another option, however, this can have detrimental affects to your lawn by making the treated section paler in colour.

There are other homemade methods but **myhomeTURF** recommends Fipronil, an effective insecticide that can be purchased through our Partner LawnPride.

Army Worms

Army Worms are caterpillar grub pests found in lawns.

Army Worms vary in colour from green to brown to black, can reach a maximum length of about 4cm, and will become plump as they feed and mature.

Large numbers of Army Worms are possible due to their moth parent being able to lay up to 500 eggs in a single laying, and then repeat the same process the following night.

These lawn grubs get their name because they form large armies, devastate large areas of lawn, and then quickly move onto the next lawn.

Ideal weather conditions during summer and autumn can see Army Worms appear in plague proportions where they leave brown patches all over your grass.

How to control Army Worms

Army Worms are very difficult to find, they spend their days hiding at soil level, and deep inside the thatch layer of the lawn.

It's at night that Army Worms will come out and spend their entire night feeding on your lawn.



Once Army Worms have been identified, they are treated with a lawn insecticide that has the Common Active Ingredient Chlorantraniliprole.

myhomeTURF recommends using Acelepryn, an effective insecticide that can be purchased through our Partner LawnPride.

Common lawn pests



Couch Mites

Couch Mites are very tiny pests that cannot be seen on your Couch lawn with the naked eye.

They live and feed in amongst the leaf sheaths of your Couch and can breed very quickly.

Couch Grass Mites are active throughout summer, particularly during hot and dry conditions.

Infected lawn from Couch Grass Mites exhibits a slight yellowing of the leaf tips followed by shortening of the internodes and leaves – stunting your lawn's growth.

Spread of Couch Grass Mite can easily occur through lawn clippings or as the mites are dispersed in the wind.

How to Control Couch Grass Mites?

To control the Couch Grass Mites **myhomeTURF**



recommends a suitable insecticide with the Common Active Ingredients Clofentezine and Abamectin.

myhomeTURF recommends using Malice Duo, an effective insecticide that can be purchased through our Partner LawnPride.

Cutworm

Cutworm is a caterpillar-like pest and is typically yellow, green, brown or grey and has stripes.

The larval stage of Cutworm appears as a smooth bodied, dark coloured caterpillar with longitudinal lines and brown to black spots on back and sides.

When mature the adult black Cutworm metamorphoses into a brown moth with a wingspan up to 5.5cm.

Adult moths lay their eggs in clusters in grass at night and are attracted to the light, making lawn surfaces around night-lit buildings more susceptible.

Cutworm larvae hatch and usually feed on the lawn during the night and take shelter during the day.

These larvae typically cut off your lawn's leaves at the crown level and pull them into a burrow before feeding hence the name Cutworm.

Cutworms have two generations per year and overwinter as pupae in your lawn.

Some species of Cutworm produce enough generations so adult moths are present throughout the year.

Conditions favouring Cutworms on your lawn are pro-longed summers, early-autumns and humid weather.



How to control Cutworms

To control the Cutworms **myhomeTURF** recommends a suitable insecticide with the Common Active Ingredient Chlorantraniliprole for long-term residual control.

myhomeTURF recommends using Acelepryn, an effective insecticide that can be purchased through our Partner LawnPride.

Common lawn pests



Grasshoppers

Grasshoppers are large, hard-bodied, chewing insects, typically 5cm to 12cm+ long with two large compound eyes provided for quick reflexes.

A Grasshopper's powerful hindlegs which are used for jumping make a snapping noise, as do their wings.

During the day, male Grasshoppers make a chirping sound produced by rubbing their legs and wings together.

Female Grasshoppers lay eggs in either the ground or on leaves of grass, their eggs then hatch into nymphs (young) that grow through various stages similar in appearance to adult forms, often developing wings in adulthood.

There are many different species of Grasshoppers that can cause damage to your lawn, generally in colours of greens, browns and blacks, sometimes in oranges, blues, and reds, all in varying patterns.

Grasshoppers can be found hiding in the ground, on stems or on leaves of your lawn and cause the most damage from spring until autumn.



How to control Grasshoppers

As soon as you see signs of Grasshoppers damaging your lawn **myhomeTURF** recommends a suitable insecticide for long-term residual control that has the Common Active Ingredient Bifenthrin.

myhomeTURF recommends the use of Venom, an effective insecticide that can be purchased through our Partner LawnPride.

Mole Crickets

The Mole Cricket is a brown elongated insect pest with a hard, shiny head, wings and a body up to 5cm long.

They possess large front legs with jagged claws for digging, and powerful hind legs that are used for removing loose soil while burrowing.

Female Mole Crickets lay their eggs from the beginning of November throughout the warmer months.

The adult male Mole Cricket dies after mating and the females die after laying their eggs.

Mole Crickets are most prevalent in your lawn from mid to late spring until the end of summer and prefer the habitat of moist soil.

How to control Mole Crickets

To protect your lawn from Mole Crickets, keep it well fed with a good fertiliser.

As soon as you see signs of Mole Crickets **myhomeTURF** recommends a suitable insecticide



for long-term residual control that has the Common Active Ingredient Abamectin.

myhomeTURF recommends Thumper, an effective insecticide that can be purchased through our Partner LawnPride.

Common lawn pests



Sod Webworm

Sod Webworm is a relatively thick caterpillar up to 2.5cm long with a pale green-brown body that is marked with characteristic dark spots along its length.

Sod Webworm are the larvae of an unassuming small brown moth and it is the larval feeding that causes dead brown patches in your lawns.

On close inspection of your lawn the leaf margins may be ragged where the young Sod Webworm larvae have been feeding.

Sod Webworm control is focused on the larva and not the adult moths.

How to control Sod Webworms

To control the Sod Webworm **myhomeTURF** recommends a suitable insecticide with the Common Active Ingredient Chlorantraniliprole for long-term residual control.

myhomeTURF recommends using Acelepryn, an effective insecticide that can be purchased through our Partner LawnPride.



Two Spotted Mites

Two Spotted Mites are related to spiders as they have four pairs of legs.

These tiny pinkish-red mites cluster on the underside of your lawn's leaves often producing fine webbing.

Two Spotted Mites are active in hot dry weather when the life cycle from eggs to adults is completed in just a week, meaning the mites can develop pesticide resistance quickly.

The Two Spotted Mites dislike moist humid conditions so overhead watering can be useful as a control.

Symptoms of Two Spotted Mites are yellow mottling or bronzing of your lawn's leaves and fine webbing seen on heavy infestations.

How to control Two Spotted Mites

To control the Two Spotted Mites **myhomeTURF** recommends a suitable insecticide with the Common Active Ingredient Chlorantraniliprole for long-term residual control.



myhomeTURF recommends using Acelepryn, an effective insecticide that can be purchased through our Partner LawnPride.

Common lawn pests



White Curl Grub

White Curl Grubs can be responsible for a lot of damage occurring to all lawn types as they feed on the roots of the grass.

White Curl Grubs are white and plump with six legs and often with an orange head and are usually curled into a "C" shape – hence their name.

The earliest damage of White Curl Grubs will appear as patches of turf which seem to be dying off with an appearance of the drying out of the lawn's leaf.

As damage to your lawn from the White Curl Grub progresses you will be able to pull up your lawn easily from the soil as the roots have been severed away.

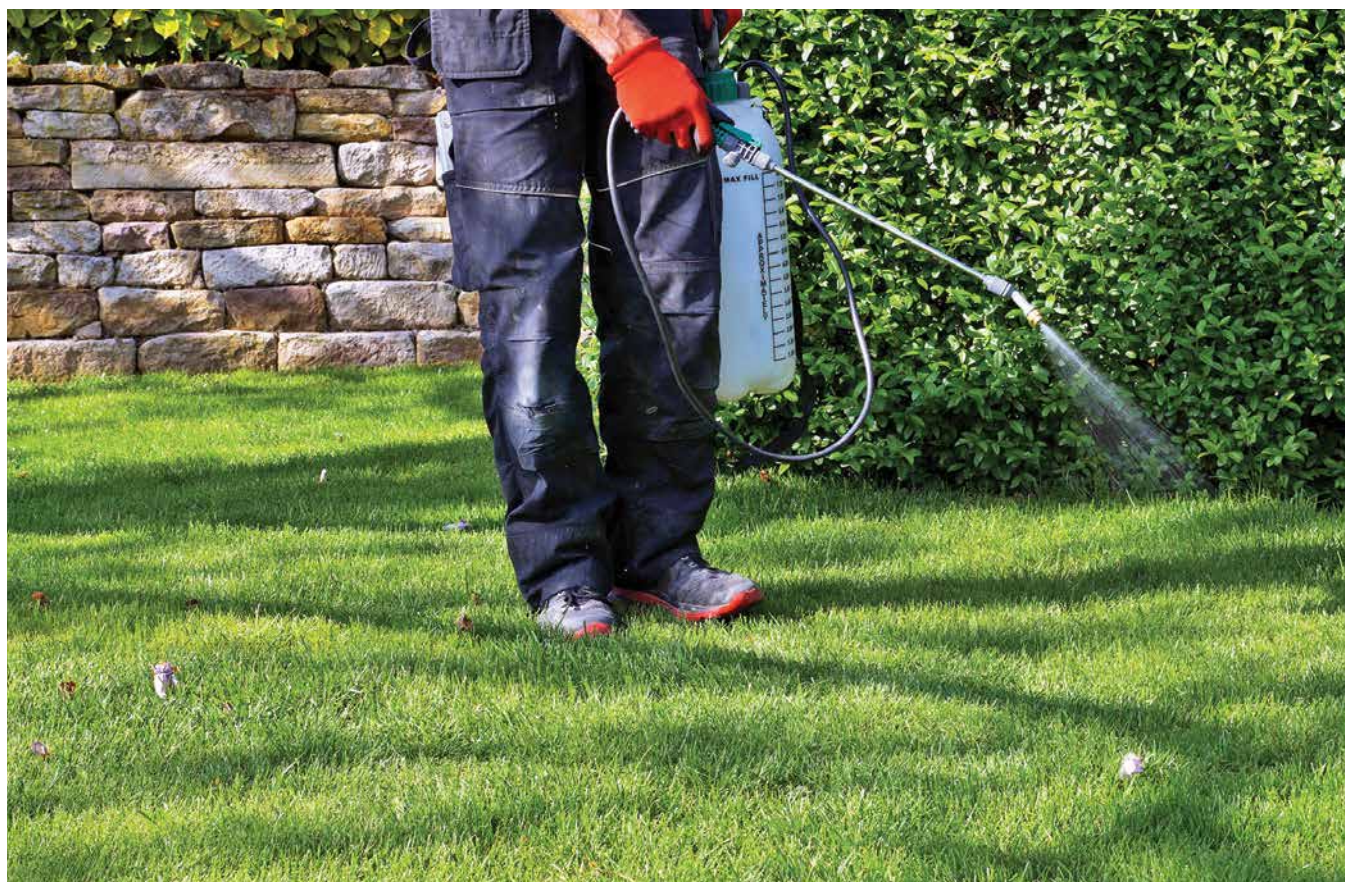
To check for White Curl Grubs, pore a bucket of hot soapy water onto the affected area of your lawn and they should appear within 10 minutes.

How to control White Curl Grubs

To control the White Curl Grubs **myhomeTURF** recommends a suitable insecticide with the Common Active Ingredient Chlorantraniliprole for long-term residual control.



myhomeTURF recommends using Acelepryn, an effective insecticide that can be purchased through our Partner LawnPride.



Common lawn diseases



When disease attacks your turf, control can be difficult unless you know how to identify lawn diseases and understand the causes and prevention behind them.

Many common lawn diseases have fungal problems at their source such as Powdery Mildew. Fortunately, proper lawn maintenance and care can help prevent and resolve most lawn diseases.

Read **myhomeTURF's** comprehensive lists of Common Lawn Diseases and learn how to prevent or control them from invading your lawn.

Top 10 most Common Lawn Diseases and their treatment...

Anthracnose

Anthracnose is a foliar disease or a basal rot of the lower leaves of your lawn. Lawns infected with anthracnose have leaves that turn yellow to a light tan to brown before dying – younger leaves often turn red.

Lawn Anthracnose infected areas are seen as irregular shaped patches, reddish brown in colour which turn yellow then tan to brown.

Anthracnose favours temperatures over 25°C, humid conditions, lawns that have soil compaction and low amounts of nitrogen.

How to control Anthracnose

Proper lawn care maintenance which includes adequate fertiliser, reduction of thatch levels, aeration, morning watering that is deep and infrequent and mowing at regular intervals is recommended to prevent Anthracnose.



Alternately if the above lawn care maintenance procedures do not work, common remedies such as Neem oil, Bacillus subtilis, Sulfur Dust Fungicides, Liquid Copper Fungicides or Fungicides with the Common Active Ingredient Penthiopyrad – please first seek advice from your local garden centre.

Common lawn diseases



Black Spot

Black Spot is characterised by black spots on the upper side of your lawn's leaves and occurs due to fungal diseases such as Leaf Spot, Pythium Blight, Leaf Smut and Slime Mould.

These black spots not only look unattractive and serve as an eyesore, they sabotage the health and vigour of the lawn and weaken its structure.

During warmer weather, massive deluges combined with the heat and humidity create the ideal conditions for Black Spot.

General symptoms include, leaf blades with reddish-black to purplish-black spots, mould-like masses on the lawn and cobweb-like growths of fungi usually apparent during humid, wet mornings or evenings.

How to control Blackspot

The best approach to control Black Spot in your lawn is through proper lawn care maintenance.

Proper lawn care maintenance ensures a healthy lawn and includes adequate fertiliser, reduction of thatch levels, aeration, morning watering that is deep and infrequent and mowing at regular intervals.



Alternately if the above lawn care maintenance procedures do not work, fungicides with the Common Active Ingredient Iprodione should be used.

myhomeTURF recommends using Indigo Voltar an effective Broad Spectrum Fungicide that can be purchased through our Partner LawnPride.

Brown Patch

Brown Patch is a lawn summer disease caused by a fungus and is rife during warmer months when the humidity is high.

Once started, Brown Patch can quickly spread on your lawn with damage first appearing as a circular area (between 20cm to a metre) of brown and dead grass enclosed by a darker colour.

Typically, Brown Patch infects lawns of poor health.

How to control Brown Patch?

The best approach to control Brown Patch in your lawn is through proper lawn care maintenance.

Proper lawn care maintenance ensures a healthy lawn and includes adequate fertiliser, reduction of thatch levels, aeration, morning watering that is deep and infrequent and mowing at regular intervals.

Alternately if the above lawn care maintenance procedures do not work, fungicides with the Common Active Ingredient Prodigione should be used.



myhomeTURF recommends using Indigo Voltar an effective Broad Spectrum Fungicide that can be purchased through our Partner LawnPride.

Common lawn diseases



Dollar Spot (AKA Small Brown Patch)

Dollar Spot is a fungus with the name referring to a small, sunken, circular patch 1.5 to 5cm in diameter on the surface of your lawn.

The Dollar Spot patches turn from brown to a straw colour on your lawn and may eventually merge into larger irregular shaped areas.

Dollar Spot is often due to inadequate nutrients in the soil or poor lawn care, such as watering at night, thatch build-up, soil compaction and poor drainage.

Infected leaves may display small lesions that turn from yellow-green to straw colour with a reddish-brown border.

Dollar Spot is more prevalent on your lawn in autumn and spring during warm day temperatures, high humidity and cool nights that produce heavy dews.

How to control Dollar Spot

The best approach to control Dollar Spot in your lawn is through proper lawn care maintenance.

Proper lawn care maintenance ensures a healthy lawn and includes adequate fertiliser, reduction of thatch levels, aeration, morning watering that is deep and infrequent and mowing at regular intervals.



Alternately if the above lawn care maintenance procedures do not work, fungicides with the Common Active Ingredient Propiconazole should be used.

myhomeTURF recommends using Bumper an effective fungicide that can be purchased through our Partner LawnPride.

Fungi – Fairy Rings

Fairy Rings, or Mushrooms, are a clear sign of beneficial microbes at work in your lawn, which is all part of your lawn's ecosystem.

In fact, mushrooms and toadstools are the reproductive part of a type of fungi that lives in the soil.

For much of the time, these fungal structures remain hidden underground, breaking down organic material in your lawn – a very good thing!

When the conditions are right (moist, damp, shady and/or humid), mushrooms shoot through from the underground structures and appear in your lawn.

How to control Fairy Rings in your lawn

Proper lawn care maintenance which includes adequate fertiliser, reduction of thatch levels, aeration, morning watering that is deep and infrequent and mowing at regular intervals is recommended to prevent Fairy Rings.



If lawn maintenance practices do not work contact your local garden centre however no chemical control options are currently registered.

Common lawn diseases



Fusarium Patch

Fusarium Patch is a type of fungus on your lawn that appears in a small circular, water-soaked patch less than 5cm in diameter.

Fusarium Patch change in colour from orange-brown to dark brown and finally to a light gray.

The Fusarium Patches may enlarge indefinitely but are usually less than 20cm in diameter.

On a low-cut lawn, a halo-like “smoke ring” may appear on the outer margin of the Fusarium Patch and the outer ring may also have a water-soaked appearance.

Conditions favouring Fusarium Patch include consecutive wet days of cool temperatures which could occur in either autumn or spring.

If a lawn's soil is high in nitrogen but low in phosphorous and potassium, then conditions are rife for the growth of Fusarium Patch.

Lawn areas with slow growing conditions and heavy thatch development also favour Fusarium Patch.



How to control Fusarium Patch

Proper lawn care maintenance which includes adequate fertiliser, reduction of thatch levels, aeration, morning watering that is deep and infrequent and mowing at regular intervals is recommended to prevent Fusarium Patch.

Alternately if the above lawn care maintenance procedures do not work, Fungicides with the Common Active Ingredient Iprodione should be used.

myhomeTURF recommends using Indigo Voltar an effective Broad Spectrum Fungicide that can be purchased through our Partner LawnPride.

Lawn Rust

Lawn Rust is a fungal disease that occurs on your lawn when it's growth is slowed.

Rust usually appears in late summer or early autumn and during periods of dry weather or when the grass is low on nitrogen.

Lawn Rust weakens the strength of your lawn and makes it more susceptible to other diseases and turf problems.

The Rust is identified by pulling a couple of blades out of the lawn. The lawn blades will be coated with orange-red to yellowish brown dust or spores.

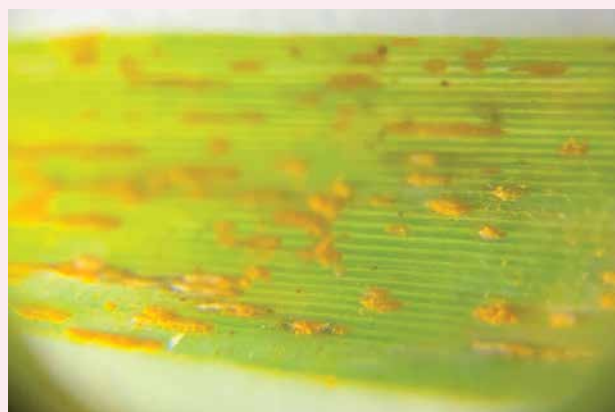
Lawn rust begins with yellowing leaf blades and small yellowish spots which mature to orange, red or brown colouring.

The Rust's spores can be rubbed off the grass blades with a finger.

Overall, rust patches of the grass will become thin and weak.

How to control Lawn Rust

The best approach to control Rust in your lawn is



through proper lawn care maintenance.

Proper lawn care maintenance ensures a healthy lawn and includes adequate fertiliser, reduction of thatch levels, aeration, morning watering that is deep and infrequent and mowing at regular intervals.

Alternately if the above lawn care maintenance procedures do not work, fungicides with the Common Active Ingredient Propiconazole should be used.

myhomeTURF recommends using Bumper, an effective fungicide that can be purchased through our Partner LawnPride.

Common lawn diseases



Powdery Mildew

Powdery Mildew on lawn is caused by a fungus and usually first seen as isolated fine, gray-white, cobwebby growth seen on the upper surface of the leaf blades.

Powdery Mildew growth rapidly becomes denser and often involves the entire leaf surface of your lawn giving the appearance of having been dusted with talc powder or flour.

When Powdery Mildew becomes severe, the entire lawn appears a dull white or pale green and severely infected leaves usually turn yellow and wither and may lead to a widespread thinning of the stand.

Powdery Mildew occurs most often on slow-growing turf, usually in shaded areas and it favours cool, cloudy conditions that occur in spring and autumn.

How to control Powdery Mildew

Proper lawn care maintenance which includes adequate fertiliser, reduction of thatch levels, aeration, morning watering that is deep and infrequent and mowing at regular intervals is



recommended to prevent Anthracnose.

Alternately if the above lawn maintenance practices do not work a fungicide that contains the Common Active Ingredient Myclobutanil will inhibit the mildew's development - please first seek advice from your local garden centre.

Pythium / Drop Off

The first sightings of Pythium disease on your lawn are small patches of grass that looks water-soaked and a dark purplish colour.

When touching the grass blades of Pythium disease affected lawns you will notice a greasy or slimy feel.

The infected Pythium disease lawn blades will eventually shrivel and die.

Pythium disease usually concentrates in low, wet areas or along the natural course of your lawn's drainage.

Conditions favouring Pythium disease are hot days (30°C - 35°C), humid or rainy weather when night temperatures are warm (above 20°C).

How to control Pythium

Proper lawn care maintenance which includes adequate fertiliser, reduction of thatch levels, aeration, morning watering that is deep and infrequent and mowing at regular intervals is recommended to prevent Pythium Disease.



Alternately if the above lawn care maintenance procedures do not work, fungicides with the Common Active Ingredient Metalaxyl-M can be used – please first seek advice from your local garden centre.

Common lawn diseases



Red Thread

Red Thread is a fungal disease found on lawns and is circular or irregularly shaped with small to large patches (5 to 15cm) in diameter.

The first symptom of Red Thread in turf is the tan colour of dead grass leaves.

Dead lawn leaves caused by Red Thread are generally interspersed among uninfected leaves giving an overall diffuse, scorched or ragged appearance to the patch.

Red Thread thrives in temperatures between 17°C to 29°C which are also humid.

Red Thread causes fungus primarily during periods when grass is growing slowly as a result of low temperatures, drought or inadequate fertility.

How to control Red Thread

Proper lawn care maintenance which includes adequate fertiliser, reduction of thatch levels, aeration, morning watering that is deep and infrequent and mowing at regular intervals is recommended to prevent Red Thread.



If the above lawn maintenance practices do not work try using a fungicide with the Common Active Ingredient Penthiopyrad – please first seek advice from your local garden centre.



Chemical safety (PPE)



Safety comes first when using lawn chemicals

Proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is a **good investment**, especially when working with volatile products on and around your lawn.

Most people have a natural aversion to PPE and doubt their importance, thinking: "chemicals pose no real threat to me, so why should I worry about it?"

However, the chemical user is legally responsible to follow all guidelines re personal protective clothing and equipment listed on any chemical label.



Protection factors

There are three factors that dictate the type of protection needed:

1. There are three potential routes of exposure to the body: oral, skin and inhalation/lungs. Please keep these in mind when choosing which PPE to wear and use.
2. Some chemicals are inherently more toxic than others. Products bearing the "Danger" or "Warning" caution ratings usually call for additional PPE use in combination with the basic materials.
3. Formulation of the product can determine the need for PPE (liquids, granules, powders). Liquids and granules often call for the use of rubberized materials such as gloves. Powder or dust formulations pose an inherent risk of pesticide inhalation, so a mask/filter is recommended.

Read the label first

Always read the chemical label completely before opening the container and make sure you have all the proper PPE that is listed.

Any household items used for chemical use, such as measuring cups, stir sticks, etc... should not be reused in the house.

Pay close attention to label instructions regarding re-entry times. The use of certain products may require that people or pets stay off the sprayed lawn area for a specific amount of time.

Store all chemicals, spraying equipment, and mixing containers away from the reach of children or pets. These chemicals must be kept in the original container with the label intact.

Be aware that not all organic herbicides are "safe" so read labels carefully and if you are unsure, research the product or use a product you are familiar with.



The importance of the label

The chemical label is a legal document and contains a lot of vital information for the user.

Any label additions printed after the label is attached supersede the label and will usually be on a specific section of the label.

Pesticide and herbicide lawn users are required by law to comply with all the instructions and directions on the label.

Chemical safety (PPE)



Most common necessary PPE

Typically, the eyes and skin are most exposed when applying or handling (loading, reorganising, reading labels, etc...) lawn chemicals.

For skin exposure, PPE gear starts with gloves, rubber boots and long sleeves/long pants.

Chemical-resistant gloves that cover the hand and forearm provide good protection from all dangerous lawn chemicals.

Unlined gloves made of nitrile, neoprene or butyl rubber are excellent choices. Quality gloves are not expensive, and, depending on the frequency of use, manufacturer and product choice, gloves may last up to a month.

Appropriate PPE footwear is often forgotten when applying or handling lawn chemicals, such as pesticides.

If a liquid lawn chemical product is spilled on leather boots, it is possible for the chemical to be absorbed as it soaks through. If this occurs, immediately consult the label for information on how to reduce harm to your body.

More importantly, always read the label before mixing or applying the chemical so that this information is



already known, and you can act immediately.

In short, we advise that chemical-resistant boots or shoe coverings should be worn. Use the chemical label as a guide when choosing footwear.

Covering the leg and arms when using lawn chemicals is also important, so long-sleeved shirts and pants are advised.

For eye protection, consider the wide array of choices for PPE goggles.

Most PPE goggles are designed to fit over eyeglasses, and some have shielded vents that allow for reduced fogging and heat build-up.

All PPE goggles are designed to prevent splash and particle drift during application.

Mixing chemicals

During the mixing of lawn chemicals, the use of a face shield and rubber apron is essential.

As mentioned above, think about what parts of the body these pieces of protective equipment cover.

In addition, when mixing, you are working with a more concentrated version of the chemical than when applying and the risk is dramatically increased.



Hygiene

Good personal hygiene while working with lawn chemicals is important, this includes hand washing, avoiding smoking and wearing safe clothes.

Also, it's a good idea to frequently change hats as chemicals are commonly transferred from shirt sleeves to the forehead when wiping sweat in hot weather.

