

## DOLLAR SPOT



Prepared by M. Bess Dicklow, UMass Extension, 107 Fernald Hall, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003-9320. Tel. 413-577-1827 Fax. 43-545-2115. [mbdicklo@umext.umass.edu](mailto:mbdicklo@umext.umass.edu)

Dollar spot caused by *Rutstroemia floccosum* (formerly *Sclerotinia homeocarpa*) is a common and persistent disease of most turfgrass species throughout the world. The disease is characterized by sunken, round, bleached to straw colored spots, ranging in size from 1-2 inches. Where disease is severe, these spots may coalesce to form large, irregular areas of blighted turf. When the pathogen is active and dew is present, a white, cottony, or cobwebby growth of fungal mycelium is visible. Lesions on individual leaves are white to straw colored, commonly with a tan to reddish brown margin, and often hour-glass shaped.

*R. floccosum* survives unfavorable periods in infected plants or plant debris and as stromata (compact masses of mycelium) on leaf surfaces. The disease appears at temperatures between 60-90° F and is favored by warm days, cool nights, and heavy dew. The optimal temperature and humidity requirements vary among biotypes of the fungus. The pathogen is spread by mowers, golf carts, golf shoes, wind, and water. Dollar spot is more severe in dry soils and where there is low nitrogen fertility.



### Management:

- Water deeply and infrequently, not allowing moisture stress to occur.
- Remove dew and guttation fluids by mowing, rolling, whipping or poling greens early in the morning.
- Maintain adequate to high nitrogen fertility. Light, frequent applications will reduce disease severity and promote recovery.
- Prune trees and shrubs to improve air circulation and promote rapid drying of the turf.
- New cultivars of creeping bentgrass have been developed that are more resistant to dollar spot than ‘Penncross’.
- Organic fertilizers, composts, and biological control agents (biofungicides) may provide a level of control.

### Chemical recommendations:

Fungicide resistance has been found in the dollar spot pathogen for forty years, especially where fungicide applications are frequent (like golf courses). Resistance has been reported to several groups of systemic fungicides: the sterol biosynthesis inhibitors (DMIs), dicarboximides, and benzimidazoles (thiophanate-methyl). To reduce the potential for resistance development follow label directions, avoid repeated use of chemically similar products, tank mix or alternate fungicides with different modes of action, and reduce the need for applications with sound cultural practices.

**boscalid (Emerald):** 0.13 to 0.18 oz/1000 sq ft (REI 4 h). Begin applications prior to disease development. Use the higher rate and shorter interval when prolonged favorable disease conditions exist. Do not apply more than two sequential applications of boscalid before alternating with a fungicide with a different mode of action.

**chlorothalonil (Daconil, Manicure, Echo 720):** 2 to 3.6 fl oz/1000sq ft (REI 12 h). Begin applications when conditions favor disease development and repeat as long as these conditions persist. Under severe conditions use the highest rate and shortest interval. Contact/protectant.

**fenarimol (Rubigan):** 0.75 to 1.5 fl oz/1000 sq ft (REI 12 h). Begin applications prior to disease development. Use the higher rate and shorter interval when prolonged favorable disease conditions exist.

**myclobutanil (Eagle 20 W):** 1.0 to 2.4 fl oz/1000 sq ft (REI 24 h). Apply when conditions are favorable for disease development. Do not apply more than two sequential applications of myclobutanil before alternating with a fungicide with a different mode of action.

**propiconazole (Banner Maxx):** 0.5 to 2.0 fl oz/1000 sq ft (REI 24 h). Apply when conditions are favorable for disease development. For best results, tank mix with low label rates of chlorothalonil or iprodione (Chipco 26019).

**triadimefon (Bayleton 50 WSP):** 0.5 to 1.0 oz/1000 sq ft. Preventive/curative.

--

*Revised November 2005*