

Ontario Lawn Fungus Field Guide

Identify it, manage it, stay within the rules - from Sodding Canada

Identify it at dawn

1 Dollar spot

Small silver-dollar tan spots, often merging; loves warm, humid, low-nitrogen lawns.

2 Brown patch

Large brown circular patches on the hottest, most humid days of summer.

3 Red thread

Pinkish-red threads binding the blades; common in cool, wet, under-fed lawns.

4 Look for morning mycelium

A white cobweb film before dew dries confirms it is fungal.

Rule out the look-alikes

1 Drought

Browns in the driest, sunniest spots; no rings; greens up when watered.

2 Grubs

Grass lifts like loose carpet with chewed roots underneath.

3 Pet spots

Sharp-edged dead patches with a dark green ring.

Manage it the smart way

1 Water early, never at night

Let blades dry fast; overnight wetness drives most fungus.

2 Mow high, keep blades sharp

Resilient grass and clean cuts heal faster.

3 Check Ontario pesticide rules first

Only permitted products for cosmetic use; consult a licensed pro for severe cases.

Planning a sod or lawn project in the GTA and York Region? We can help.

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