



Pythium (*Pythium aphanidermatum*)

Pythium remains the one disease that can cause professional turf managers to lie awake at night in a cold sweat. When it strikes, it does so rapidly, and with devastating consequences. In fact, Pythium could easily kill an entire home lawn in a matter of hours. Unfortunately, once the symptoms are seen, the grass is dead. While there are chemical fungicides that can provide effective control over Pythium, they are reserved for only very high value turf such as golf greens or professional sports stadiums.

Pythium thrives under hot, humid conditions where there is standing water and fertility levels are high. Luckily, the conditions need to be very extreme for this disease, and we usually only see outbreaks every few years. In order to avoid Pythium, we purposely keep fertilizer applications low during the hot summer months and advise that our clients water judiciously as opposed to heavily and frequently.

Trying to keep your lawn lush and dark green during the hottest summer months is usually a recipe for disaster, as you will be creating optimum conditions for a Pythium outbreak. If your lawn does become a victim of this disease, you can always re-seed once the weather cools off.

