



Disease Information Sheet

Rust (*Puccinia spp.*)

There actually are several different species of Rust that can affect turfgrasses, although they generally all occur under the same environmental circumstances in late summer / early fall.

Named for the rust-like powder that coats the leaves of the grass at any given time. This powder is actually comprised of millions of spores of the causal fungus. The life cycle of rust is extremely complex, and holds great interest for scientists who study these things. For most of us however, it is sufficient to know that Rust rarely causes any sort of damage on the grass, and chemical controls are almost never warranted. In the worst case scenarios (which we have never actually encountered), it can cause the grass to weaken a bit, making it more susceptible to other stresses.



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