

The best way to prevent brown patch in the home lawn is by following good lawn care practices. This is much easier and less expensive than the use of fungicides and can be very effective. Avoid high nitrogen rates on warm season grasses in mid to late fall. The brown patch fungus readily attacks the lush growth of grass which nitrogen promotes. The use of Texas greensand as a supplement when fertilizing will help adjust the soil pH, thus making essential nutrients readily available. Apply Texas greensand at a rate of 10 pounds per 1000 square feet.

Irrigate grass only when needed and to a depth of 4 to 6 inches. Water early in the morning. This disease can spread fast when free moisture is present. Avoid spreading the disease to other areas. Remove clippings if the weather is warm and moist to prevent spread to other areas during mowing. Keep lawns mowed on a regular basis to the proper height for the grass species you are growing. Prevent excessive thatch buildup. Provide good drainage for both surface and subsurface areas. Fungicides can be difficult to rely upon for controlling brown patch in the home lawn, but regular applications can vastly improve appearance. A good “rule of thumb” to follow on warm-season grasses is to initiate fungicide sprays when nighttime low temperatures reach 70° F. Stop applications when nighttime lows are forecast to be below 70° F for five consecutive days. Typically, applications are made at 14-day intervals. Some of the common fungicides available on the market include Green Light Spectrum Mancozeb Fungicide, Ferti-lome Liquid Systemic Fungicide, Bonide Infuse Fungicide, Green Light Fung-Away and others. Remember to always follow all label directions when applying any product to your lawn. *The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference made to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is implied.* Have a nice week. M.V.

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