

**DEANS** SERVICES  
LAWN, TERMITE &  
PEST PROTECTION

# Pest Profile



*Brown Patch Fungus*



# Brown Patch FUNGUS



**B**rown Patch Fungus is triggered by excessive moisture resulting in grass leaves being continuously wet for more than 48 hours. The fungus causes a dark rot at the base of each blade of grass (see picture below), which eventually kills the leaf, leaving an unsightly patch in the lawn. These patches exhibit a brown ring pattern with healthy-looking turf in the center.

Because it's observed only from November through May (when temperatures are below 80°), if you're noticing similar symptoms during summer months, it's unlikely to be Brown Patch Fungus. To diagnose this disease, pull very gently on an individual blade of grass. If infected, the grass will easily pull away from the stem and the base of the leaf will emit a rotten odor.

## Controlling Brown Patch Fungus

Moisture control is the biggest factor in stopping the spread of this fungus. To reduce favorable conditions, water only when necessary and do so in the early morning hours (between 2:00 and 8:00 am). Though Deans uses fungicides, they're limited



in their effectiveness because they're formulated to simply stop the disease from spreading. In fact, symptoms won't disappear until the old, infected leaves are removed by mowing and replaced with new turf growth. Remember, Because this disease normally occurs when the grass isn't growing quickly, recovery will take time.