



# Ascochyta

## Symptoms:

A fungal disease that occurs with Kentucky Bluegrass. It's most prevalent in the spring and summer when lawns are stressed due to variable moisture conditions and temperature fluctuations

Water droplets from precipitation and irrigation splash fungal spores onto individual grass blades. When the turf grass becomes water stressed the disease is able to infect the plant.

The affected grass plants bleach out turning the grass into a straw-like color. The grass patches appear dead, however only the grass blades are affected - the roots are unharmed. Close examination of the leaf blade reveals that the bleached out part of the grass plant has a pinched appearance.

## Treatment:

- Core aerate to reduce thatch buildup.
- Keep mower blade sharp.
- Mow grass to height of 2½ to 3 inches.
- Water in the morning so leaf blades can dry quickly.
- Water the affected area with more water less often.
- Use a soil conditioner such a REVIVE. This will help improve your lawn as it increases water efficiency.

To help prevent a similar occurrence of brown spots on your lawn later in the summer, sharpen your mower blade monthly and check your sprinkler coverage frequently. Within the confines of water restrictions, increase and decrease your irrigation schedule as the summer temperatures change.

