

BACKGROUND

- Although it is not always necessary or appropriate to control Fairy rings, they can be particularly troublesome on many different turf types.
- Decayed organic matter and high levels of thatch can favour disease development.
- Usually caused by infrequent watering and fertilizer regimes.
- The rings of stimulated grass growth are the result of nitrogen released in the soil by the Fairy Ring activity under ground breaking down organic matter to release ammonia.
- The ammonia is processed by soil micro-organism into nitrates.
- The 3 main types of Fairy ring:
 - Type 1: Marasmius oreades - ring of dead turf bordered by stimulated turf growth. Causes turf death by soil water repellence and/or toxic substances
 - Type 2: Agaricus & Lycoperdon spp - stimulated grass growth with no fungal bodies. Rarely causes excessive damage to turf
 - Type 3: Hygrophorus & Psilocybe spp - no affect on turf grass except when fruiting bodies are present (normally in autumn)



APPROACH

1. Try to minimise those conditions which favour disease development.
2. Control thatch in a programmed approach.
3. Apply wetting agents that have a penetrant activity will help to move water through the hydrophobic layer to help cure the symptoms of the disease.
4. Wetting agents should be used in combination with deep aeration.
5. To prevent spreading pathogen use solid rather than hollow tines.
6. If required, Nitrogen fertilizers can be used to mask the visual symptoms of light and dark green rings.
7. Use fungicides as part of an IPM programme and be aware of causing resistance to one chemical group by its regular use.

i-TURF SOLUTIONS

Product type	Why	Scotts solution
Wetting agent	To alleviate hydrophobic conditions caused by the fungus.	H2Pro, H2Pro Maximise
Quality liquid fertilizer	Used to quickly mask the symptoms.	Greenmaster Liquid / Greenmaster Blade
Approved fungicide	To control disease.	Heritage