

Microdochium Patch

The problem

Microdochium patch (*Microdochium nivale*) can be a tough problem on cool-season turf in late winter through early summer. This disease is also known as “Fusarium patch” in older references or as “pink snow mould,” though it can develop when snow is absent.

What to look for

Symptoms start off on turf as small water-soaked spots with a dark brown appearance. This expands and turns tan in the center with a red-brown or dark, greasy-appearing margin. Fluffy white mycelia can often be observed at the edge of the patches, and dead tissue is sometimes covered by pink spore masses.

Wet conditions and daytime temperatures from just above freezing to 18 °C favour this disease, and explosive outbreaks can occur under suitable temperatures and extended periods of overcast, foggy or wet weather. It is most common on cool-season turf, especially annual bluegrass. This disease is favoured in shaded or poorly drained locations and excessive nitrogen fertility conditions.

Envu solutions

Cultural practices that reduce leaf wetness duration such as dew whipping and rolling have shown to contribute to disease reduction. Continue fall mowing so that turf does not become matted, creating a favourable disease environment. In areas like the Pacific Northwest, the disease must be managed with a programmed approach. Dedicate® Stressgard® and Mirage® Stressgard® fungicides with Stressgard Formulation Technology are outstanding solutions for Microdochium patch, both providing excellent preventive and curative activity. Dedicate and Mirage can also help turf recover from pink snow mould damage following snow melt. Dedicate Stressgard contains two modes of action (DMI and QoI) and is specifically designed to provide exceptional Microdochium patch and snow mould protection for Canadian climates. Mirage Stressgard contains tebuconazole (DMI) and is often used as a cleanup application prior to snow mould with strong efficacy against Microdochium pathogens.

Apply Dedicate Stressgard at 32–64 mL per 100 m² as a preventative or early curative treatment on 14–21 day intervals. Mirage Stressgard can be applied at 30–60 mL per 100 m² prior to snow cover. During periods of high disease pressure, consider tank mixing Dedicate or Mirage with a contact fungicide.



Microdochium patch in higher cut turfgrass.

Photo: Travis Russell, Envu



Under suitable wet and cool conditions, mycelia can be present at edge of patches.

Photo: James Hempfling, Envu



Pink sporodochia of *Microdochium nivale* on infected leaves at 25X magnification. Each sporodochium contains thousands of fungal conidia.

Photo: Frank Wong



Microdochium patch affecting seedling bentgrass turf.

Photo: Jesse Benelli, Envu

Solution	Rate per 100 m ²	Application interval* (days)
Dedicate® Stressgard®	32–64 mL	14–21
Mirage® Stressgard®	30–60 mL	1–2 applications late fall at 14–28 day intervals before snow cover
Compass® 50 WG	3.8–6.1 g	Late fall before snow cover or early spring after snow melt

*See fungicide labels for complete details.

For more information about effective disease management, contact your Envu representative or visit ca.envu.com.

To talk about your specific needs or to learn more about our solutions, please contact an Envu representative.

