

# Helpful Tips

## Brown Patch Fungus

Brown Patch Is a fungal disease that affects turfgrasses, especially St. Augustine and Zoysiagrass. It is usually seen from November through May when temperatures fall below 80° F but has sometimes been seen during other months of the year.



### Why do I have Brown Patch Fungus?

There are fungal spores in the soil and when conditions become favorable then the disease will be active. These conditions are:

1. Time of year
2. Cool nights
3. Moist soil

### Can It be controlled?

Drake will treat and control this disease when it is active and stop it from spreading any further.

*Its important to understand that these fungal spores cannot be eliminated or prevented and that you may get Brown Patch Fungus every year. Many times In the same location.*

### Will my grass recover?

In most situations the turfgrass will recover and re-sodding is not necessary.

#### (Important facts to know about Brown Patch Fungus.)

- Do not walk through fungus as this will spread it to other areas of the lawn.
- Keep watering to a minimum.
- Call our office when you first notice the disease so as it can be treated as soon as possible.



## Frost Damage

Winter temperatures in Florida are frequently low enough to cause cold injury to turf grass, tropical, subtropical, and occasionally temperate plants not adapted to Florida climatic conditions.

### What do I do Before the Freeze

#### Water Relations

Watering landscape plants before a freeze can help protect plants. A well watered soil will absorb more solar radiation than dry soil and will reradiate heat during the night. This practice elevated minimum night temperatures in the canopy of citrus trees by as much as 2°F (1°C). However, prolonged saturated soil conditions damage the root systems of most plants.

#### Covering

This is one of the most effective ways of protecting the foliage of shrubs. Rhododendrons, Camellias, Azaleas and early flowering plants will often benefit from being covered with some type of cloth material during extremely cold weather.



Drape some type of cloth material over the plant and secure it to the ground or trunk. Notice I said cloth material, do not use clear polyethylene for this job, as it not only cuts off air to the plant, it also acts much like a greenhouse, taking plants from nightly lows to high daily temperature in a relatively short time period. This rapid temperature change can cause serious freeze damage or may be fatal to plants.

Any type of covering should only be left in place during the cold spell. As soon as the weather moderates or it begins to rain, remove the covering completely.

***\*Burlap, old moving blankets, sheets or similar cloth or fabric materials are the best types to use as a cover over plants.***

### Signs of Frost Damage

Plants and turf grass may take on a purple appearance. All or only part of a plant may be affected. This is caused from cell rupture inside the plant.

Turf grass may have many fist size spots throughout the lawn. This will have a similar appearance to Dollar Spot Fungus with no grey leaf spot lesions.

When frost damage is severe in turf grass you can check to see if the grass is dead by examining the runners. If the grass blades are brown and look dead but the runners are green and healthy then the grass will most likely survive.



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