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Lawn and Turf: Slime molds

Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for successful plant problem management.

Biology

Slime molds are related to fungi. They do not cause disease on turfgrasses as they feed only on decaying organic matter, but they can be an aesthetic concern. They emerge from the soil as a thin sheet of whitish to yellow slime and grow on the surface and up any support, including grass blades and other plants. Once in the air, the mold develops the reproductive phase, which consists of rounded, yellow to purple-brown masses which are often mistaken for insect eggs. These structures are typically present each year in the same area for about 1-2 weeks and will disappear if left alone.

Management Options

Non-Chemical Management

~ Mowing, raking, or washing will remove small slime molds. Larger masses can be removed with a shovel or a strong stream of water.

Select non-chemical management options as your first choice!

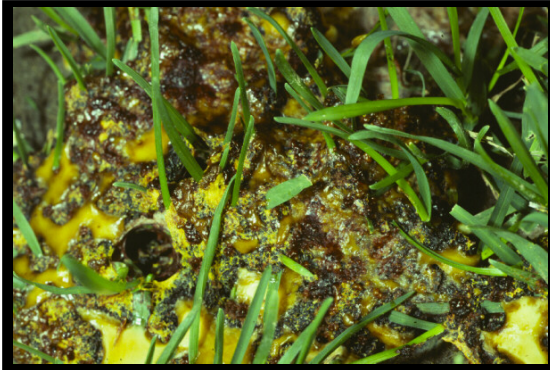
Chemical Management

IMPORTANT: Visit Home and Garden Fact Sheets for more information on using pesticides

Some fungicides are registered but are not needed.

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Images



~ Caption: Slime mold
~ Photo by: R.S. Byther



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