



Cornell University  
Cooperative Extension  
Putnam County

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## Diagnostic Checklist for Turfgrass Samples

*(for Turfgrass Insect and Disease Problem Diagnosis Only.  
Use Plant Identification Form for Lawn Weed Identification)*

**Cost: \$10.00 per sample (Make checks payable to Cornell Cooperative Extension)**

<b>Name:</b>	<b>FOR OFFICE USE ONLY</b>
<b>Business Name (if applicable):</b>	<b>Number of samples:</b>
<b>Mailing Address:</b>	<b>Amount Paid:</b>
	<b>CCE Employee:</b>
<b>City:</b> _____ <b>State:</b> _____ <b>Zip:</b> _____	<b>Date Tested:</b>
<b>Date:</b> ___/___/___ <b>Phone Number:</b> _____	
<b>Send report to the following email address (Please print clearly):</b>	

*(Answers to these questions help us diagnose the problem. If you don't know an answer leave it blank)*

### General Information Questions

**1. How long ago was the lawn established?**

\_\_\_ weeks ago \_\_\_ ½ -1 yr. \_\_\_ 2-3 yrs. \_\_\_ 3+ yrs.

**2. This lawn was established from:**

\_\_\_ Seed \_\_\_ Sod \_\_\_ I am not sure

**3. Which grass type do you think is the dominant type in this lawn?**

\_\_\_ Kentucky bluegrass \_\_\_ Perennial ryegrass  
\_\_\_ Fine leaf fescue \_\_\_ Tall fescue  
\_\_\_ Zoysiagrass \_\_\_ Mixture of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

**4. This lawn is used as a:**

\_\_\_ Home Lawn \_\_\_ Athletic Field \_\_\_ Golf Green  
\_\_\_ Golf Tee/Fairway \_\_\_ Commercial Building Site

**5. What is the sun/shade status of this site?**

\_\_\_ Mostly full sun \_\_\_ A mixture of sun and shade  
\_\_\_ Light shade from trees \_\_\_ Dense/full shade

**6. How often is the lawn mowed?**

\_\_\_ Once per week \_\_\_ Twice per week  
\_\_\_ Other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

**7. At what height do you mow this lawn?**

\_\_\_ less than 1 inch \_\_\_ 1 - 1 ½ in. \_\_\_ 1 ½ - 2 in.  
\_\_\_ 2 - 3 in. \_\_\_ higher than 3 in.

**8. When is the lawn normally watered?**

\_\_\_ Morning \_\_\_ Afternoon \_\_\_ Evening/Night

**9. On average how often is this lawn watered?**

\_\_\_ Everyday \_\_\_ Once per week \_\_\_ Twice per week  
\_\_\_ Three times per week \_\_\_ Receives rainfall only  
\_\_\_ Other (describe): \_\_\_\_\_

**10. For how long of a time does the sprinkler or irrigation system run in one area or zone?**

\_\_\_ 15 minutes \_\_\_ 30 Minutes \_\_\_ 1 Hr. \_\_\_ 1 ½ hrs.  
\_\_\_ 2 hrs. \_\_\_ 3 hrs. \_\_\_ More than 3 hrs.

**11. Has the soil pH been tested in this lawn?**

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No  
If yes, when \_\_\_ month \_\_\_ year

**12. When was lime last applied to this lawn?**

\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_ Year \_\_\_ Never/Don't know

*(Please proceed to the questions on the back of this page)*

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**13. Is this lawn fertilized?**

Yes  No If yes, how many times per year?  
 Once  2X  3X  4X  More than 4X

**In what months is the fertilizer applied?**

March  April  May  June  July  
 August  September  October  November

**Pesticide Application Questions**

**14. Have you recently applied any weed controls to the lawn?**  Yes  No

If yes, what was applied \_\_\_\_\_  
When was it applied \_\_\_\_\_

**15. Have you recently applied any insect controls to the lawn?**  Yes  No

If yes, what was applied \_\_\_\_\_  
When was it applied \_\_\_\_\_

**16. Have you recently applied any disease controls to the lawn?**  Yes  No

If yes, what was applied \_\_\_\_\_  
When was it applied \_\_\_\_\_

**Problem Description Questions**

**17. When did this problem(s) first start *this year*?**

This week  Last week  Two weeks ago  
 Three weeks ago  I month ago  
 Other (describe): \_\_\_\_\_

**18. Was the lawn healthy and green:**

Last autumn  Last summer  Last spring

**19. Please check any of the following symptoms that are associated with turfgrass sample. (This can be one of the most important questions on this form)**

- Symptoms are noticed throughout entire lawn.
- Symptoms are noticed only in the shade.
- Symptoms are noticed only in sunny areas.
- Symptoms are noticed in sun and shade areas.
- Symptoms are noticed near sidewalks, driveways or other hot surfaces.
- Symptoms include dry, brown grass blades.
- Symptoms include yellow grass blades.
- The tips of the leaf blades are dying back.
- The tips of the leaf blades are shredded; these areas of the lawn have a whitish cast.
- Symptoms occur in streaks, many of the streaks are the same size and shape.
- Areas of the lawn have a purple/blue cast; grass blades are dry.

Symptoms include leaf spots (purple, brown.)

Symptoms are a ring of lush grass sometimes surrounding by a ring of brown grass; mushrooms may be growing in this ring.

**Symptoms Described as Patches**

Patches of the lawn have damaged roots and can be rolled up like a carpet. Insects found under these pieces of the lawn.

Patches of the lawn can be pulled out easily because roots are rotted. Can not roll these patches like a carpet though. No insects found.

Patches of a type of grass that spreads along the soil surface; can be lifted back easily. This grass has a lighter green color than other areas of the lawn. Brown patches after mowing.

Patches of brown grass that are \_\_\_\_\_ inch(s) in diameter.

Patches of grass in irregular shapes, not circular patches.

Patches of grass dying, grass blades are water-soaked, sticking together, and they "collapse." Grass blades slimy and a cottony fungus growth may be present especially in the morning hours.

**Signs of Fungus Structures on Grass Blades**

Thin, red "thread-like" fungus structures on the grass blades, the lawn has reddish cast.

Tiny, yellow/orange fungus structures on the grass blades; can be rubbed off or seen on shoes.

Fine, white powdery film (fungus) on the surface of the grass blades.

**20. Use this space to add any additional comments. A description of the problem *in your own words* can be very helpful.**

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