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Large Patch Disease

Today on Gardening in a Minute: large patch disease.

Large patch is a fungal disease that can affect zoysiagrass and St. Augustinegrass lawns.

It shows up as round, discolored patches that expand over time. The borders of the patches are sometimes orange, and the centers appear brown and sunken.

It's also known as brown patch or rhizoctonia blight.

This disease often becomes a problem in spring, when cooler temperatures and damp weather create ideal conditions for the fungus.

In summer the surrounding lawn may grow, filling in the dead patches, but if the disease isn't controlled, the problem will return again in fall.

The best way to prevent large patch is to care for your lawn properly, since incorrect watering, mowing, or fertilizing practices all make your grass more susceptible to disease.

For more information about lawn care and many other gardening topics, contact your county Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida's Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.