

Necrotic Ring Spot (N.R.S.)



What is Necrotic Ring Spot (N.R.S.)?

N.R.S. is a patch disease that is primarily found in certain species of Kentucky bluegrass. It attacks the roots and lower crown of the plant, often creating a sunken depression after the grass plant dies. What remains is an unsightly ring, with a green patch in the center. These rings average between 6 inches to a foot in diameter.

When is the disease most active?

N.R.S. is most active in the spring and late fall, especially when the weather pattern is cool and moist. Often the rings and depressions appear weeks or months after the fungus initially attacks.

What can be done to control N.R.S.?

1. **Fungicide treatments** mid-April and May do a good job in controlling the spread of the disease. However, treatments are not effective in getting rid of existing rings.
2. **Minor renovation** is needed to mask the rings. We recommend scratching out the affected areas with a hand rake and then filling in the depressions with organic compost. This allows the healthy grasses that surround the ring to fill in the bare areas.
3. **Power Raking and/or Core Aeration** is recommend to help reduce excessive thatch in the early spring (end of March – mid April) or fall (mid Sept – Oct). NOTE: *Turf grass with excessive thatch seems to be more vulnerable to NRS.*
4. **Organic fertilization** seems to be the best way control for N.R.S. We strongly recommend an organic program to give your lawn the best possible hope for disease control and restoration. When this is done in combination with the above recommendations, lawns have shown a noticeable turnaround in just one season.

For more information, please contact our office to set up a consultation from one of our licensed technicians.