



April Showers Bring Spring Flowers... along with Fusarium Patch & Root-Infecting Pathogens

Warning, there are a number of fungi that grow where the sun don't shine. Yes, I am talking about the root and crown pathogens that cause anthracnose basal rot, pythium root rot, summer patch and take-all patch. They infect in the spring, although symptoms are not typically noticed until the heat of the summer. Another pathogen lurking under the melting snow is *Microdochium nivale* which remains active as fusarium patch during the cool wet weather of spring.

So, what should you look for?

Fusarium is easily recognizable because of its small circular patches of dead foliage with pink borders. The first incidence of a root disease may be noticed now as a decline, thinning and yellowing, and turf that does not respond to fertilization. Generally root pathogens coincide with poorly drained and compacted soil. You may wish to send samples to a diagnostic lab to diagnose the pathogen in order to choose the best remedy.

So, what are the solutions for early-spring diseases?

Root pathogens tend to be perennial in nature, therefore, you will need to treat preventatively this spring if you noticed the diseases last year. Luckily, Heritage™ MAXX is a solution for most of the diseases while Subdue® MAXX addresses the *Pythium*. This chart summarizes the best early-spring fungicide options for preventative treatment of the root diseases and coverage for fusarium as well as leaf spot and melting out:

Disease	Start applications (usually in April):	Control interval	Product	Rate
				mL/100 m ²
Anthracnose Basal Rot	4 consecutive days with soil T > 16 °C	28 days	Heritage MAXX	63
Summer Patch				
Take All Patch (new registration)	4 days with consecutive soil T > 12 °C	Next application in the fall		
Leaf Spot/ Melting Out	When air T reaches 20 °C.	28 days		
Fusarium Patch	After snow melt when air T < 15.5 °C and soil is moist.	14-28 days		32
Pythium Root Rot	Avg. air T is 7-15 °C	21 days	Subdue MAXX	32

All treatments should be applied in 8-16 L of water/100m² to move the fungicide to where the fungi are infecting. Always read and follow label directions.

Banner® MAXX Alternative

Banner MAXX will provide excellent control of fusarium patch, anthracnose and summer patch during the early spring as well. However, utilizing Heritage MAXX in early spring allows you to save Banner MAXX for a late spring application to get control of these diseases plus dollar spot.

Wishing you all the best for a green start to your season.

Dr. Brenda Nailor
brendanailor@rogers.com

Engage Agro | 1030 Gordon Street, Guelph, Ontario N1G 4X5 | Phone: 519-826-7878

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