

# Leaf Spot & Melting Out (*Helminthosporium Drechslera*)

- Occurs from spring through to the autumn
- Starts as water soaked spots on lower leaves
- Spots darken to a reddish-purple, brown and enlarge to form oval spots that extend to the width of the leaf blade
- Spots may increase in size and number until leaf blade is girdled - melting out phase
- Melting out phase may lead to decay of crown and roots
- New infection is reduced in warmer temperatures (early summer) but melting out is more severe
- Survives winter as dormant mycelium in thatch or infected tissue
- Spores are produced that may spread further infection

## Management of Leaf Spot

- Avoid excess N
- Increase mowing height
- Use resistant cultivars when seeding or overseeding

