Drechslera

- **Causal Agent:** *Drechslera* spp.
- **Susceptible Turfgrass**
  Cool season turfgrasses.
- **Symptoms**
  - Small, water-soaked lesions may initially appear in infected foliage.
  - Lesions may then become dark reddish purple to brown in colour with a yellow chlorotic margin.
  - Deepening of lesions occurs until lesions become pitted and ulcerous in appearance, resulting in the angled collapse of infected leaf blades.
  - Lesions are generally ovular to oblong in shape, running parallel to the leaf blade or rhizome and as they enlarge they may coalesce to blight entire leaves.
  - Patchy blighted areas of turf may result in melting out of large areas, where turf becomes thin and unthrifty.
  - Crown and root rot may also occur resulting in wilting and chlorosis.
- **Conditions Favouring Disease**
  - Drechslera is active year round with a temperature range for conidia germination of 3-27°C and an optimum temperature of 15-18°C.
  - The pathogen has survival mechanisms allowing it to persist through temperature extremes of hot and cold.
  - Cool wet conditions are most favourable for leaf spot symptoms to occur.
  - Moisture on the leaf surface is necessary for infection to occur.
  - Poor air movement (high humidity in the micro-climate).
  - Excessive nitrogen fertiliser.
  - Excessive thatch and loose leaf clippings provide a source of food for the fungus.
  - Any stress situation such as drought, herbicide injury or heavy traffic can increase the severity of the disease.
- **Management Tips**
  - Maintain healthy turf through proper fertilisation. Pay particular attention to potassium and nitrogen levels.
  - Avoid overstimulating the plant through excessive fertilisation, particularly of nitrogen.
  - Irrigate infrequently and deeply.
- **Conditions Favouring Disease**
  - Avoid late afternoon or evening irrigations to reduce foliar wetness.
  - Do not allow the turf to become extremely dry during warm weather.
  - Increase air movement.
  - Avoid herbicide applications during critical periods of disease activity.
  - Disperse traffic in high traffic areas.
  - Mow turf at a height recommended for the turfgrass species.
  - Improve turf drainage and aeration through light renovation.
- **General Comments**
  Drechslera is typically a disease of turf growing under stressful conditions, particularly in poorly draining profiles and areas with shade issues.
- **Distribution**
  Found in all states of Australia.