

Rusty shoe disease

Some gardeners are discovering orange powder on their shoes when they walk across their lawns. These lawns have rust disease, which is becoming more common in recent years.

Perennial ryegrass has become a dominant grass in today's lawn seed mixtures. That's because ryegrass seed is cheaper to produce and germinates quicker than Kentucky bluegrass seed. Unfortunately it can be very susceptible to rust disease.

Rust disease attacks hungry, thirsty lawns. The solution is to get the turf to outgrow the prob-

lem. Fertilize the lawn. Irrigate your lawn if the weather is dry (caution: never water a rusty lawn at night since this is when rust particles explode in new growth).

Collect your clippings for a couple of weeks until the disease goes away. The clippings can be composted or used as mulch in the garden.

Fungicides are usually not necessary and this type of rust will not spread to other landscape plants. The disease usually disappears in a couple weeks. *TG*

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