

Lancashire Lawncare Guide to Patchy Lawns

Shape of the Affected Area	Colour of the Affected Area	Time of Year	What to Look For	Identify by Asking	If Yes to previous question - probable cause is...	Areas where this may be most serious	Prevention or Cure
Irregular patches or whole lawn	Straw coloured	Late Spring or Summer	Soil below surface abnormally dry	Did the patches appear after a prolonged dry period?	DROUGHT	Sandy Areas	Copious watering before discolouring occurs. Aerate and copiously water
Circular or irregular patches 1inch - 1 foot in diameter	Yellow or Brown	Autumn in damp weather	A white or pale pink mould	Does white mould develop on turf if kept in a jar for a few days?	FUSARIUM PATCH DISEASE (SNOW MOULD)	Poorly drained and Shady areas	Not easy to cure. Avoid nitrogen fertilizer in Autumn/Winter.
Irregular patches spreading to a metre or more	Straw coloured but distinctly Pink/Red	Late Summer or Autumn	Tiny red storks coming from dead grass	Are there red threads appearing which go jelly like in the wet?	RED THREAD DISEASE	Sandy Areas	Good lawn care. Regular feeding, aerate and avoiding mowing too short
Circular patches 1 -2 inches in diameter	Straw coloured or Brown	Late Summer in damp weather	Small circular patches	Are the patches small and is the grass Creeping Red Fescue	DOLLAR SPOT DISEASE	Luxury turf especially when underfed	Systematic fungicide application
Irregular patches which may spread rapidly	Brown	Spring or early Summer	Birds searching for grubs	Can dead grass be easily pulled away and are there bugs beneath?	LEATHERJACKETS / CHAFER GRUBS	Coastal Areas	Special Pesticide application needed
Irregular patches or regular stripes	Brown or Black	Spring or Summer	Patches or stripes a few days after fertilizing	Was sufficient care taken when fertilizing?	FERTILIZER OVERDOSING	All Areas	Always water in fertilizer if rain does not fall a few days after the treatment
Circular patches	Brown	Any time of the year	A ring of dark green grass often with a brown middle	Does the dog have access to the lawn?	BITCH URINE	All Areas	Water affected areas copiously
Irregular patch or patches	Brown	Spring, Summer or Autumn	Patches appear a few days after mowing	Has a mower been refuelled on the lawn?	SPIILT OIL/PETROL	All Areas	Always remove mower from lawn before refuelling/servicing
Irregular patch or patches	Yellow or Brown	Any time of the year	Lawn recently laid on a site which contains debris or rubble	Where stones or bricks left before seeding/laying turf?	BURIED DEBRIS	All Areas especially new lawns	Lift back turf and remove objects and reseed to build up
Irregular patches or whole lawn	Yellow or Brown	Any time of the year	Grass thin and sparse, moss present and soil compacted	Is it impossible to push a matchstick completely into the moist turf using the	COMPACTION	Heavy Soil Areas	Aerate in the Autumn, reseed or returf the affected areas