

Ask Sam

“I noticed some strange spots on my lawn this spring right after the snow melted. What is this?”

Great question! These spots are most likely grey snow mold. Grey snow mold is a fungal disease caused by *Typhina incarnate*. This is a common problem in Wyoming lawns, particularly after winters with prolonged snow cover. The spots most often occur where snow tends to drift and parts of the lawn where shade delays snowmelt. The disease appears as grey fungus, growing in patches on the lawn following snowmelt.

The fungus lives in moist conditions at temperatures just above freezing



and prefers to live off turfgrass leaves and other debris matted down under the weight of the snow.

Fortunately, snow mold is relatively easy to control without the use of pesticides. Lightly rake the infected patches to fluff up the matted grass. Drying due to air movement and sunlight eliminates the problem. Snow

mold rarely kills lawns, but if ignored snow mold may delay the spring green-up of the lawn in the infected patches.

Fungicides are sometimes applied to sports turf in fall to prevent snow mold the following spring. Fungicides are not recommended for home lawns.

— Sam



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