

Florida Fairy Ring Greens Program

In sand-based putting greens, most fairy rings are caused by puffball fungi such as *Vascellum*, *Bovista*, and *Lycoperdon*. These pathogens grow on thatch and organic matter in the soil profile, and in doing so change the chemical and/or physical properties of the soil. The release of nitrogen and other nutrients into the soil causes green rings, which can be unsightly and destructive. At the same time, fairy ring pathogens leave behind organic acids that coat the soil and thatch. These coatings can turn hydrophobic (water-repellent) and lead to turf death due to drought stress.

A preventive approach is crucial to effective fairy ring management. Once symptoms appear, the chemical and physical properties of the soil have already been altered, making it more difficult for a fungicide application to improve conditions. Well-timed preventive fungicide applications halt fairy ring growth in the soil and prevent these undesirable changes in soil conditions.

In tropical climates like South Florida, soil temperatures are conducive to fairy ring growth year-round. Lack of turf growth and low soil moisture can limit fairy ring growth in the winter and early spring, but conditions are ideal from February through October. Regular applications on ~4 week intervals during this time are needed to effectively prevent fairy ring. The good news is, with proper product selection, you can also prevent other major bermudagrass diseases like take-all root rot, *Rhizoctonia zeae*, and leaf spot with these same applications. The program outlined below is recommended to control fairy ring and these other major turf pathogens.

Estimated Date	Product Description	Rate/1,000 ft ²	FRAC Codes	Other Pathogens Controlled	Application Notes
January 28	Posterity® fungicide	0.32 fl oz	7	Dollar Spot, <i>Microdochium</i> Patch	Tank-mix with Divanem® nematocide (0.28 fl oz/1000 ft ²) and a soil surfactant for nematode control. Irrigate with 0.25" immediately after application.
February 18	Heritage® Action™ fungicide	0.4 oz	11,P1	Take-all Root Rot, <i>Rhizoctonia zeae</i> , Leaf Spot	Allow spray to dry and irrigate with 0.15" within 24 hours.
March 4	Posterity	0.32 fl oz	7	Dollar Spot	Tank-mix with Divanem (0.28 fl oz/1000 ft ²) and a soil surfactant for nematode control. Irrigate with 0.25" immediately after application.
March 18	Heritage Action	0.4 oz	11,P1	Take-all Root Rot, <i>Rhizoctonia zeae</i> , Leaf Spot	Allow spray to dry and irrigate with 0.15" within 24 hours.
April 1	Velista® fungicide	0.5 oz	7	<i>Rhizoctonia zeae</i>	Tank-mix with Divanem (0.28 fl oz/1000 ft ²) and a soil surfactant for nematode control. Irrigate with 0.25" immediately after application.
April 15	Heritage Action	0.4 oz	11,P1	Take-all Root Rot, <i>Rhizoctonia zeae</i> , Leaf Spot	Allow spray to dry and irrigate with 0.15" within 24 hours.
April 29	Velista	0.5 oz	7	<i>Rhizoctonia zeae</i>	Tank-mix with Divanem (0.28 fl oz/1000 ft ²) and a soil surfactant for nematode control. Irrigate with 0.25" immediately after application.
May 28	Velista	0.5 oz	7	<i>Rhizoctonia zeae</i>	Water-in immediately after application with 0.15".
July 3	Briskway® fungicide	0.72 oz	3,11	Take-all Root Rot, <i>Rhizoctonia zeae</i>	Water-in immediately after application with 0.15".
July 29	Velista	0.5 oz	7	<i>Rhizoctonia zeae</i>	Water-in immediately after application with 0.15".
August 26	Briskway	0.72 oz	3,11	Take-all Root Rot, <i>Rhizoctonia zeae</i> , Leaf Spot	Water-in immediately after application with 0.15".
Sept 23	Heritage Action	0.4 oz	11,P1	Take-all Root Rot, <i>Rhizoctonia zeae</i> , Leaf Spot	Allow spray to dry and irrigate with 0.15" within 24 hours.
Oct 21	Heritage Action	0.4 oz	11,P1	Take-all Root Rot, <i>Rhizoctonia zeae</i> , Leaf Spot	Allow spray to dry and irrigate with 0.15" within 24 hours.

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