

## Chapter 2 - The turf trouble-shooter

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Lawns can have many problems associated with them. The key to fixing any problem is to firstly identify the cause and then to take the correct remedial actions.

Dead or dry patches



1. Thatch build up – see pages 75 - 76
2. High areas exposed to sun and steep enough to allow water to run off before wetting – see pages 22 - 23
3. Pest attack – see pages 56 - 59
4. Animal urine (Water in)
5. Uneven sowing in new turf – see pages 39 - 42
6. Heavy compaction – see pages 24 - 26
7. Damage from wear – see pages 24 - 26
8. Incorrect choice of grass species – see pages 8 - 11

Off colour patches of grass



1. Caused by animal urine (water in)
2. Diseased turf – see pages 47 - 55
3. Pest attack – see pages 56 - 59
4. Mowing height too low – see page 9
5. Uneven ground causing scalping while mowing – see pages 14 - 15
6. Damage from wear – see page 9 and pages 24 - 26
7. Different grass species in sward – see page 8
8. Not enough top-soil beneath grass in places

Yellowing of the grass (majority)



1. Caused by mowing too infrequently and when mown too closely – see pages 12 - 15
2. Turf in need of fertilisation (Nitrogen) – see pages 17 - 21
3. Severe pest attack – see pages 56 - 59
4. Severe disease attack – see pages 47 - 55
5. Herbicide over dose – see page 73
6. Poor drainage – see pages 24 - 26
7. Inadequate top soil depth (extremely shallow)
8. Lack of water – see pages 22 - 23

Thin sparse growth



1. Caused by heavy shade – reduce shade
2. Infestation of moss or weeds – see pages 43–44 & 60-73
3. Disease attack a possibility if yellowing also occurs – see pages 47 - 55
4. Poor drainage – see pages 24 - 26
5. Over-dosing of chemical herbicide – see page 73
6. Compaction – see pages 24 - 26
7. Pest attack – see pages 56 - 59
8. Incorrect sowing rate if new turf – see pages 39 - 42
9. Moss – see pages 43 - 44

Cracks in the soil and turf



1. Heavy loam type soil dried out – see pages 22 - 23
2. Poor irrigation practices – see pages 22 - 23
3. Newly laid turf needing water

Scalped or shaved turf in places



1. Incorrect mowing height of machine – see page 9
2. Incorrect mower for land shape – see pages 12 - 15
3. Uneven ground – see pages 32 - 33
4. Moss – see pages 43 - 44