

Dog Spots and Your Lawn

If you have a female dog or immature male dog you may notice burned or discolored spots on your lawn developing. These spots are likely due to dog urine. If you have a mature male dog, it is unlikely that you will get urine-caused lawn spots because male dogs urinate on bushes, poles and other landmarks.

Dog urine is essentially a salt solution and among other things contains ammonia. When a female dog urinates on the lawn the foliage is coated with this salt solution, this salt draws moisture out of the grass, leaving the spot initially looking wilted and in a day or so looking brown where the grass has been killed. After the initial turf injury, the grass will green up in a circle around the dead spot as the nitrogen in the urine is taken up by healthy roots.

In the winter, there is moisture from rain and temperatures are colder, so it is less likely that your grass will burn.

To minimize the damage, if you see a dog urinate on the lawn, immediately sprinkle the area with water to wash the salts off the foliage. This will dilute it and the burned spots will not develop. You may also set your sprinkler timer to come on every day for a two or three minutes to wash off the salts after your dog goes out for its morning stretch.

While Triumph 2 and Coastal Triumph sod resists damage from dog urine, your new sod lawn will need several weeks to develop a deep and healthy root system that can help replenish the moisture removed from the grass blades by dog urine. If damage occurs, Coastal Triumph will start to regenerate after a few weeks. With Triumph 2 you will need to re-seed or patch in sod to the browned out areas. To speed up the regeneration process you can also add seed to the damaged spots several times each year.

