

Slime Mold

Willie Chance

Houston County Extension Service

(478) 542-2020 wchance@uga.edu

What is this black sooty fungus growing on my grass? I can wipe it off and it feels powdery. It can look oily at times. Slime mold is a strange little fungus that grows on the blades of our lawn occasionally. It seems to be more common after rain following a dry period.

Have you ever seen a dead branch that has a gelatinous or moist, soft growth coming out of it? This is probably another type of slime mold. The slime mold in your yard is growing on your grass instead of inside a limb.

Slime mold just grows on the leaf blade. It does not enter the leaf. It is looking for a place to grow. Unless it stays on the leaf a long time, it should not hurt anything. You can sweep the slime mold off or brush it off with a broom. You could also wash it off with soapy water.

It is probably best just to ignore the slime mold. It will eventually go away. The worse that the slime mold will probably do is to yellow the grass if it stays in one area too long. We do not recommend that you spray any chemicals to control this fungus.

For more information see - <http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/pubcd/B1233.htm>