

Slime Mold Fact Sheet



Occasionally in the spring and summer, growths of slime mold can be seen on surfaces such as lawns, organic mulches, and rotting logs and leaves. Slime mold (the formal name is *Fuligo septica*) is unsightly but harmless. Due to the similarity in appearance, slime mold is commonly referred to as "dog vomit". According to Nancy Doubrava, HGIC Information Specialist, and Bob Polomski, Extension Consumer Horticulturist, Clemson University, research has found the following to be true of slime molds:

- They can be off-white, brown, yellow, salmon, orange or brick red.
- Typically they occur in warm, wet conditions, often in the same location each year.
- Although they may look alarming, they pose no harm to lawn grasses.
- Because they feed on bacteria, other fungi and decaying organic matter, they will not damage any green plant.
- Control of slime molds is not necessary since they pose no threat to humans or plants.
- They will disappear in dry weather.
- In wet or humid weather, remove slime molds with a rake or broom in order to avoid unsightly appearance. In drier conditions, a garden hose may be used to spray away the growth.
- In most cases the slime mold will turn black and disintegrate within a few days on its own.



Curtis E. Swift, Ph.D., of Colorado State University Extension Department states that preventive chemical treatments tried over the years have been found ineffective against slime molds. He stresses the point that slime molds are a harmless nuisance caused by moisture and are no threat to gardens or lawns. He recommends breaking up the colony with a rake or simply letting it dry out as nature takes its course.

For more information, visit <http://hgic.clemson.edu> or <http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/CoopExt/TRA/PLANTS/slime.html>.

This information was compiled courtesy of Upstate Mulch Products and Services, Inc.

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