

## Slime Molds in the Lawn and Landscape

Slime molds are common in lawns and landscape plantings. They are particularly common in mulch and on dead wood.

Slime molds are not true fungi. They are primitive microorganisms that come in many shapes, colors, and sizes. They can appear like slime or ooze when wet. When they dry out they are more crusty or puffy, and if you bump or kick them you might send up a plume of dusty spores.



Purple-gray slime mold spore structures on turf.

Slime molds grow and thrive in wet conditions, and they consume other microbes such as bacteria. They are not plant pathogens, and they don't damage plants. No management is required. However, they do look strange and can cause concern. If they are a nuisance, slime molds can be physically broken apart up with a rake, broom, or hose.



Slime molds in mulch.

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