

# Slime Mold on mulch

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FIG. 1

## Scientific Name – *Fuligo septica* and other species

### Biology

- Slime molds are primitive organisms that lacks cell walls and flows or moves like amoebae
- Usually encountered on aged mulch

### Period of Primary Occurrence: late spring and summer

- Occurs after very wet, warm weather

### Description / Symptoms

- Slime molds are typically seen as a crusty gray or yellow mass growing on aged mulch – this is the fruiting, reproductive stage, and is the stage we normally see (Fig. 1-8)
- They appear on decomposing mulch
- There are several species of slime mold
- They do not cause injury to plants
- Slime molds are nonparasitic and use mulch as a means of support for their reproductive structures
- Slime molds are considered beneficial as they decompose dead organic matter, help in recycling of nutrients and help reduce plant disease by consuming plant pathogenic fungi or bacteria in the soil



FIG. 2



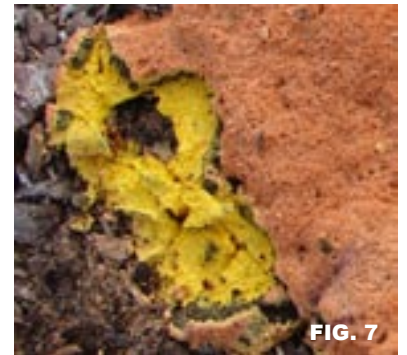
FIG. 3



FIG. 4

### Best Management Practices (BMP)

- No control is required
- If molds are abundant, raking, brushing or hosing will remove the slime mold



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Always remember to read and heed six of the most important words on the label:  
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