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Green Up

Lawns and Landscapes

ISSUE 11

LATE SPRING 2008

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Weeds have benefited from Spring growing conditions.
- Green Up's Late Spring lawn care is designed to combat weeds.
- Early Spring fertilization is critical to fighting weeds, as a healthy lawn will naturally suppress weeds.

Invasion of the Weeds!

The new growing season has jumpstarted turfgrasses as well as weeds. Green Up's Late Spring treatment is designed to combat weeds at this difficult time of the year. Controlling weeds now allows the turf to continue to grow and strengthen; the thick root and canopy systems of healthy turf naturally suppress the majority of weeds with little human intervention. For this reason, Green Up's Late Spring herbicide treatment is critical to the year-long health of your yard.

Weeds are opportunistic in the yard: they are always present and merely need a slight edge or disturbance to flourish. Common disturbances that allow weeds to succeed are mowing too high or too low, excessive foot traffic, and both high and low soil

moisture.

Some weed species, such as lespedeza, ivy, or wild violets, may require repeat applications



growth, such as shade and soil compaction. Eliminating these factors will help your grass thrive and naturally suppress most weed problems. Proper mowing, watering, and weed control will help cultivate dense turfgrass. Green Up's Late Spring treatment involves spraying herbicides to combat the weeds that have begun to emerge in the yard. By killing weeds and promoting thick turf growth, the Late Spring lawn treatment is a keystone to the health and beauty of the yard for the entire year to come.

Spring is a critical time to battle weeds!

to completely control and eradicate the weed from the yard.

If possible, you should try to minimize stress factors to grass



Insecticide/Miticide treatments in Spring help control and minimize insect damage.

Insects, Mites Can Damage Landscape

Many insects and mites that pray on landscape trees and shrubs emerge as real problems during the spring. These insects are dormant during the winter months. But with the return of warm weather, these pests spring to life—ready to feed on new plant

growth!

Green Up begins the first of three insect/mite control applications during the late spring. These applications are designed to eliminate harmful pests from the landscape without damaging any of the trees or shrubs. Controlling insects early in their life

cycle helps reduce damage to the landscape by eliminating the pests before they have begun growing and reproducing. You can trust Green Up's trained technicians to diagnosis and treat insect problems in your landscape.

Professional Lawncare

The Environmentally Conscious Choice!

As a local company, Green Up is very conscious of how our work affects the environment. Working with our company is actually one thing you can do to help protect our environment!

Green Up is an ongoing participant in the Virginia Department of Conservation and Resources Nutrient Management Program. Through this effort, our service program and chemical treatments are monitored and approved by the state to ensure that all

treatments are performed in an environmentally responsible manner.

Our trained technicians work with these materials every day and are licensed to handle and apply the products we use. Our technicians know how to properly prepare chemical treatments and go to lengths to avoid spills and accidents. Equally as important, our technicians are trained in the proper protocol in the event of an accident.

Finally, by diagnosing prob-

lems properly, Green Up does not apply unnecessary chemical treatments to the lawn. You can count on our state licensed technicians to properly treat any problems they may encounter in your lawn. Our program is designed to maximize the health of the lawn, allowing the yard to naturally suppress most weeds and diseases.

You can trust Green Up to provide responsible service to beautify and protect your local environment!



Our state-certified professional staff ensure all materials are properly applied.



A healthy lawn will naturally suppress most weeds. What can you do to help your lawn thrive?

Weed Control 101

Green Up's uses both spot treatment and blanket treatment for weed control, depending on the extent of weed infestation.

Spot treatment involves selectively spraying just those areas that have weeds. This is a cost-effective, low-dosage method to combat sporadic

weeds in the yard.

Blanket treatment involves spraying weed control across the entire yard. This is done when a yard has an extensive weed infestation, such as a yard that is just coming onto Green Up's treatment program. It is also done to combat new weed growth during the

Spring growing season.

Green Up uses responsible spraying practices, favoring spot treatments unless necessary. With any treatment where weed control is applied, we recommend keeping off the yard until the product has had sufficient time to dry (typically 1 to 2 hours).

Tips to Beat the Weeds!

Maintaining a healthy lawn is one of the best ways to naturally keep weeds out of the yard. Your Green Up lawncare program helps you achieve this goal, but there are also things you can do to keep your yard healthy and weed free!

- Mow high. Taller mowing heights increase the lawn canopy, preventing light and heat from penetrating to the soil and helping

weeds germinate.

- Maintain your mower. Dull blades adversely affect turf color and increase the probability of disease. Sharp blades produce clean cuts and improve turf quality and water retention.
- Water regularly. Regular watering promotes grass root growth. A healthy root system competes

more aggressively for nutrients and diminishes the ability of weeds to grow.

- Mulch your clippings back onto the lawn. Recycling grass clippings allows you to recycle up to 15% of the nutrients in fertilizers. This results in healthier grass plants that can better fight weeds.

Mowing Height

When mowing, maintain a MINIMUM of 2.5 inches and always follow the “1/3 rule”: never remove more than 1/3 of grass height during a single mowing. Examining the table below, it is clear that mowing higher requires less frequent mowing. Additionally, higher mowing promotes deeper root growth and better natural weed suppression. Use the table below to help you plan your mowing—and remember to mulch clippings!

Mowing Height	Mow when the Grass is...	Mowing Frequency
1 inch	1.5 inches	Every 3-4 days
2 inches	3 inches	Every 5-6 days
3 inches	4.5 inches	Every 6-7 days
4 inches	6 inches	Every 7-8 days
5 inches	7.5 inches	Every 8-9 days



Source: 2007 Virginia Tech Turfgrass Short Course Materials Manual

Fertilizer, Mowing Battle Weeds

In addition to improving the color of turf, fertilizers help your yard combat weeds. Fertilizers add nutrients to the soil, giving plants more of the building blocks they need for growth. Proper fertilization encourages new shoot growth and root expansion. New shoot and root growth make it difficult for weeds to germinate and become eyesores in the lawn. Extensive roots allow a plant to maximize nutrient and

water uptake from the soil. Fertilization thus reduces the amount of herbicide that would otherwise be required.

Proper mowing height is also a critical factor to natural weed suppression. The cool season grasses that dominate our region should be mowed 3 to 4 inches high. Higher mowing heights allow the turf canopy to develop to a greater extent.

A higher canopy suppresses weeds by reducing the light and heat that penetrates to the soil, making weed seed germination extremely difficult. University studies have shown that high mowing heights combined with routine fertilizer applications can cause up to a 98% reduction in weeds with no herbicide intervention, as compared to a shortly mowed, non-fertilized lawn.

Fertilization and proper mowing are two of your biggest tools to combating weeds.

Weed Hotspots: Favorite Locations for Invasion

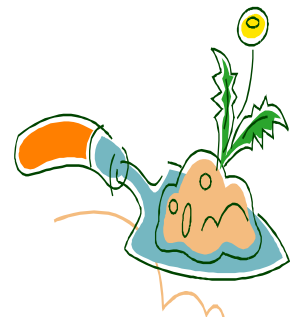
Weeds can occur anywhere in the yard, but there are certain factors that make weed invasion more likely. Weeds will succeed in areas that grass plants struggle to grow.

- Lawn areas bordered by concrete/stone, such as next to a driveway or sidewalk. Because of the stone barrier, the

grass's roots are unable grow as thick next to the stone as they do in the rest of the yard. Additionally, radiated heat from the rock discourages extensive grass root and shoot growth. These weakened areas of grass growth are prime locations for weeds to invade

and flourish.

- Bare or stressed areas in the middle of the yard. Again, these areas have reduced root development and little, if any, shoot growth. Quick growing weeds out-compete grass for nutrients and water in these areas.



The Guys In Purple

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The Guys in Purple!

Locally owned and operated in the Roanoke, Virginia area for over 25 years, Green Up is familiar with the soil types and climate of our region. We realize what a beautiful area we live in and are committed to providing quality, responsible lawn service.

Our service programs are specifically designed with knowledge of the local environment. Our practices are environmentally friendly, as you would expect from a good neighbor.

We are a local company dedicated to providing friendly service and guarantee our work. Call the Guys in Purple today!

Even More to Learn!

www.guysinpurple.com

What to Do About Watering?

Watering is one of the most critical activities you can do for your yard. Proper watering encourages full root development and actually increases the plant's ability to survive drought. But when should you water? And how much?

The morning is an ideal time to water the lawn. Morning watering washes dew off of the grass blades. Dew contains sugars that can fuel fungal infections. By watering in the morning, you remove the fungi's food source and allow the sun to dry the grass leaf, preventing moisture-induced disease.

Cool season grasses, such as Kentucky Blues and fescues, need approximately 0.6 inches of water per week during the spring. To determine how much you should water, use the

following method. Begin by placing tuna cans in the yard randomly during watering. At the completion of watering, simply measure the amount of water caught in each can. It is also critical to ensure that watering is done as uniformly as possible across



Deep, infrequent watering promotes extensive root development.

the entire yard. Uneven watering can cause weakened plants at areas that receive less water. Uniform watering is also desirable to save water, money, and time when watering the lawn.

The frequency of watering impacts that plant's root system. Daily watering promotes shallow rooting, as water is always plentiful near the surface. Shallow roots are not great at holding soil during heavy precipitation and flooding; additionally, shallow roots decrease a plant's ability to survive drought. Deep, infrequent watering promotes deep rooting down into the soil profile. Deep roots hold soil better and allow a plant to better survive drought, as its roots can explore more of the soil profile for water sources.