Wolbert's Plant Essentials Inc.
Healthy Landscapes
Pest Free Homes

Winter Lawn
2017-2018

Today's Treatment

In Winter, your lawn begins to repair its root system and store up nutrients for the growing season. The liquid bio-fertilizer applied today supplies your lawn with the nutrients it needs for this task.

Ferrous sulfate (iron), an important nutrient for turf, will damage moss if applied at a high rate. We add ferrous sulfate to our fertilizer mixes all year, to promote color and chlorophyll production in the lawn. But, even when applied at high rates, as we do from late Fall through Spring, ferrous sulfate cannot eradicate moss. Moss germinates from spores cast from the adult plants as they mature. After high-iron fertilizer applications, the visible moss plants turn dark and begin to shrink in size, but if wet conditions prevail, those spores will germinate and new moss plants will begin to grow almost immediately.

Crane Fly Larvae

European crane fly larvae can devastate lawns. During the larval stage (late Nov- early May), this abundant species feeds on grass roots, and in high populations they can do serious damage.

In order to control the crane fly larvae population, treatment must be applied *when the larvae are actively feeding*. Over the course of the upcoming Winter and early Spring seasons, Wolbert's technicians will be monitoring lawns for signs of crane fly larvae. Common crane fly, a separate species, is gaining population and may be a problem in the future. Treatment will be applied to any lawns with a *significant* feeding larvae population and noticeable feeding damage. ***Because of the large time frame in which larvae are active, we need your help to identify issues that may occur between our visits. Monitoring your lawn is critical to your turf's health.***

Walk your lawn each week and make note of any signs of infestation. Notify our office if you observe:

- Lots of starlings and/or crows feeding on the lawn. Increased feeding may occur after treatment, as the larvae will often surface prior to expiring.

A local lawn in spring, showing damage after a winter European crane fly larvae infestation.

- Thinning, muddy stands of grass with small breathe holes the size of a pencil lead in the soil (not to be confused with earthworm castings, which look like tiny volcanoes).

- Shady, wet areas are the most likely sites for problems.

Notes about Lawn Color

If temperatures dip below freezing before this treatment has been rained on, the grass may turn dark, even black in some areas. *This effect is due to the high iron content of the fertilizer and is only temporary.* If we are in a dry stretch of weather, the technician may ask you to water to lessen the chance for discoloration. Any temporary darkening will usually disappear after mowing, leaving that deep, rich green color that makes your neighbors envious.

Turf Disease Bulletin

Microdochium Patch (also known as Fusarium Patch, Take-All Patch, and Snow Mold) infection typically first occurs in late November and December in our area. The beginning stage of infection present as patches of gray, slimy mycelium, which turn yellow, then brown. The disease can spread rapidly and do extensive damage, resulting in turf dieback- roots and all- leaving the lawn rough and uneven. If your lawn has been infected in the past, it is susceptible to re-infection. Snow cover will intensify the severity of infection.

Red Thread infects the grass blades more severely in nitrogen deficient lawns, turning them pink, orange, or red, then tan or brown. Red Thread does not kill grass roots, but it is unsightly and can be very persistent. A nutrient rich bio-fertilizer program, like our Plus Lawn Care, is a great defense against Red Thread. Chronic Red Thread infections can be rehabilitated with fungicide if necessary.

Microdochium Patch Mycelium

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