

"No one knows his identity. He just turns up, cuts your grass, then departs without leaving his name. They call him the Lawn Ranger."

Watering Your Lawn

What's the difference between dormant and dead? Trees, ornamentals and turfgrass all require water to survive. If you can't water enough to keep the lawn green, then water ¼ inch every 2 weeks to keep it dormant. Totally dry plants will desiccate and die if there is no water for 30 days.



FALL MUMS Last season, when we gave away fall mums to all of our customers to show our appreciation for their business, we received hundreds of requests to purchase some additional mums. We are delighted to announce that if you want to order some additional mums we will deliver them at your time of service. We will start to deliver the mums during September and through the month of October. This is how we show our appreciation to our customers. You can call the office with your order, or fill out the slip below and return it with your payment.

Name _____

Customer # _____

of Mum _____ @ \$3.95 each



SUM, SUM, SUMMERTIME IS HERE!

For the most part the lawns have held up pretty well this summer. Mother Nature has given us enough rain to help the lawns keep most of their color. With this rain comes disease. Although the lawns are healthy there is some off colored turf and this is due to disease or insect activity. The two diseases we have been dealing with are Red Thread and Dollar Spot. These diseases mainly discolor the grass and rarely do permanent damage. Red Thread is pretty easy to identify. Red Thread extends from the top of the discolored turf. This disease can be grown out through fertilization as long as the conditions for this disease do not persist. If they do persist the disease will progress into a pink cotton candy looking ball on the grass. Although I have rarely seen it happen, small areas of grass can become permanently damaged and reseeding may be needed. Dollar Spot is a little more difficult to identify. In the morning when there is dew this disease looks like little spider webs in the grass. If the grass has not been cut it will have an hour glass legion. Green then yellows to green. All cool season grasses are susceptible, but blue grass is very susceptible. If conditions for this disease persist it can reach a stage called melting out. If this occurs the crowning of the grass plant will become damaged and reseeding will be needed. Fortunately our weather changed quite a bit and disease conditions will disappear.

Another fungus that I have seen more this year than in previous years is Fairy Ring. Fairy Ring is irregular dark green circles in the lawn sometimes accompanied by mushrooms. They are caused by something underground breaking down. It may be a tree that had been cut down, but something is breaking down. In some cases so much nitrogen is given off grass the blades will popup. Secondly, if you tug on the brown grass the blades will come out easily and if you look closely they will be hollowed out. We check the lawns at the time of service and if you are a full service program we treat at no charge. Since there are normally six weeks between services these insects may be active before or after your treatment. If you think you have an insect problem please call our office because a lot of damage can be done in a short amount of time. With the temperature heating up insects such as spiders and ants are looking for cool places to go. This is your home. If you have an insect problem in your home, schedule our very effective perimeter pests control.

Finally with temperatures on the rise your mowing practices can really affect the appearance of your lawn. Never cut when temperatures exceed eighty-five degrees and always mow at the highest setting through the summer. High grass can retain more moisture and shade itself. We at The Lawn Ranger are happy to be taking care of your lawn and truly appreciate your loyalty and business.



MOWING

Correct mowing practices will also help the grass stay healthier during stressful periods. When temperatures are high, raise the mower to the highest setting. Mow in the morning, or in the evening, when it is cool outside. Never mow when the temperatures are 85 degrees or above. The grass plant is made up mostly of water. When temperatures are high, the grass pushes its moisture up as a defense mechanism. When mowed, the grass goes into stress. Following these simple rules will greatly increase the chances for the grass to survive and stay somewhat healthy during stressful periods due to high temperatures.

Congratulations to our
Round 3, 2017
Word Jumble Winner!
Rocco Sperati
of Girard, OH
\$50.00 Winner

WORD JUMBLE Batter Up!

UDMNO

EDREFIL

RIKSTE

ALTSFALB

EDDOAL

CRHTACE

TBEABTR

Hidden Message

What Has 18 Legs
& Catches Flies?

(A) ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Address: _____

Please submit your Word Jumble entry form to The Lawn Ranger for a chance to win a gift certificate to Dona Vito's Italian Grille. The winner will be drawn at the end of our Round 4 service.



The Lawn Ranger Is Here To Protect And Service Your Lawn
www.TheLawnRangerOnline.com
330-536-6630 • 1-877-536-6630 • 330-758-8676



RUST DISEASE

Rust Disease occurs mostly in late summer and early fall, and does not occur during other times of the year. Rust is most common on Kentucky bluegrass and on perennial ryegrass. It gets its name because it produces reddish, yellowish, or orange spores on grass blades. Rust disease grows favorably in warm and humid conditions, and develops most frequently on grasses subject to drought conditions, low nitrogen fertility, and shade. Low mowing heights, particularly on Kentucky bluegrass, also increases the susceptibility of grasses to Rust.

If only a small amount of Rust infection has occurred, the Rust spores will only be seen by close observation of the tiny, powdery pustules on the leaf blades. Actually, since spore production does not occur until one to two weeks after infection, Rust-infected turfgrass leaf blades are fortunately mowed away, before Rust spores can be produced.

Turfgrass may not look particularly diseased by Rust until after the infection is well developed. In severe cases, there may be enough spores present to leave an orange dust on your mower, your pants, or your shoes.

Fortunately, Rust disease does not kill turfgrasses, but it may weaken them to the point that they become more susceptible to stress-related problems.

The most important way to avoid Rust infection on lawns is to keep the turfgrass growing vigorously, so that it will be mowed before spores can be produced. However, mowing heights must be adjusted according to grass needs. Fertilization, aeration, and supplying an adequate water supply are factors which will optimize turfgrass growth. Fungicides are not recommended for Rust diseases on lawns, except in very extreme cases.



CHINCH BUGS

Chinch bugs are appearing in scattered lawns throughout the region and need to be dealt with when found. This insect eats the grass just above the crown, and can create a lot of damage quickly. We have seen populations build up very fast and do a lot of damage. This summer's weather has really hit our area lawns, and this is just one more thing for the turf to deal with.

We do not see this insect in all lawns. Infestation is very scattered. If you see larger dead areas showing up, these need to be inspected for this destructive insect. Adults are one fifth of an inch long with white wings extending from halfway over the back to all the way over the back. Eggs are laid over a two to three week period, and one female can lay as many as five hundred eggs. Chinch bugs insert their slender beak into the grass and suck the plant juices. As they suck the plant juices, they release a toxin that causes patches of brown, dead grass. If you grab the turf in these dead areas, and it breaks off just above the crown, this is a good indicator of chinch bug damage. Grub damage would tear off just below the crown at the soil line. Drought damage or disease damage won't tear off in patches.

To test for chinch bugs, you can cut both ends off of a metal coffee can, push the can into the turf about two or three inches into the soil, and then fill the can with soapy water. After about five minutes, if chinch bugs are present, they will float to the surface of the water. It is advisable to check the areas where the yellowish spots and the green grass meet in several different locations.

If you have the option of irrigating your lawn, do so. This will minimize the damage, and will help the turf be ready for our fall rains when they finally do show up. Also, thatch removal is important for eliminating conditions that are favorable for chinch bug survival. Several insect control materials will kill this insect.



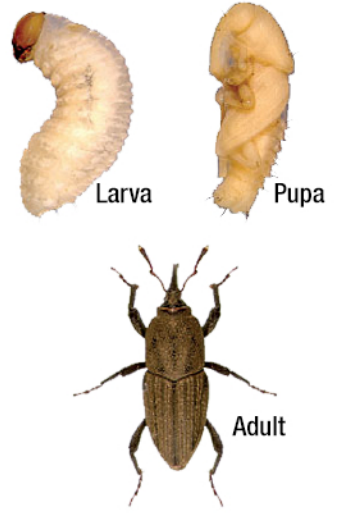
DAMAGE



BILLBUGS IN TURFGRASS

Adult billbugs are one fourth to three eighths of an inch long. They are dark grey to black in color. They may be covered with a tan or brown coating of soil. The larvae are white, with a brown head, and they look like legless white grubs. The female billbug can lay eggs into the month of August, but most eggs are laid by early July. Female billbugs can lay over 200 eggs, usually two to five per day. The eggs hatch in six days, depending on the temperature. Eventually, the emerged larvae become too large to fit inside the grass stems. They then drop to the ground to begin feeding externally on the grass crowns and roots. This is the point at which significant damage to the turf is noticed, especially if little rainfall or irrigation has occurred at this time.

Billbug damage usually appears in late June through August, when summer drought stress is common. Light infestations in lawns often produce small dead spots that look like the turf disease, Dollar Spot. Sometimes the damage looks like irregular mottling or browning in the turf. Heavy infestations can result in complete destruction of the turf, usually by August. The major problem with billbug damage is that it looks like a variety of other problems. Most turf managers confuse billbug damage with drought, disease, chinch bugs, or white grubs. Billbug damaged turf turns a whitish-straw color. To confirm billbug attacks, grasp the affected turf and pull upward. If the stalks break easily at ground level, and the stems are hollowed out, or are full of packed sawdust-like material, billbugs are the culprit.



We offer turf insect control applications as part of our complete Lawn Care Program. We strongly advise that our applications be watered in within twenty-four hours, with about a fourth of an inch of water, after each treatment. Be sure to call The Lawn Ranger at 330-536-6630 to order this service. We will be more than happy to answer any and all of your questions.

THE BENEFITS OF AERATION

Aeration is the process of mechanically removing small plugs of thatch and soil from the lawn. By removing small cores of soil from your lawn, you reduce soil compaction, and promote root growth. The result, after aeration, is healthier grass, and reduced maintenance requirements.



The Benefits Of Aeration Include:

1. Improving air exchange between the soil and the atmosphere.
2. Enhancing soil water uptake.
3. Improving fertilizer uptake and use.
4. Reducing water runoff and puddling.
5. Strengthening the roots of the grass.
6. Reducing soil compaction.
7. Improving resiliency and cushioning.
8. Enhancing thatch breakdown.

Most lawns profit from annual aerations. Lawns that receive this treatment will surely be healthier, more vigorous, and easier to maintain. They will have the fewest pest problems, as well. Please call our office to schedule your fall aeration.



DORMANT NOT DEAD

During certain times of the year, grasses will go dormant. This means that the growth, and other life functions of the grass, will slow down, or stop. This occurs because of stress and/or seasonal changes. The grasses we grow in our area are called cool season grasses, and they grow best between the temperatures of 50 to 70 degrees. Dormancy causes the lawn to turn yellow in color. When temperatures exceed this, at either end of the scale for an extended period of time, the grass will begin to go dormant. There are two types of dormancy. We experience a summer dormancy and a winter dormancy in our area.