



**EARLY  
SUMMER**



**TurfMasters** LLC  
Imagine What Green...  
Can Do For You!

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# Turf Matters

## Q&A: SUMMER WEEDS

**Question:** *My lawn was weed-free after the last application of herbicides, but now dandelions are popping up again. Why didn't the treatment work?*

**Answer:** Broadleaf weeds like dandelions are very stubborn, and your frustration is understandable. However, the application did work, since it took care of the broadleaf weeds that were already growing in your lawn. The problem is that no lawn can ever truly be weed-free, since there will always be weed seeds in the soil waiting to grow. It doesn't help that broadleaf weeds grow especially well in hot summer weather.

Repeat applications of post-emergent herbicides are often necessary to keep broadleaf weeds in check. Also, remember that thick, dense turf can help to crowd out weeds. Regular fertilization, mowing higher, sufficient watering, and insect and disease control as needed will help your lawn to help itself.



## Giving Grubs the Snub

**THEY'LL DESTROY YOUR LAWN IF YOU LET THEM!**

Ever laid eyes on a grub? If so, you know how ugly these pests are. Even uglier, though, is the damage they can do to your lawn.

Grubs are the unfortunate offspring of beetles, such as June beetles and Japanese beetles, and they hatch from eggs laid in the soil. After hatching, the grubs (or beetle larvae) start feeding on turf roots. As feeding continues and the root system is destroyed, the lawn loses its ability to take up water. If no action is taken, the lawn can be ruined.

### AN UNSEEN THREAT

Grubs live and feed underground, so they aren't readily visible. Even if your lawn appears healthy aboveground, that doesn't mean grubs aren't feeding on the root system down below.

That's why it's a good idea to perform periodic "grub inspections." Simply pull up a small section of sod to see if any grubs are visible (most have off-white bodies with brown heads, and they assume a "C" position when disturbed). If you see more than six grubs per square foot, your lawn is in need of treatment.

Other signs pointing to a grub infestation include:

- Turf that feels spongy as you walk across it
- Dead turf that can be rolled up easily (like a loose carpet)
- Irregular brown patches throughout your lawn

### FIGHTING BACK AGAINST GRUBS

Systemic insecticides are a very effective means of grub control. They are absorbed by turf roots, and the grubs are killed as they feed on the roots. For best results, systemic insecticides should be applied before eggs hatch. This can help to stop grub damage from occurring in the first place. If grub damage does appear before treatments can be made, reseeding and extra watering may be necessary to repair the affected areas.

As with any lawn pest, it's better to be proactive than reactive. Regular inspections for grubs and properly timed treatments will give your turf the protection it needs.

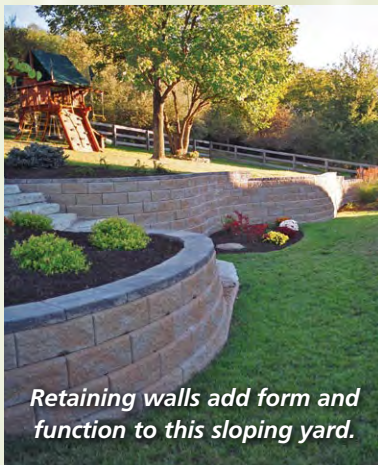


*Ugly grubs can do ugly damage to your lawn.*

## GET MORE OUT OF YOUR PROPERTY WITH A RETAINING WALL

No matter how good it looks, a steep, sloping yard isn't very functional. If a steep yard has kept you from installing that planting bed, patio or children's play area you've always wanted, a retaining wall may be the answer.

Retaining walls hold back soil that might otherwise slide down a hill. Building a retaining wall low on a steep slope, then adding soil above it, can create a safe, level area for a variety of uses. Multiple retaining walls can even be used to create a terraced effect.



*Retaining walls add form and function to this sloping yard.*

Retaining walls can be constructed from a wide range of materials. These include treated timbers, natural or cut stone, poured concrete, and precast blocks in assorted colors and textures. Since they interlock with each other, precast blocks provide extra stability.

As with any landscaping project, careful planning to ensure that the finished product meets your specific needs is very important. Properly designed and installed, a retaining wall can improve your landscape's functionality significantly.

## Limited Space? Try a Container Garden!

Even if you don't have room for planting beds on your property, you can still get plenty of enjoyment out of growing your own flowers, herbs and vegetables. With container gardening, a deck, patio, balcony or even a doorstep can provide all the room you need.

### CHOOSING A CONTAINER

Containers come in many sizes, shapes and materials. Depending on your specific tastes, you may prefer plastic, ceramic, wood or clay containers. For adequate drainage, make sure they have holes in the bottom.

The container size you need will be determined by the type of plants you're growing. Shallow-rooted plants (e.g. lettuce, herbs and most annuals) require a container at least 6" across and 8" deep. For deep-rooted perennials, tomatoes or cucumbers, on the other hand, you'll need something larger.

### SOIL TYPE

Regular garden soil tends to hold too much moisture when used in a container, depriving the roots of much-needed oxygen. Instead, lightweight, packaged potting soil may be used, or you can make your own mix using one part peat moss, one part garden loam, and one part vermiculite or perlite. Whether you're starting with seeds or seedlings, your container should be filled to within 2" of the top with your planting mix.

### CARE AFTER PLANTING

Most containers need daily watering in hot, dry weather. Lighting needs will vary depending on plant type, and your container can be moved if a spot is too sunny or shady. To improve plant vigor, a slow-release fertilizer can be added every two weeks.

### NOT SURE WHAT TO PLANT? HERE ARE SOME IDEAS:

Herbs	Vegetables	Annual Flowers	Perennial Flowers
• Anise	• Carrots	• Begonias	• Yarrow
• Basil	• Kale	• Pansies	• Rudbeckia
• Chives	• Eggplant	• Zinnias	• Sedum
• Tarragon	• Bell Peppers	• Snapdragons	• Shasta Daisies
• Parsley	• Beets	• Geraniums	• Chrysanthemums



*Begonias make this stairway more welcoming.*

# Mowing and Watering the Right Way

Good mowing and watering practices can make a big difference in the looks and health of your lawn. Plus, by encouraging healthier growth, you'll be improving your turf's ability to stand up to insects, disease and stressful summer weather. Here are some tips to keep in mind:

## MOWING

- If the blade hasn't been sharpened in a while, have it done soon. A dull mower blade will shred the tips of grass blades, giving the lawn a brown cast and making it easier for lawn diseases to get established.
- Mow often enough so that you don't need to remove more than  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the grass blade at a time. Mowing too short can stress your turf, reducing its ability to fend off insects and diseases. Also, the taller the grass is, the more shaded the soil will be. This will help to discourage weed seeds from sprouting.
- Avoid mowing wet grass. Mowing when turf is dry is not only safer, but will provide a more even cut.
- Don't be afraid to leave clippings on the lawn (but don't overdo it – follow the  $\frac{1}{3}$  rule). Clippings will return valuable nutrients to the soil.



## WATERING

- Your lawn needs from 1" to 1½" of water per week from rainfall or sprinkling.\*
- It's better to water less often and deeply than to provide regular, shallow sprinklings. The soil should be soaked to a depth of 6" each time.
- Early-morning watering is best, since less moisture will be lost to evaporation from the sun's heat.
- Remember that your trees and shrubs also need water. They'll benefit from a long, deep soaking once per week in hot, dry weather.

*\*If watering restrictions are in place, we encourage you to follow your city/county guidelines for water conservation, watering your lawn, trees and shrubs whenever allowed.*



# Insect Activity on the Rise

Grubs aren't the only pest posing a threat to your turf this summer. As the weather heats up, any of the following bugs can cause problems:

**WEBWORMS** – Chew off grass blades and pull them into tunnels they make in the thatch layer.

**CHINCH BUGS** – Suck juices from the leaves and stems of grass plants. Also, block food- and water-conducting vessels by injecting a toxin as they feed.

**GREENBUG APHIDS** – Like chinch bugs, suck juices from grass plants while injecting a toxin.



*A webworm caught in the act.*

**BILLBUGS** – Feed on grass stems.

**CUTWORMS** – Feed on grass leaves and crowns.

Lawns under attack from these pests may show a variety of symptoms, including thinning turf; irregular patches of yellowing, orange-brown or brown grass; and torn-up pieces of sod where animals have been looking for bugs to eat. What's worse, lawns damaged or weakened by insects are less tolerant of other stresses such as heat, dryness and disease.

Healthy lawns tend to be less affected by insect activity, so it's important to follow good mowing, watering and fertilization practices. If any of the above symptoms do appear, treatment with insect controls may be necessary.





# REFERRAL INCENTIVE CONTEST

Provide two legitimate lawn care referrals and enter to win 1 of the 32 prizes below!



2 – Gift Cards  
(\$500 value each)



10 – Gift Cards  
(\$100 value each)



20 – Gift Cards  
(\$50 value each)

And of course our current Referral Program will still apply. For every referral that becomes a TurfMasters Full Program Client, you will receive a \$20 credit to your account - automatically!



- Referral cannot be a current TurfMasters client.
- Referral must be located in our service area (call with any questions on our service area).
- Referral must be a homeowner (no renters, condos, apartments, etc.).
- Referral must be a legitimate prospect – they must know we will be providing a FREE, no-obligation lawn evaluation and price quote.

See enclosure for referral form or go to [imagine-green.com/client](http://imagine-green.com/client).  
Contest winners will be notified via e-mail and posted on our website on October 15, 2011.

## Quick Facts About Lyme Disease

Lyme disease is spread by deer ticks, which thrive in grassy and heavily wooded areas. It is the most common tick-borne illness in the United States, and can cause a variety of symptoms, including:

- A bullseye-shaped rash
- Fever, chills, fatigue, headache and body aches
- Joint pain
- Neurological problems
- Irregular heartbeat
- Eye inflammation

If you know you've been bitten by a tick and are experiencing any of the symptoms listed here, you should see your doctor as soon as possible. Treatment for Lyme disease is more effective the sooner it starts. Also, if you live in an area where Lyme disease is prevalent, you may want to consider a perimeter pesticide treatment for your property.



Deer ticks are responsible for the spread of Lyme disease.

## GRILLED CHICKEN BREASTS AND FRESH TOMATO GARLIC PASTA

### INGREDIENTS:

- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1 cup vinegar-based salad dressing
- 3 fresh, ripe tomatoes
- 1 large, red onion
- 2 teaspoons chopped garlic
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 box pasta

### COOKING DIRECTIONS:

- Marinate chicken breasts in salad dressing for about an hour before grilling.
- For pasta topping, chop tomatoes and red onion, then sauté with chopped garlic and olive oil.
- Grill chicken breasts over a hot grill for 5 to 6 minutes per side. Cook pasta until done.
- Cover pasta with tomato topping and serve with chicken breasts for a delicious meal!

