



GREEN THUMB GAZETTE

Lawn Doctor Newsletter

Vol. 1 No. 2 Summer 2020

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Dog Days of Summer

At Lawn Doctor, we love our lawns and our pets. Having a thick lawn and a pest-free yard is the LD way to ensure our dogs are happy and healthy. Check them out!



From left to right:
Travis, Rizzo and Danny,
Blue, Cooper, Hugo, Pico,
Rhodi, Brodie, Remy

Fungus Is No Fun

Lawn fungus damage is very common this time of year. The most prevalent fungus problems are **Red Thread**, **Dollar Spot** and **Brown Patch**. These conditions develop in warm, moist environments but can be avoided by practicing responsible plant care habits.



Dollar Spot

Watering your lawn is important, but doing so improperly can lead to fungal growth. Your lawn should be getting 1-2 inches of water per week. Rain counts as watering! Use a rain gauge if you're unsure of how much to water. Avoid watering in the evening or at night because lawn that is wet for too long, encourages fungus to grow. Watering early in the morning is the perfect time to let roots soak up moisture before it is evaporated by the sun.

If you suspect that your lawn has a fungal disease, be careful when you mow. Always clean your mower's blades afterwards because fungus can spread throughout your lawn. Be sure to bag your grass clippings to remove the infected blades from the healthy turf!

If treated properly, the fungus will run its course and grow out of the lawn. In extreme cases, a fungicide application may be necessary. Lawn Doctor's Lawn Care Program keeps turf strong and healthy to combat fungi like these. Fighting off fungal and other diseases in your lawn is almost impossible without healthy, nutrient-rich soil. Our Soil Enrichment Program provides an even bigger boost of soil-conditioning elements to further enhance the hardiness of your lawn.



Red Thread



Brown Patch

Crabgrass vs. Paspalum



Crabgrass

Crabgrass is an invasive, grassy weed that haunts almost every lawn in New England. It's tough to control because it grows when/where grass struggles. In other words: it flourishes in the summer months in areas where grass is either dormant or sparse and especially along pavement and hardscapes. It thrives in hot, dry soil. The best way to combat crabgrass is to prevent it. Lawn Doctor applies two doses of crabgrass pre-emergent every spring. Homeowners should do their part in preventing crabgrass too, like mowing high, watering properly and seeding bare or thin areas of the lawn in the fall. **Paspalum** looks a lot like crabgrass but it is a totally different plant and requires special treatment to control it. The biggest differences to note between the two is the "peach fuzz" hairs on the blades of paspalum and it's darker green color. Let LD know if you see paspalum.

What's New with LD? Cleaning Station

We are doing our part to protect the environment with our new Waste To Water system. Our new cleaning system allows us to wash our vehicles and clean each piece of equipment used after every day of service. The wash water enters a special plumbing system that separates the solids and uses microbes to break down the chemicals safely and in a way that's best for the surrounding environment. The water is then recycled and used again to wash equipment the next day!



Seasonal FAQs

Our list of Frequently Asked Questions is updated seasonally and designed to help you get directly to the information you want to know. Check out our list of FAQs on our website!



LD Shout Outs

Employee recognition boosts work place happiness and the drive to perform well for our customers. LD Shout Outs is our way of recognizing our employees' good work. We've dedicated an entire wall in our building lobby for decorative postings of their achievements and other fun shout outs, like customer compliments! Let us know if you would like to Shout Out one of our LD team members!



LD Summer Strategy

When our Massachusetts grass is under extreme summer conditions like heat and drought for too long, it goes dormant to protect itself from dying. Dormant grass is yellowy brown and in the summer very dry. Here are a few things you should know to help prevent your grass from getting too stressed out this summer...



Sprinkler head

Watering

- If grass is wilting or making footprints when you walk on it, it's very dehydrated.
- Water early in the morning. Any later and the sun will cause magnification in the water droplets and further scorch your lawn. The water will be evaporated before it gets soaked into the roots.
- As temperatures rise throughout the summer, water less often (2-3 times a week), but for a longer period of time. This ensures a good drench and promotes deep root development.

- Our Soil Enrichment Program also helps the lawn to develop deep, strong roots. It also loosens the soil which enables the water to soak deeper.

Mowing

- The only way your lawn can protect itself from the sun is if the grass is long enough to create shade for itself.
- Do not mow shorter than 3 inches. Consider keeping it at 4 inches in the summer.
- Never mow more than one-third of the blade off at a time. Cutting too much at once can shock and weaken the plant. It also leads to higher soil temperatures, weeds and browning.



Lawn mower set to 4 inches

Professional Weed Control

- Even the thickest, healthiest lawns have some weeds in the summer.
- Do not apply weed control on your own. Lawn Doctor's Lawn Care Program targets weeds with every visit and applying more than that can damage your lawn. Grass is very sensitive in the summer and any additional or unnecessary applications can damage it.
- Let us take care of the weeds for you. Just because your lawn is stressed, doesn't mean that you have to be!

On The Lookout: Summer Weeds

Every lawn has some weeds. They grow healthy and strong in the sun and heat. With the Lawn Care Program, Lawn Doctor will target these weeds at every visit. And they'll go away as soon as the weather cools down again.



Spurge



Crabgrass



Yellow Nutsedge



Mosquito Fact Attack!

- There are 170 different types of mosquitoes in North America.
- **Mosquitoes** are attracted to our body heat and the Carbon Dioxide that we exhale.
- Male mosquitoes only feed on plant nectars; the ones biting you are female.
- They breed in stagnant water such as puddles, birdbaths and anywhere cool and moist.
- Lawn Doctor's Yard Armour Mosquito Control Program uses an effective, environmentally responsible product to control mosquitoes in your yard.

Surface Insects

There are a few turf dwelling insects that we should look out for during the summer. First and easiest to spot, are **sod web worms**. You'll know they're in your lawn if little white moths fly out of the grass when you walk on it. Second are **chinch bugs**. These tiny bugs are almost impossible to see but cause irreparable damage to your lawn. They suck the water and nutrients out of the blades of grass causing it to turn brown and die. Currently, there is no preventative treatment, but Lawn Doctor offers an effective curative that gets rid of these destructive pests in the summer.



Chinch bug and how to find chinch bugs



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Discount Coupon
\$25 OFF
Any Additional
Lawn Doctor Service*

Aeration • Power Seeding • Insect Control •
Mosquito Control and More!

*Expires August 31, 2020. Limit one per service address. Cannot be combined with other specials or discounts. Only applicable to new services added after June 15, 2020. Coupon is only applicable to the additional service on the year that it is offered.



We're Hiring!

Lawn Doctor is looking to expand our team of hard-working, fun-loving employees. This is a great opportunity to grow alongside a successful, local business. We're hiring Sales Associates, Customer Service Reps. and Service Technicians (MA pesticide license is a plus). Spread the word!



\$50 Referral Credit

As a trusted, family-owned lawn care company, LD wants to help your family and friends as well! New customers get **FREE Grub Proofing** and you get a **\$50** credit on your account for every friend or neighbor that you refer!

Contact Us

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