



**Box 1676  
Camrose, AB  
T4V 1X6  
(780) 678 6450  
[sales@scottqualitylawncafe.ca](mailto:sales@scottqualitylawncafe.ca)  
[scottqualitylawncafe.ca](http://scottqualitylawncafe.ca)**

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## **FIXING & PREVENTING DOG SPOTS**

We love our pets... and dogs may indeed be one of man’s (and woman’s) best friends.

But like all living creatures, they need to “do their business” and oftentimes that’s on our lawns, isn’t it? We’ve all seen it before... whether it’s our own dog or someone else’s.

Why is it that some dogs cause noticeable dog spots on the lawn and others do not?



In this article I’ll take a look at some of the myths versus the facts about dog spots, their causes and how to fix and prevent them from happening.

But first a little preface note to this article...

*My wife and I used to have a beagle; Bagel was his name (that’s another story). We were never really sure why not, but he never caused any dog spots on our lawn, and he never tended to seek out his previous pee spots to pee there again (I suspect that may have helped)... We were blessed, our fellow dog-owners enviously remarked when visiting us...*

*And then there was my son’s dog, a hyper, somewhat seemingly uncontrollable Jack Russell Terrier named Spike (believe it or not), complete with his subtly spiked collar (believe it or not again... thanks to my son). And of course as you might imagine, he always lived up to his name. He was notorious, and in his own canine mind, God’s gift to the canine world... It was very clear that he believed and always acted like he was “king of the beasts”. He’d have no problem squaring off with any larger dog in a territorial dispute even though he’d likely be the one to lose the argument. We had to dog-sit him occasionally... And every single time without fail when he would pee and return thereafter to the same spot to do his biz, he would leave his Spike mark via a big dog spot that eventually would damage the grass. To say he was a challenge to our lawn care practices was an understatement... We loved him, too, but yah, our grass surely didn’t.*

Why did our Bagel NEVER create a problem but Spike ALWAYS caused a problem? A mystery, it would seem.

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So let's look into this a bit more... Pardon the language but let's call this what it is... Is it their pee (urine) or is it their poo (feces) that's the problem? Or is it both? And why does this happen with most dogs but not all of them?

### **First, let's consider the poo ---**

Although dog droppings on your lawn might seem quite harmless to some, other than it being unsightly to others, let's first dismiss the thought immediately that dog poo can be a great fertilizer... Sorry for those that might think otherwise, but that's simply not true and never has been.

Firstly let it be said that I'm a dog lover. So what follows in this article is not from someone who has something against dogs... not at all.

The fact is... dog feces aren't only an eye sore. It's actually considered an environmental hazard, a serious pollutant, not unlike herbicides, insecticides, oil, grease, and toxic chemicals... It actually does the very opposite of fertilizing your lawn. It can leave your perfectly green grass with potential discoloring and even burns, to totally dead spots if left unaddressed.

According to the EPA a single gram of dog waste can actually contain up to 23 million fecal bacteria, and can even carry diseases such as whipworms, hookworms, roundworms, tapeworms, parvo, corona, giardiasis, salmonellosis, cryptosporidiosis, and campylobacteriosis. We love our dogs but that's gross!

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), humans can actually contract diseases from pet droppings if not handled properly. All it need potentially take is contact with the soil with the dog feces on it, to catch a disease such as this.

Needless to say, this can, of course, cause issues if you're trying to mow your lawn - If you leave your dog's feces on your grass while you mow, you are effectively then spreading what has been determined as a toxic pollutant by the EPA and CDC all over your lawn. It will certainly diminish the look of the luscious green grass you may have previously had, and it will create a higher likelihood of catching "zoonoses".

### **Zoonoses... What are those?**

No need to get technical on this but zoonoses or zoonotic diseases are infectious diseases that are transmitted from animals to humans. In fact, over 60 per cent of infectious diseases that we get are zoonotic, and 75 per cent of new "emerging" infectious diseases are zoonotic... Enough said about that.

As pertains to the dog poo issue, zoonoses can come from the eggs of roundworms and other parasites, which can actually live in your soil for years and years. That, of course, sounds pretty dangerous if your kids want to have some fun and roll around and play in the back yard lawn.

I'm not trying to scare anyone but these are the undisputable hard facts.

Needless to say, there's more than enough good reason to say, ALWAYS remove the poo.

The best thing you can do for your soil and your lawn (and for those living on your property) is to remove the feces immediately after the dog does its business, or at least as soon as you see it. If you happen to be one of those property owners who didn't bother to clean up after your dog's numerous lawn deposits last fall before winter came and they've now decomposed on your lawn, please make sure you clean them up before mowing that lawn once the snow has gone as warmer weather approaches.

Be mindful that lawn mowers can effectively be dog feces launchers, right? And yet even mowers aren't the parasites' and bacteria's favorite mode of travel; they prefer being airlifted about the yard via insects and other pests. It's like they have private crop dusters waiting on standby to make a soft landing and a pickup, and then a new drop off.

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When there aren't any bugs or pests about, the bacteria can just simply catch the wind, too, and settle in your soil or groundwater where it can thrive for a year or even longer!

I know, I know... who really thinks about all this to that extent... but it is what it is, isn't it? How many of us are really that aware of the above?

**So yes, it's in yours and everyone's best interests to ALWAYS "stoop and scoop" as they say...** Never leave the feces on your lawn and especially, never mow over it, thinking your mower bag will somehow catch it all, assuming it doesn't get all over your mower wheels which then tracks it elsewhere, too.

Now that you're likely more aware of the dangers of dog poop be assured that all of these potentially terrible things can be avoided.

#### **How should you handle dog feces clean-up and also avoid spreading any potential diseases?**

- Simply scoop your dog's poo with a small plastic baggy, tie it up and dispose of it properly. Those regularly taking their dogs for walks know exactly how to do this in a non-gross manner and that it takes only seconds to do so, right?
- If you don't want to clean it up within your own yard, you can always hire someone as there are companies that do provide such sanitary removal and disposal services. They are equipped with the proper equipment and procedures to remove any kind of animal feces from your property.
  - FYI... Lawn care companies are NOT equipped to offer such services. For good reason it's not normally a service they would offer.
  - It's a question we sometimes get asked by new clients, whether it's for dog feces or deer feces, but we leave that service to other professionals.
- Also remember to keep your dog away from the feces of other dogs, for obvious reasons, too.
  - Sure, they may be curious and do some sniffing, but hopefully they move on within seconds.

#### **Okay, enough with the feces... Now, let's consider the pee...**

**I think it's a safe assumption that the vast majority of dog owners are very responsible and do clean up any dog droppings. It's regarding the pee issue that is the most common question we get asked from dog owners... as dog spots due to their pee are all too common on what otherwise can be some nice healthy residential and boulevard lawns.**

Two types trouble dog owners most: <sup>1</sup>green spots and <sup>2</sup>brown spots. Dog urine causes both types, but the reasons and remedies are different.

Apart from decomposing dog feces which if left unattended to, creates its own obvious mess, dog urine causes those unsightly dog spots leaving potentially burned, bare lawn spots or at least discolored grass behind.

All dogs that squat to urinate, including females, puppies, elderly dogs, small dogs and some adult males, can burn grass when they urinate in one concentrated area. It's a lot like excessive fertilizer burn. If it's an area your dog repeatedly goes back to pee on, the damage is likely to be more severe.

Because most male dogs lift a leg to mark their territory with spurts, they tend to spread their urine over a larger lawn area, so not as many dog pee spots may result.

Dog spots are typically round patches about 3 to 8 in. in diameter with browning spots or dead grass in the middle, normally encircled by slightly darker green grass. They're most apparent in the early spring when dormant grass first begins to turn green again. As the season goes on, and if the spot wasn't repeatedly peed on, you may find it attempting to recover due to your ongoing lawn maintenance, etc.

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## THE URBAN MYTHS - SEPARATING FACT FROM FICTION

Most home owners who are also dog owners have likely struggled to keep up their property's curb appeal. Some have even given up wondering if they'll ever have the lush, green lawn they dream of. Their front lawns are beautiful but they've given up on their back yard where they keep their dog. If you've struggled with those unsightly and frustrating pee spots, you know there is more than enough conflicting information about them on the Internet to make anyone throw their hands up in defeat.

It's important to separate fact from fiction so that you can treat the problem and go back to enjoying your dog as well as a beautiful lawn. **YOU CAN HAVE BOTH. YOU DON'T HAVE TO SETTLE FOR A BACKYARD THAT YOUR DOG NOW OWNS.**

Let's take a look at the 5 most common urban myths surrounding the cause and the possible cures for those dog spots in the lawn. I'm sure most of us have heard these at one time or another ---

### MYTH 1: Only Female Dogs Cause Spotting in Lawns

**The Truth: GENERALLY FALSE... At best, not necessarily.**

- Generally-speaking, female dogs tend to squat when they pee, leaving a small but dense spot of urine on the grass, so that's why they may be getting blamed more.
- It's the quantity of focused urine that can cause burning of the grass.
- Males, however, usually tend to wander around and pee along the way, marking trees and shrubs, fire hydrants, etc., instead of peeing on a flat lawn. Thereby, the urine is spread around the lawn more and the damage to the grass occurs less quickly. That being said, young male dogs will often squat before learning how to lift their legs to pee, and older male dogs will revert back to squatting on the grass when arthritis or other health issues make marking their territory, so to speak, difficult.
- There's also some other misinformation floating around, sadly by some veterinarians themselves, saying that dog spots are due to the higher concentrations of reproductive hormones in a female dog's urine. Be assured though that this isn't the cause of the dog spots.

### MYTH 2: Dog Urine Spots Are More Common With Certain Breeds

**The Truth: FALSE - This myth was likely started when a dog owner noticed more dog spots when owning one breed of dog compared to another breed.**

- There's no truth or proof for that. The breed doesn't have any impact on the size or damage of the spot.
- While it is true that larger breeds of dog can cause more urine damage, this is only because larger dogs have larger bladders and thus produce more urine, thereby they may cause more damage to lawns in a shorter space of time.
- While some individual dogs may have urine with a higher pH level and/or nitrogen at times, or their urine is more concentrated, this has more to do with diet, water intake, and general health than with a specific breed of dog.

### MYTH 3: Brown Spots Occur When Dog Urine Is Too Alkaline or Too Acidic

**The Truth: FALSE - Although urine pH levels can have some minimal bearing on lawn health, dog urine damages grass primarily because of its high concentrations of nitrogen and salts, not its pH level.**

- Dogs are natural carnivores. They consume relatively high amounts of protein, which translates to high urea (nitrogen) content in their urine. And that helps to make their urine only *slightly acidic* not alkaline, usually at levels of 6.0 to 6.5, depending upon the dog's diet and health.
- Typical turf grass's ideal pH range is 6.0 to 7.0 and can be negatively affected by either overly acidic or overly alkaline conditions. *A dog's urine is neither.*

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- Products advertised to ‘naturally’ reduce urine alkalinity (including the amino acid, dl methionine, also known as methioform) may actually cause urinary system problems and can affect calcium buildup in growing bones of younger dogs [More about that regarding supplements, next...]
- Although turf grass loves nitrogen, the amount of nitrogen that a dog deposits in one small area when peeing is oftentimes too much at once in the one spot for the lawn to handle.
- You’ll notice that the urine spots are often ringed with lush green grass that seems to grow faster than the surrounding lawn. This is usually because the outside perimeter receives a smaller boost of the nitrogen that allows it to grow instead of burning or dying off as in the middle where the urine was focused.
- Additionally, you may sometimes hear that it is the acidic pH of the dog’s urine that kills the grass and that you should feed your dog tomato juice or cider vinegar to adjust the pH of the urine. A dog’s urine is only slight acidic... Don’t do it! It’s not that it’s too alkaline nor too acidic... Be careful with what you hear and heed as there’s a lot of misinformation out there. It is not the pH of the urine that kills the grass!
- Many veterinarians warn that feeding pH altering supplements such as tomato juice, vinegar or baking soda could result in urinary tract diseases, bladder infections, crystals and bladder stones.
- Once again, the problem with this myth is that it isn’t relevant, like the breed or gender of your dog, to how their urine affects the grass.

#### **MYTH 4: Dog Urine Spots Can Be Prevented With Food Supplements**

**The Truth: FALSE - Of course, dog owners want their dogs to be healthy... Every time they visit a pet store they can’t help but see shelves of dog food, supplements, and other products galore, that advertise a solution for dog spotting. However, they usually work to reduce the alkalinity of your dog’s urine or make your dog drink more water but that’s about it...**

- There may be some small basis in fact within this myth because yes, you can change the diet of your dog and it can affect their urine. However, there are no safe supplements that will completely eliminate nitrogen from dog urine.
- There is no real scientific evidence that these products work to to eliminate dog spots. In fact, some of these supplements are known to cause urinary system problems and other potentially dangerous issues for some pets, such as calcium deposits in young dogs as previously mentioned.
- Many supplements are available that claim to bind with the nitrogen in dog urine but these contain harmful chemicals which can lead to disease in the kidneys and liver of your dog amongst other potential health issues.
- However, the quality of protein in the diet of your dog is another issue that can affect the impact that dog urine has on lawns. Low quality protein is more difficult for dogs to digest and can result in a higher nitrogen content in the dog urine ending up on your lawn. However, we would not recommend changing the diet of your dog as a means to prevent dog urine spots on lawn.
- Just to reiterate, dog spots are caused more from heavy concentrations of nitrogen and salts, and these supplements aren’t that effective, if at all, and unless deemed necessary by your veterinarian may even cause real damage to your dog’s health... Always consult your veterinarian before making any big changes to your dog’s food.

#### **MYTH 5: Dog Pee Damage Can Be Cured With Household Products**

**The Truth: FALSE - Sprinkling baking soda, gypsum, potassium citrate, dishwashing detergent, and other random household products won’t get the yellow or brown out of your yard’s lawn and may cause even more trouble.**

- Why? Baking soda, gypsum, and potassium citrate are essentially salts. While excessive nitrogen is the main issue with dog urine damaging lawns, the salts in dog urine are also part of the problem, and therefore baking soda and gypsum and potassium citrate, as a salt, are liable to compound the problem. This is most commonly associated with being able to eliminate the smell of dog urine in the grass, not actually fixing patches of discolored grass.

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- Dishwashing detergent is a wetting agent, a surfactant, and could help water-concentrated salts move through the soil in your lawn. But other ingredients within the soap might actually burn the grass itself, so it's best not to add to the problem.
- If you look online, you'll see that there are many DIY home remedies some people suggest that have worked well for them. Unfortunately, none of them seem to entirely deal with the problem... The only way to truly neutralize the effects of the urine is with water, and understandably, following your dog around with a hose to watch where it urinates clearly isn't the most desirable nor practical solution.
- All we can reiterate is that you do your own research and due diligence. Be very careful before trying any DIY or so-called more natural approaches. We're not saying they don't exist, as who knows, perhaps some company has come up with something that meets science and health concerns. But it's not just patching your lawn that you may be dealing with here, it could be your dog's health, too.

Okay, so that's dispensing with the most common myths.

## **SO WHY DO DOG SPOTS KILL GRASS & HOW DO WE GET RID OF DOG SPOTS?**

Green spots? Brown spots? Dry spots? Dead spots?

Usually what causes it, we don't necessarily even see when it happens, unless you're actually out there with your dog and monitoring it's actions... It's oftentimes going to happen and we wouldn't know it has until we later see the dog spot appearing and the grass struggling to survive.

Can you imagine running around after your dog with a watering can of water and after your dog pees, pouring water over the area to dilute the nitrogen... That would surely help but might give your neighbours some entertainment to talk about!

**Ideally, if the dog just did his/her business, YES, you have to dilute or remove the caustic urine from the grass and underlying soil as soon as you can. Whenever possible, thoroughly soak the area with lots of water. Let the hose run for at least a few minutes on that area.**

**If anything, the real magic ingredient is water --- Deep watering of the dog spot can dilute the nitrogen and salts and allow them to dissipate away and leach into the surrounding lawn and soil enough so that it presents no further problem to the grass.**

### **FIXING THE GREEN SPOTS ---**

As previously mentioned, dog urine contains high concentrations of acids and salts and is naturally high in nitrogen, which happens to also be an essential plant nutrient.

Your dog's favourite spots, as such, can become greener than the surrounding grass as the nitrogen will give them a nutrient boost. It's really a question of the quantity and intensity of that boost, you could say. This greening-up would be more noticeable on grass that perhaps hasn't had enough nitrogen from fertilizer. If you're periodically fertilizing your lawn, you may not see this difference in colour. Hence a regimen of periodic fertilizer treatments as part of your lawn maintenance routine may be all that's needed on the entire lawn so that these potential greener spots caused by your dog, aren't as noticeable. However, when applying those treatments, there would be no need to add more fertilizer onto those greened-up perimeters around the dog spot nor within them... Remember that the biggest culprit here is the nitrogen in the urine, so you don't want to amplify that in those particular areas.

### **FIXING THE BROWN SPOTS ---**

More often than not, though, it's the burned/dried out/brown spots that are the more damaging problem.

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If the grass roots have been entirely destroyed, you can't expect the spot or patch to simply fill itself in with new growth as the season goes on.

The dog's urine can burn (dry out) the grass roots and totally kill them. As rain washes the area, the urine is diluted and the nitrogen spreads, causing the grass surrounding the spot to grow faster and turn greener. As alluded to above, that's more easy to fix.

However, lawns that are overly dry or already weak and stressed or struggling for whatever reasons are especially susceptible to dog urine damage.

Worst-case, you may have to replant your grass if it's simply not growing back on its own no matter what you do to reinvigorate it.

However, once those brown spots start appearing, especially in the early spring, some may be relatively simple to fix. If the spot is smaller than the palm of your hand, and you've already been watering it down, just let it be – see if the surrounding grass will fill it in after just a few weeks.

But if that dog spot is bigger and already has become mostly dead grass, then you'll have to remove the dead grass from the area and likely do some re-seeding [More about that later].

**PLEASE NOTE:** It's at this point, where I will mention that there are some products being offered out there that you might call "lawn patch" or "soil & seed specialty products that are designed for dog spots"... These claim to be all-in-one remedies for dog spots combining drought-tolerant, water-conserving, premium grass seeds, fertilizer and natural mulch to grow beautiful, healthy grass where dog spots were, or so the sales pitches claim. Whether they are truly effective enough, or shall I say, more effective than you doing your own bit of lawn spot restoration, I leave that up to you.

As with many premium lawn seed & fertilizer blends that claim to be much better than regular lawn seed and proper lawn care practices, the verdict is still out for all these kind of "all in one" or "this works better than all the rest" type of lawn seed and repair products. It's when you look at all the reviews for many of these products and you see such a wide variance of positive and as many negative reviews that you wonder what is just marketing hype versus what are people just not applying it or using it properly.

I, myself, have tried buying the fancy lawn seed a couple times for some repairing of a few problem areas. I can't honestly say that I saw any noticeable difference between these premium more expensive products than regular grass seed and effective ongoing lawn maintenance. That being said, I know very well that there are numerous variables that can contribute to the successful germination or not of any new seed you apply to your lawn. But do your own market research, your own due diligence, just to be sure you're not spending money needlessly. For some people they work great, for others not so much.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Not to be confused as similar to any of the soil & seed speciality products alluded to above, I would be remiss to not mention that we do offer our **ENRICH Soil Enhancer** 3-application spray product that as some of our clients have said, does appear to help in the restoration of lawn affected by dog spots. It's likely because it contains naturally occurring microbes that will break down the nitrogen in the dog urine and create a similar effect to diluting it. And as to the rest of what's within it, it's nothing short of an all-natural super-nutrient boost to your lawn and for that matter, any soil and whatever is growing within it. Don't hesitate to contact us for more information about our highly recommended ENRICH product as its benefits are numerous and will help any lawn become more healthy than it otherwise might be on its own.

**So back to the fix... now you can start the replanting process.**

1. Firstly, remove any totally dead grass from the spot by using a small rake or handheld dethatching tool. Pull out as much dead grass as you can, while essentially massaging your soil base and adding oxygen back into it.

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2. You could also add a ½ inch or so of new weed-free high quality soil to help absorb any remaining urine (though you should have washed away/diluted most of that beforehand).
  - The new soil as in typical re-seeding of barren patches on your lawn, will give a good base for the new seeds to grow within.
  - Before adding the seed, gently water the area, not enough to soak it but just to moisten it a bit.
3. Now spread the new seed evenly over the previous dog spot area.
  - While it might seem to make sense to seed generously, too many seeds per each dog spot may create too much competition for water, light, and air, and may result in poor growth. So don't overdo it.
  - By the way, Fescue grass is more tolerant of high nitrogen concentrations than Kentucky Blue Grass. Although some people consider Kentucky Blue Grass to be the most beautiful of cool season varieties, Fescus is likewise beautiful, but lower maintenance and less finicky than it's Kentucky Blue counterpart.
4. Just to hold the seeds in place you may add a very light sprinkling of weed-free topsoil or compost.
  - Be sure not to add too much that it's smothering or burying the seeds.
  - Add just enough so that the rain or any watering or the wind doesn't move them around unevenly on top of those spots.
5. Be sure to moisten the soil daily and keep it damp so that you get good germination.
  - But don't soak it... overwatering is a common mistake.
  - Keep that area moist until the new grass is about 3 inches high.
6. Whilst your newly seeded areas are growing, be sure to keep your kids and pets off of those areas.
  - You do need to protect your future grass.
  - New grass seed needs time to germinate and get established with strong healthy deep roots before it's ready for people and pets to be back on it.
  - A good rule of thumb is to let grass grow and mow it at least 2 to 3 times before you allow dog or people traffic back on it.

## **WHAT ABOUT PREVENTION?**

### **What can be done with your dog?**

As mentioned previously, the diet of your dog cannot cure the dog spot issue, but another option that can help is increasing the amount of water your dog drinks. This can be done by primarily feeding the dog moist wet food over primarily dry food. However, we recommend not adding anything to their food claiming to help with dog urine spots on lawns besides extra water without first talking to your veterinarian.

It may be easier said than done, as sometimes us dog-owners need better training so that our dogs are well-behaved better dogs, too, but... if you're able to, as some people do, train your dog to do his/her business in a particular area – perhaps an area landscaped with a combination of rock and natural wood mulch, or an area of taller grasses or woods where you don't mow. Just in case, avoid using any mulch made from cocoa bean hulls, even though it smells nice and chocolatey and looks great. Cocoa bean hulls can be toxic to your dog if they decide to investigate that smell and see how things taste, which most dogs probably would.

\* Remember that dogs usually respond well to the extra attention and praise their owner gives them for using their special spot.

## What can be done with your yard to help?

Obviously you can't stop a dog from needing to do his/her business. Most people just let them out into the backyard with varying results on their lawn. Hence, why some of our clients have essentially given up for the most part, giving their dog full reign of their back lawns, so to speak... But that doesn't have to be the only solution.. You still can have a great looking back yard.

Some people build fenced-in dog runs on the side of their homes or in their backyard somewhere. That area is the dog's domain, wherein any damage to the grass need not matter as much, but the rest of their lawns in the yard are fine.

I've seen some pretty nice dog runs that any dog would see as his very desirable little kingdom, and those ones blend in beautifully with the rest of the yard. It just depends on how much effort and care you want to put into it for your *best friend*, I guess.

But they don't need to be some barren patch of compacted grass-less dirt or all gravel that is full of seldom-picked up feces. No dog would like to be mistreated like that. Even a smaller area may be fine and much easier to keep cleaned-up, too. Just get creative... It doesn't have to cost a lot... Think like a dog and what you'd like... Okay, just joking...

But as long as you take your dog for regular daily walks, the time he/she spends in a nice dog run or caged in environment that's set up really nice for them, need not be a negative for them or your yard.

I hope this article has been a help. It's rather detailed but hopefully with what has been beneficial. Our pets are important to us. Sure, our lawn is, too, but not at the expense of anything that might harm our dogs.

**As I've mentioned throughout, you can have it both ways... Your dog as your best friend and a nice lawn as well.**

Give us a call if you have any questions or need any further advice. It's always our pleasure to help you with your lawn care.

All the best to you this lawn care season!

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### \*\*\* SPECIAL NOTE \*\*\*

*We love helping our clients have great-looking lawns! Of course, we always welcome your inquiries, but we also want to help educate you, too. So many of you have told us how much you appreciate the articles we make available to you.*

*If there are any questions you may have about your lawn or any challenges or problems you may occasionally encounter with your lawn, don't hesitate to give us a call. As with the above info article you've just read, we also have other highly beneficial lawn care articles, too...*

*Here are some we've created to support you with your lawn care efforts. They can help you identify any problems as well as offer some possible solutions for some of those occasional challenges lawns can encounter.*

*These info articles are not meant to be one-time definitive cures for whatever might ail your lawn. We all wish it was only that simple... But, there are no magic "spray this once and your lawn will be perfect thereafter" solutions... Unfortunately, those don't really exist, as much as we might all like them to. However, there are many things you can do to get your lawn in great shape and keep it that way. We encourage you to glean what you can from any of the following articles that may interest you.*

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***And for what you're not sure about, give us a call, let's talk about it, and we'll do what we can to help you.***

***You may reach us at 780-678-6450 if you'd like to receive any of these via email. It would be our pleasure to do our part to help you "make your lawn the envy of your neighbours"...***

From Our **"PROACTIVE LAWN CARE"** Series Of Articles —

***7 Steps To A Great Lawn***

***Caring For Our Lawn Over The Winter***

***Proactively Preparing Your Lawn For Drought Conditions***

From Our **"WHAT YOU'RE NOT TOLD"** Series Of Articles —

***What You're Not Told About All-Natural & Organic Lawn Care Alternatives***

***What You're Not Told About Bats & Their Guano***

From Our **"WHY?"** Series Of Articles —

***Why Is My Grass So Thin?***

***Why Dead Spots On My Lawn?***

***Why Am I Getting Mushrooms In My Lawn?***

***Why Are The Pine Needles Killing My Grass?***

From Our **"HOW TO GET RID OF..."** Series Of Articles —

***How To Get Rid of Ants***

***How To Get Rid of Dew Worms***

***How To Get Rid of Fairy Rings***

***How To Get Rid of Quackgrass***

***How To Get Rid of Thistles***

From Our **"DAMAGE BY DOGS & OTHER CRITTERS"** Series of Articles —

***Fixing & Preventing Dog Spots***

***Damage Caused by Voles***

From Our **"SEEDING LAWNS"** Series Of Articles —

***Grass Seeding For New Lawns***

***Overseeding For Existing Lawns***

From Our **"DIY"** Series Of Articles —

***DIY\_Alternate Ways To Remove Weeds In Gravel Areas***

From Our **"COMMON LAWN FUNGAL DISEASES"** Series Of Articles —

***Common Lawn Fungal Diseases (Compendium Of All Common Ones)***

***Common Lawn Fungal Diseases\_The Usual Causes***

***Common Lawn Fungal Diseases\_Snow Mold***

***Common Lawn Fungal Diseases\_Leaf Spot & Melting Out***

***Common Lawn Fungal Diseases\_Ascochyta Turf Leaf Blight***

***Common Lawn Fungal Diseases\_Brown Patch***

***Common Lawn Fungal Diseases\_Summer Patch***

***Common Lawn Fungal Diseases\_Pythium Blight***

***Common Lawn Fungal Diseases\_Red Thread***

...See more on next page...

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*Common Lawn Fungal Diseases\_Rust Diseases*  
*Common Lawn Fungal Diseases\_Powdery Mildew*  
*Common Lawn Fungal Diseases\_Dollar Spot*  
*Common Lawn Fungal Diseases\_Fairy Ring*

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## **INFORMATION ON OUR FIVE PRIMARY LAWN CARE SERVICES —**

### **FERTILIZER & WEED CONTROL:**

*Our Fertilization & Weed Control Program*  
*Possible Reasons For Still Having Weeds*  
*Ten Reasons Our Program is Different*

### **ENRICH SOIL ENHANCER:**

*Our Enrich Soil Enhancer Program*  
*Different Soil Types Have Different pH Levels*

### **WEEKLY MOWING:**

*How The Weekly Lawn Mowing Works*  
*Our Quality Control Program*  
*Ten Reasons We Are Different*

### **CORE AERATION:**

*Why Aerate Your Lawn?*

### **POWER RAKING:**

*Why Power-Rake Your Lawn?*

***“Your Home Turf Advantage”***