



All lawns are susceptible to fungus diseases. The fungi that cause them are microscopic, thread-like organisms that move around via air- or water-borne spores. These spores are all around us, and they produce new infections whenever environmental factors such as temperature, moisture, light, nutrients and stress levels favor disease development. Fungal diseases can detract from your lawn's appearance while reducing its overall health.

Unwanted insects can be another summertime hazard. These tiny (but hungry) plant-eaters hit your neighborhood with appetites that don't quit. They damage trees, shrubs, and lawns as they gear up for an expensive summer feeding frenzy. Ants, fleas, ticks, mosquitoes and dozens more also make a sport out of invading your home and irritating your pets.

Oasis Disease and Insect Control Applications can help remedy the effects of fungi as well as ticks, fleas, ants, pill bugs, mosquitoes and many more. Call us today at 573-446-0858 to set up an appointment.

Be sure to ask about our Disease and Insect Control Discounts!

Keith Patterson

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Oasis Landscapes & Irrigation



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BUILDING A FOUNDATION WITH HARDSCAPES

Every project has an order of operations that begins with a distinct vision of the final result. This is especially the case for any type of construction. When installing or improving your outdoor spaces, durable hardscaping defines the area by providing structure and purpose.

SIZE AND SHAPE

A patio is your property's most obvious hardscape feature and is often a determining feature in terms of how much of your property will be devoted to landscaping, turf space, and living area. The size and shape of a patio's footprint will determine how your outdoor living space will fit into your larger property.

Do you envision an expansive patio that can accommodate large gatherings as well as cooking and dining? With patios, size is not the only important factor. The layout must allow you to arrange all of the furniture in a pattern that's comfortable and accessible while still creating a sense of intimacy. Foot traffic to your house should be considered, as well as walkways or steps that lead to your lawn or garden areas. Ultimately, your patio should have the same inviting sense of comfort and livability that you have in your living room.



FILL IN THE SPACES

With the overall patio space established, the fun really begins. Hardscape features, such as walls, walks, installed seating, fire pits, and raised beds, make your new living space really come to life. Much like your patio itself, these features will define your backyard's appearance and functionality. Walls offer definition as well as privacy. They can also accommodate light fixtures as well as flower containers. Paved walkways connect various sections of your property both aesthetically and physically. Raised plant beds can house shrubs, trees, or seasonal flowers, all of which add life and color to your patio area.

While living landscaping comes and goes over time, hardscaping is meant to last. When installing or expanding new hardscapes, a clear vision and plan is crucial to getting the most out of your new space. A well-thought-out, expertly designed, and professionally installed foundation of hardscaping will provide years of enjoyment.



DON'T WAIT TO POLLINATE!

In an effort to build and maintain a successful landscape, it's easy to focus on insects as pests. It's encouraging to know, however, that many insects can be quite helpful.

Pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and bats help plant life by aiding the flower fertilization process. As they go from flower to flower, feeding on nectar, pollinators distribute pollen, aiding in the growth process. Some pollinators, such as wasps, are natural predators of some of the destructive pests we discussed before, making wasps beneficial, if unpleasant.



Certain plants especially attract pollinators. By introducing these plants to your garden areas, you encourage their presence and promote the overall health of your landscape. Wildflowers and annuals that bloom in stages throughout the season give pollinators plenty of reason to call your backyard home. Milkweed and dill are especially attractive to butterfly larvae. A general rule is that plants that are native to your area will naturally invite pollinators to your property.

Not all insects are harmful. Many can actually help out quite a bit! Add some pollinator-friendly plants to your landscape and give beneficial wildlife a new home.

GRUBS AND GRASS ROOTS DO NOT MIX

Building a gorgeous and healthy lawn is no easy task. Proper fertilization, mowing practices, and irrigation are all important pieces of the lawn care puzzle. Unfortunately, a robust lawn with lush top growth and thick, juicy roots can become an attractive target for hungry grubs.

HUNGRY INTRUDERS

Grubs appear pretty harmless. These small, white, C-shaped worms are the larval forms of several types of beetles. As is the case with most infants, grubs' main goal is to eat voraciously in order to enable their growth to adulthood. A thick and healthy lawn provides exactly the type of feast that hungry grubs are looking for.

Most grub eggs hatch in the late summer and begin feeding right away. They then settle down for the winter before resuming feeding again in the spring. With each tender root that grubs consume, they chip away at your lawn's health. With the root systems depleted, your turf blades are left to wither and die. If left unchecked, grubs can sometimes destroy an entire lawn.

FREE YOUR LAWN

If you think you may have grubs, it's important to confirm that this is the case. Areas of brown or dying turf are the most obvious sign of potential grub damage. A further test is to grab a clump of damaged turf and try to pull it up. If it easily separates from the soil as if you were pulling up a carpet, this means that the roots are badly damaged. If grubs are the problem, you will likely see them in the exposed soil.

For the ideal treatment, timing is crucial. Grub prevention applications work best when the insects are actively feeding. For the best result, it's important to consult a professional lawn care technician. This ensures that treatments will be administered evenly throughout the problem area at a time that will be most effective.

Grubs can ruin an otherwise vibrant lawn. The good news is that your turf should be able to bounce back nicely if grubs are remedied in a timely manner. With vigilance and professional guidance, you can keep these nasty pests from ruining your summer!



PROPER PLANT PLACEMENT

Choosing new landscaping can make homeowners feel like a hungry diner at an all-you-can-eat buffet. This looks nice...I really like this...and I definitely want one of these! While landscape planning is exciting, it's important to be aware of the space you're working with and plant placement that will maximize the health and beauty of your landscape.

Trees, shrubs, and flowers mature to various shapes and sizes. The important factor is not so much what they look like now but what they will look like once they are finished growing. You will want to make sure that new plantings do not encroach on your house, walkways, driveways, or other plants.

Sun versus shade requirements will determine the long-term health of your new plantings. Also, keep in mind that landscaping shapes the space where it lives. The design process should address how prominent or understated new features will be, as well as how they will affect sight lines and privacy.

Living landscaping is an investment in your property that gets better with time. Proper plant placement ensures that your new landscaping remains beautiful and healthy for years to come.



SCRATCHING THE SURFACE ON LAWN PESTS



While grubs typically stay hidden underground, other turf-damaging insects live mainly on your lawn's surface. Here are a few common surface pests.

CHINCH BUGS: These bugs survey your lawn in search of healthy stalks of turf to feed on. Instead of eating your actual turf blades, they suck up nutrient-rich liquid from your grass while depositing a toxin that harms the turf.

SOD WEBWORMS: Another larval stage insect, webworms will eventually grow into moths. In the meantime, they love to eat the lower sections of turf blades, causing them to become discolored. Sod webworms can seem invisible, because they do their damage at night. During the day, they burrow into the ground. In times of drought, their damage will not present itself until it rains.

ARMYWORMS: Like webworms, armyworms will grow up to be one of a few types of moths. They also feed on the green foliage of a variety of plants, including turfgrass. They get their name due to the fact that they have been known to "march" side by side as they travel to the next available food source. While armyworms affect most of the eastern US, the warmer temperatures of the southeast allow for multiple generations of worms per year.



BILLBUGS: Adult billbugs are a beetle-like insect known as a weevil. These pests cause the most damage in their larval stage as tiny, grub-like worms. Females lay their eggs inside of turf plants. Once hatched, the larvae immediately begin to feed, hollowing out turf blades in the process. Depending on their numbers, billbugs can do considerable damage.

Some damage from surface insects will eventually run its course, and your lawn will naturally bounce back. Much of the time, natural predators and the change of seasons are enough to eradicate these pests. Other situations may require professional help. If you have questions about a surface pest problem, the best plan is to consult us.

FIGHT THE BITE THIS SUMMER

Nothing kills the mood of a gorgeous summer evening like the biting of mosquitoes. Once these pests show up, it's only a matter of minutes before you, your family, and your guests retreat indoors. While professional mosquito treatments can help remedy the problem, there are steps you can take to discourage mosquitoes from the start.

The key to mosquito prevention is making your property an inhospitable breeding ground. Mosquitoes need two things to thrive: warm weather and wet conditions. When summer hits, swampy turf areas and any instances of standing water can yield mosquitoes overnight. While you can't control the weather, you can eliminate opportunities for water to collect.

Flowerpots, kids' toys, and birdbaths are just a few places water can easily collect. A quick survey of your yard and a few minutes of rearranging can drastically reduce the potential for mosquitoes. If your lawn is collecting water and creating puddles, a more involved drainage solution may be in order.

Summer evenings provide some of the most enjoyable moments of the year. They're also when mosquitoes make themselves at home. Drying out your property limits mosquitoes' opportunities, providing a comfortable, itch-free summer.



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