

Yes-We Control Crabgrass!!

What is Crabgrass? Crabgrass is a stubborn rooting grass which can be difficult to eradicate once it establishes a colony. It is a common weed that infests home lawns in the Midwest. Crabgrass is a summer annual weed that germinates when soil temperatures are approximately 60° F for 3-5 days. It does not begin to flower and set seed until July and will die with the first frost in the fall.



Mature crabgrass

Preventing Crabgrass: The best way to get rid of crabgrass is to prevent it before it starts to germinate. This is why we recommend a pre-emergent application. Success in getting rid of crabgrass is all in the timing. We want to treat with the pre-emergent before germination, but not too far ahead.

Since not all crabgrass will germinate at once, we use a material that is long lasting for the later germinating crabgrass. Chem-Wise's Green Plus program includes the application of the pre-emergent and is performed during the first treatment for your lawn. It is important to mail your service agreement so you do not miss this key service.



Crabgrass problem in lawn that has been mowed too short

Crabgrass Control: Although applying a pre-emergent is an effective way to control crabgrass before it germinates, if you develop a problem in the summer Chem-Wise can still help your lawn. Treatment can be done on existing problems and we can eliminate any current problems. The most effective way to control crabgrass is to have a dense and healthy lawn. The healthy lawn will compete with the crabgrass to prevent it from becoming established in your lawn. This is why fertilizing and healthy mowing habits will also help in the fight to control crabgrass in your lawn.

Interesting Lawn Facts

Over 25 Million acres of lawn are tended in the U.S.

Of the estimated 7,500 grass species, 50 are cultivated for turf.

Playing fields covered with dense turf have proven safer, as demonstrated by a simple egg drop test. When a dozen raw eggs were dropped from a height of 11 ft. onto a two-inch thick piece of dense turf, none broke; two-thirds of them broke on thin turf from that height; and from just 18-inches all broke on an "all weather" track!

Turf grasses help purify water entering underground aquifers by its root mass and soil microbes acting as a filter to capture and breakdown many types of pollutants.

625 Sq. Ft. of lawn provides enough oxygen for one person for an entire day.

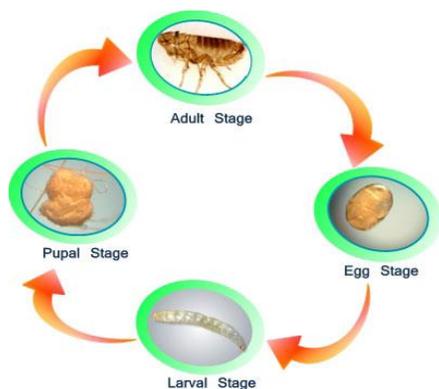
73 Million gallons of water used on landscape plants is less than nine-tenths of one percent of the nation's water used.



Fleas

The severity of the flea problem in Illinois has increased over the last several years. Although they do not cause any damage to turf, they can be an extreme nuisance and eventually spread to the interior of the home.

Fleas complete a life cycle:



During the warm months of the summer, they can

complete this entire life cycle outdoors in less than two weeks. Activity can be introduced by wildlife such as squirrels, raccoons, skunks, or even neighborhood dogs or cats that are in the area. Various life cycle stages can drop off of infected animals and can infest household pets or even bite humans when they are in the yard.

Control measures would include the removal of any excess wildlife by live trapping. This step is necessary before any insecticide treatment can be performed. In addition, Chem-Wise Turf Management can provide a safe, effective treatment that lasts throughout the season.

Pure Organic Program

Chem-Wise offers a Pure Organic Fertilizer program for your lawn!! It is a 100% organic based granular fertilizer from "Sanctuary Products". These fertilizers are designed to provide the foundation for healthy turf and soil systems. The Sanctuary fertilizers combine the synergistic benefits of high quality organic protein meals and essential mineral nutrients. Benefits from using the service are outstanding residual turf color, reduced nutrient leaching, improved soil structure, enhanced stress tolerance and soil vigor, and increased natural soil microbial levels. This service consists of 4 applications a year. There is no weed control with the Pure Organic Program, however, for an additional cost we can add weed control treatments to your program.

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Helpful Turf Tips

1. The ideal mowing height is 2-3 inches.

- Never remove more than 1/3 of the leaf blade at a single mowing
- Sharpen your mower blades annually

2. Remove grass clippings through mid June.

- Mowing twice per week may be necessary during peak growing seasons
- Rake up excess clippings from the top of the lawn

3. During periods of drought, water your lawn early in the morning.

- Between 6-10:00 AM is the ideal time to water
- Provide 1 inch of water per week



4. Keep your lawn free of excess toys, dog droppings, and leaf litter.

- Dog urine can cause lawn damage, it should be thoroughly watered and possibly seeded

- Toys, leaves, and other articles may retain moisture which can result in insect or fungus problems

5. Mow your lawn in a different pattern each time.

- Avoid making sharp turns with your lawn mower
- Never mow a wet lawn.

6. Overseeding in the Spring will provide a dense, uniform turf that inhibits weed growth.

- Proper watering of your newly seeding lawn will help the seeds to grow

Turf Disease: What's wrong with my lawn?

A turf disease/fungus is more common than most people are aware of and can cause turf to be temporarily or permanently damaged. Diseases are more prevalent during the summer months, but can attack your lawn throughout the year-even in the winter. Turf diseases tend to be influenced by many factors, some of which you can't do much about. Relative humidity, temperature, rainfall and other weather patterns are most influential-and uncontrollable. On the plus side decreasing the thatch layer, relieving compaction, proper mowing practices, correctly irrigating and regular fertilizations are factors that can be manipulated to benefit your lawn. Fungi tend to be naturally



Necrotic Ring Spot



Dollar Spot

occurring in the soil, so you cannot realistically get rid of them and furthermore, not all fungi are bad. There are dozens and dozens of different diseases, some of the more common diseases are: "Dollar Spot" which produce round browned-out patches in the turf, 1-7 inches across initially, but patches can grow together into larger areas. The grass usually appears dried out and stands straight up like the green healthy grass around it. "Pythium Blight" which can appear similar in size to Dollar Spot, usually looks to be water-soaked, somewhat sunken and slimy to the touch.

"Necrotic Ring Spot" creates brown rings 1-3 feet in diameter with green grass growing in the middle. "Rust" produces an irregular pattern with a powdery mold on the leaf surfaces and will leave an orange-ish/red-ish color on your shoes when you walk thru an effected area. Whatever the disease may be, a clear sign that is attacking your lawn will usually cause lesions, spots or mold spore build-up on the leaf blades themselves.



Rust



Pythium Blight

As far a treatment options go we can do preventative services and also treat your lawn after a problem has started, although, prevention is the easiest way to deal with a fungus. Our preventative disease service usually begins in the spring (depending on the specific disease) by having a core aeration done and applying a fungicide to the lawn. To complete the preventative service a second fungicide is applied 2-4 weeks later. Please call our office with any specific questions about turf disease on your property.

Grubs: The hidden lawn destroyer

Grubs are consistently the biggest lawn pest and do the most damage to homeowners turf each year and we can prevent grubs from damaging your lawn. Preventative treatments are usually done in May, but treatments can be done in the Summer or the Fall, too. We use a granule that is spread over the whole lawn and needs to be watered-in or rained-in to become activated. One treatment will last all season and it comes with a seasonal guarantee. In case you were wondering, grubs are not insects, which is a common misunderstanding. Grubs are actually a larva, which is a developmental stage of many different beetle species.



Eight different species are common throughout North America. They feed on the roots of plants, mainly grass plants, throughout the growing season, but they mainly feed in the Summer and Fall months-depending on the species.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the difference between the Green Program Plus and the Pure Organic Program?

A: The Pure Organic Program is performed using 100% organic materials and is designed to promote healthy lawn growth. Chem-Wise will not apply herbicides or pesticides. Weed and insect control is left to the discretion of the homeowner.

The Green Program Plus is a full service program that includes fertilizing the lawn to promote healthy lawn growth and also includes weed control. Herbicides and pesticides are carefully applied in small amounts to eliminate weeds and insects, greatly enhancing the appearance of your lawn. Grubs and other insects can be treated for an additional charge.

Q: Are the materials used in the Green Program Plus harmful to my children or pets?

A: Chem-Wise strives to use the safest materials available and all are approved by the Environmental Protection Agency. Our application methods are designed with you and your family in mind.



Q: I have a scheduled treatment tomorrow, what should I do to prepare my yard?

A: A good rule of thumb... all movable items such as toys, pet bowls, and lawn furniture should be removed from the lawn.

Q: Do I need to purchase all 5 applications?

A: Yes! The key to a lush, green lawn is the use of slow release materials on a scheduled basis. Each visit is specifically designed to provide your lawn with the right amount of nutrients at the right time. Skipping visits will dramatically affect your results.

Backyard Solutions™

the answer to your home and business needs.

Chem-Wise is proud to introduce Backyard Solutions! Backyard Solutions is now offering many additional services with the same quality that Chem-Wise provides you. Services are available for both commercial and residential properties.

Services Offered:

- Yard Clean Up
- Gutter Cleaning
- Deck Staining

- Landscape & Hardscape Services
- Mowing & Trimming
- Wildlife Removal



If you have any questions regarding service or pricing please feel free to call us at (630)236-1600 or email at backyardsolutions@chemwise.net

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