

WHY SHOULD I REGULARLY CORE AERATION

A core aeration is the mechanical action of punching holes in the turf. Although there are many different types of aeration machines Chem-Wise uses hollow tine machines that pull dirt cores out from the soil and places them on the surface. These dirt cores are usually 2-3 inches in length and will then break down, topdressing the lawn with soil. Core aerations relieve soil compaction, improve turf root growth, reduce minor thatch build-up, allow air to better penetrate the soil, increase soil microbial activity and enhance the actions of fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides and soil amendments that we are applying to your lawn.

Soil compaction is hard to measure so core aerating is recommended once a year to keep your lawn healthy. If you have not aerated in many years you will likely need to aerate a few years in a row or even aerate in both the Spring and the Fall for a couple of years in a row to really receive beneficial results you would expect from a core aeration. You might have a preference but either the Spring(April-May) or the Fall(September-October) is acceptable to have a core aeration performed. Realistically, one time of the year is not better than the other, however not aerating during the hotter/dryer summer months is recommended.

Along with core aerating you can have Chem-Wise apply grass seed. When these two services are combined you will get a much higher rate of seed germination than just seeding alone. Services like applying gypsum, lime or other soil amendments at this time allow for these products to work more effectively. Lastly, if you have us aerate your lawn you will need to flag/mark certain items in the lawn, like in-ground sprinkler heads, sprinkler valve boxes, invisible fences, yard drain covers, buffalo boxes (which are the above ground valve for the city's water line going from the street to your house) and any other hidden obstacles that are in your yard that could be damaged from the aeration machine. Please call our office if you have any questions regarding our aeration service.



CHEM-WISE TREATS YOUR FLOWER & ORNAMENTAL BEDS TOO!

As Chem-Wise treats your turf on our Green Plus program we can also provide a similar service for your mulch and rock bed area's with our 5 step program. This service includes weed control along with regular fertilizations. Our program provides you with healthy, beautiful flowers and small ornamental plants, while minimizing weeds and grass growing in these areas. Additional services can be completed such as insect or grub control, disease management and Fall weed pre-emergent treatments.

I AM ON THE GREEN PLUS PROGRAM, BUT MY LAWN ISN'T LOOKING THE WAY I THOUGHT IT WOULD

Chem-Wise can control and correct a lot of turf issues, but some issues are homeowner controlled or are even out of anyones control. These types of issues would be proper mowing techniques, accurate irrigation, appropriate drainage, heavily trafficked locations, pet damage, sloped lawns and heavily shaded locations to name a few possibilities. We do take pride in our work and are up front with customers, letting you know when we notice problems with your lawn that are out of our control. If we feel there are issues about your turf we can correct we will be sure to leave you with information on how we could better improve your lawn.

With our Green Plus program fertilizing, weed and surface feeding insect control are included. There is a certain amount of fertilizer that can be applied in a year before you actually start to damage the turf, with our program we will apply about a total of 5 lbs. of nitrogen to your lawn in a year. While this may mean nothing to you, this is the limit for cool-season turf. What the turf commonly needs if it is damaged, thin, dull and/or not actively thriving are additional side services such as *disease control, grub treatments, basic or specialty seed over-seedings or slit-seedings, erosion control products when seeding, core aerations, topdressings, soil amendments, specialty and/or Fall pre-emergent weed control treatments, adding top soil, micronutrient services, a water reduction granular product or a soil sample test* can be performed. If you are interested in any of these services don't hesitate to contact our office.

Proper Mowing Tips:

Improper mowing can create severe lawn problems. The most common mistakes are mowing too short (grass height of 2" or less), not mowing often enough (allowing the lawn to grow excessively long, 5" or more and then cutting it very low), or having dull blades. These errors create a weaker plant and root system.

How high?... How Often?

Never mow shorter than 2" in height. Never remove more than 1/3 of the grass blade at a time. This means scheduling your mowing based on the lawns growth rate, and be sure to raise your mower deck during the months of June, July and August.

Keep Mower Blades Sharp

You should sharpen your mower blade often. Dull blades shred the grass tips, creating openings for disease organisms to enter and lawn damaging insects to move easily destroy parts of your turf. Watch for shredded whitish grass tips as a sign of dull blades. Sharpening twice a year should be sufficient (at the beginning of the season and again 1/2 way thru the season).



Recycle Clippings

Clippings should not be removed but returned to the lawn to recycle nutrients. Clippings do not contribute to thatch buildup, as many people believe. However, clippings should be removed if they are excessive in length and are smothering the lawn.

**Don't forget to sign up for your lawn program before
May 1st to be entered in a drawing to win a free grill!**

Pre-emergent herbicides, post-emergent herbicides, what does it all mean?

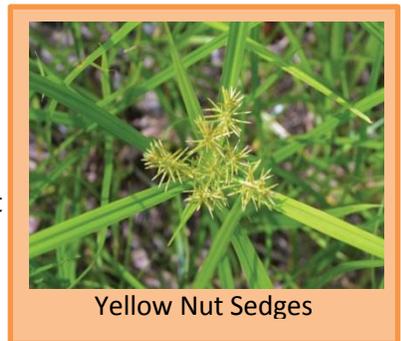
Pre-emergent herbicides are materials applied to prevent weed seeds from germinating and developing into a plant, while post-emergent herbicides are applied directly to actively growing weed plants to kill them. Sounds so obviously simple, yet it's not, so let's explain some basics involving weed control. For starters weeds can be divided into 3 categories, the first and by far the largest variety of weeds is 'broadleaf', the second is 'grassy' and the third is 'sedges'. Examples of broadleaf weeds are dandelions, ground ivy, thistle, wild violets, clover and chickweed to name a few. In fact there are over 200 broadleaf weed species in North America. Some examples of grassy weeds are crabgrass, goosegrass, foxtail and orchard grass. This category is much smaller than the broadleaf, in comparison there are only about 40 grassy weed species. The final category is sedges, which there are only a few varieties of them, namely yellow and purple nutsedge.



Chickweed

Some weeds in each of these 3 categories listed above are considered 'annuals' meaning they germinate from seed, grow, mature, produce new weed seeds and die within a year. Some are considered 'biennials' meaning their life cycle takes 2 years to complete and some are 'perennials' meaning they live 3 years or more. These annual, biennial and perennial weeds can be further categorized in the season of the year they are most likely to grow, which is designated as 'summer' or 'winter'. While these explanations could be broken down further, the purpose of this article is that weed control can be difficult and one product (pre or post) does not solve every problem, nor will it prevent or kill all weeds.

During the first service of the year Chem-Wise will apply a pre-emergent herbicide that can last up to 5 months and is effective on 40 different weed species. Although this may not sound like a lot of weeds in which it can prevent, the product is consistently in the top three of materials used by professional companies every year. The other two top products have some variation on the species of weeds controlled, but they too have about 40 listed weeds they will prevent. Most weeds cannot be prevented through pre-emergent chemical control. In the last few years a couple of new products have been made available to the turf industry to use which can prevent weeds like dandelion, clover, sedges and ground ivy to name a few which were not possible before. Chem-Wise can treat the lawn with this premium material upon request in the Spring and while it's understandable most people do not think about pre-emergents in the Fall, these products can be applied then too. As mentioned above; winter annuals, biennials and perennials are producing seeds in the fall which then germinate and next Spring are growing. Fall pre-emergent weed treatments can be applied to add another layer of protection against certain weed species. Services like this can be done twice a year every year.



Most pre-emergent herbicide products cannot be used at the same time or at least in the same area where there is sod or grass seed. Typical pre-emergent herbicides will not allow the grass seed to properly germinate and it can negatively affect sod roots and kill parts of the sod. Let Chem-Wise know if you are planning on doing either of these services in the Spring or Fall so we these types of products do not get applied. If Chem-Wise is doing any seeding for you we will use a grass seed starter fertilizer that has no herbicides in it. However, there was a new product that entered the market last year called 'Tenacity'. It is the first herbicide that can be applied safely along with grass seed.. This is an additional service so let our office know if you are interested in more information about this or other herbicide products.

Chem-Wise offers online access to your account

Pay Bills • Schedule Services • See Past and Future Treatments

For your account information go to www.chem-wise.com or call our office

630-236-1600

847-577-0740

Japanese Beetles

Japanese beetles feed on leaves of many trees and shrubs. Adult beetles are ½" long with a bright metallic green head and mid-section and copper colored wings. When they feed they will skeletonize leaves on trees and shrubs leaving just the veins. Beetles are active from late June through mid August. To gain control of them insecticide applications should be done during this point of the season; also multiple treatments might be necessary.

They can be very difficult to control because:

1. Adult beetles are very mobile and move around on a daily basis.
2. Feeding occurs consistently over a 1-2 month period
3. Even though an application will be effective, beetle activity will usually continue, because of their habit of moving around so much.
4. Grub control is very effective especially at breaking their life cycles on your property, but grub treatments do nothing specifically to adult beetles.

Be aware that traps might be successful, but you are encouraging a greater population of beetles on your property by doing so.



Chem-Wise Referral Program

Refer a new customer to Chem-Wise and you will receive \$20.00 in Funny Money to use on your next service, and they will receive \$20.00 off their initial service.

Make sure they give us your name when scheduling service.

Find us on



TREE AND LARGE SHRUB CARE

Fertilizing is a necessary part of woody plant care. Vigorously growing plants are more attractive and recover easily from insect and disease infestations than plants with insufficient amounts of nutrients. Poorly nourished plants have reduced or abnormal growth, such as small and discolored leaves that may drop prematurely, fruits that abort or fail to form and reduced vegetative and root growth. Trees and large shrubs should be fertilized twice a year. The first fertilization treatment is done in early to mid Spring, which will provide nutrients like slow release-long term feeding nitrogen, amino acids, and sea kelp just to name a few. The initial flush of foliage during Spring growth is when these types of nutrients are most often needed. The second fertilization is done in mid to late Fall when root growth and activity is still occurring even though the top of the plant is going dormant. Trees and large shrubs are taking in our supplied nutrients like quick release nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium and mycorrhiza in order to store in its root system during the winter. Deep root fertilization is especially important for newly planted and/or young trees and shrubs. In cases like newly planted trees and large shrubs Chem-Wise can supply these plants with supplemental nutrient treatments that are intended to reduce shock for the plant and quickly establish a healthy, thriving root system. Pricing is based on the height and number of trees and shrubs to be feed.

Chem-Wise also can treat your trees and large shrubs for insect and disease issues plus micronutrient deficiencies. There are two basic options: first, shrubs and small trees can topically be sprayed for any number of different issues. The number of treatments and the timing of those treatments depend on the specific issue with the tree or shrub. Second, the tree can receive trunk-injections of various materials into the vascular system to cure it of its ailments. This type of treatment is a newer technology in which we will not drill into the tree's trunk and this type of service allows for a much more environmentally and homeowner friendly service. With this treatment trees can be treated that overhang streets, play sets, patios and pools along with many other sensitive areas. Also, the injected material works systemically through the tree so the material will not be degraded from the sun and rain fall. Trees are injected at various times of the year depending on their malady and pricing is based on the tree's trunk size.

Unlike turf services where we can typically give you basic pricing over the phone, on-sight inspections of trees and large shrubs are usually needed for us to give an accurate diagnosis and quote. Call Chem-Wise today to get your inspection scheduled.