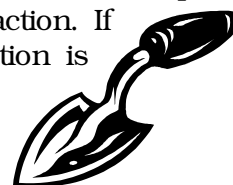


Healthy Living Strategy: Lawn Care

Common Lawn Problems

If you keep your lawn healthy using good maintenance practices, you will find that healthy, vigorous, deep-rooted lawns are less susceptible to pest damage and pesticides are usually not required to control pests.

It is important to monitor your lawn for insects, weeds and diseases. A small and stable pest population in an otherwise healthy lawn is hardly noticeable and not demanding of action. If however, the problem begins to threaten the overall health of your lawn, action is required.



Dealing With Common Insect & Weed Problems

| Problem | Appearance/ Symptoms | Cause | Solution |
|------------------------|---|--|--|
| Dandelion | Familiar perennial plant with yellow flowers | Compacted soil and thin turf cover | Aerate soil, hand pull at least 80%, and overseed with ryegrass |
| Crabgrass | Low-growing annual with shallow roots and short, pointed, hairy leaves | Nutrient-deficient soil, short mowing and soil compaction | Raise mowing height, hand pull and apply organic fertilizers |
| Common plantain | Low-growing perennial with wide oval leaves | Thin turf cover and low nutrients in soil | Hand pull, apply organic fertilizers and overseed |
| Chinch bug | Brown or yellow patches, particularly near driveways and sidewalks | Stressed or weakened grasses caused by soil compaction and shallow watering | Water deeply once a week, apply diatomaceous earth, dethatch and apply soap and water every 10 - 14 days |
| White grub | Spongy dead patches that lift easily; common in the spring and again in late summer to early fall | Compacted soil, dry sunny lawns with short, weak roots, chemical fertilizer use and short weak roots | Dethatch, water deeply, apply organic fertilizer, use soap and water or parasitic nematodes for major infestations, and overseed with ryegrass and fescues |
| Dollar spot | Small pale circles | Dry soil and nitrogen deficiencies | Add organic material, mow infected tips and discard clippings |
| Summer patches | Dead patches then brown rings; occurs during humid summers | High nitrogen concentration and low mowing | Mow higher and apply organic fertilizer |

