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Lowney's Landscaping News . June 2019

IN THE LANDSCAPE:

A Healthy Landscape is A Happy Landscape!

Most diseases of landscape trees and shrubs are merely aesthetic problems and rarely cause any long-lasting damage. Nevertheless, some can cause serious defoliation, reduce plant vigor and ultimately result in plant death. The most common plant pathogens are fungi, but other organisms, including bacteria and nematodes, are capable of causing plant diseases.

Powdery mildew is

a common foliar disease on shrubs such as lilac, viburnum,



honeysuckle, privet and serviceberry. Although powdery mildew is also common on trees (oak, tulip poplar, sycamore and dogwood), it normally develops late in the season and rarely causes significant damage. It appears as a white powdery growth on the surface of leaves, stems and buds. It thrives on plants located in shady areas with poor air movement. Avoid planting susceptible plants in these locations, or select varieties with disease resistance. Certain fungicides will protect against powdery mildew or eradicate it, but unsightly leaf damage will remain even though the fungus has been killed.

Scab is a serious disease of apple and flowering crabapple. Scab first appears in the spring as gray to olive-green spots on the undersides of new leaves. Lesions form on upper and lower leaf surfaces, commonly causing premature defoliation. The best means of controlling scab is



IN THE LAWN:



Grub - the kind you do not ask for seconds of.

Typical lawn grubs, often called white grubs, are white, C-shaped beetle larvae about a half-inch in length. A grub is the larvae of the beetle species. Lawn grubs have soft bodies with legs near the head. They feed on grass roots (and organic matter in the soil), causing sections of grass in the lawn to die. Grubs eventually turn into adult beetles and emerge from soil to mate and lay eggs, which hatch into more grubs.

How Do I Know if I Have Grubs?

If you can pull sod away from the ground, the root system may have been eaten by grubs. Cut into the soil and look for their presence. More than 10 grubs per square foot is a red flag.

The presence of grubs may be an indication that beetles are laying eggs in your lawn. Tan-colored chafer beetles are active just after sundown;

using resistant cultivars. Since the fungus overwinters on fallen leaves, raking and removing leaf debris in the fall may reduce this disease. For susceptible cultivars, several fungicide sprays may be required for control.

Black spot is the most common foliar disease of roses and will ruin susceptible roses unless controlled. The fungus produces circular

black spots on leaves or stems. Leaf tissue surrounding the spots turns yellow, causing the infected leaves to drop, usually from the bottom up. The fungus survives on fallen leaves and on canes. Pruning and removal of all leaf debris in the fall may help avoid re-infection the following spring. Fungicide spray programs can be effective if begun when new leaves appear and applied on a 10- to 14-day schedule all season.



Tar spot is a disease of maple. It looks like a black, tar-like substance has been randomly dropped on the upper surfaces of leaves. Tar spot occurs on sugar and silver maples, and although it is unsightly, it seldom causes a serious problem.



Sooty mold appears as black fungal growth on leaves and branches of trees and shrubs. This fungus is not a pathogen, but merely lives on the "honeydew" of aphids or scale insects. Therefore, sooty mold is a sign that insect control might be needed.



Japanese beetles can be seen flying during the day, feeding on ornamentals.

Grub damage can appear two ways. First, small irregular patches of a lawn will appear brown, dry and wilted. Damage also occurs when raccoons and crows tear up the lawn to feed on grubs. Both types of damage can be extensive during a severe outbreak.

Dealing with Grubs

An active IPM program is the best plan for dealing with any lawn pest. Periodic scouting is the best defense, especially in late in the summer when grub damage is greatest.

If you have cut into the soil and determined that an outbreak has occurred (indicated by more than 10 grubs per square foot), an insecticide could be used. Insecticides are dangerous and best handled by a licensed pesticide applicator. Another option in grub control is prevention.

Beetles lay their eggs in moist, irrigated soil. A natural alternative is to avoid watering during mid-summer dry spells. The lawn may turn brown and go dormant, but a grub problem is less likely. Healthy soil and Integrated Pest

Management (IPM) give you the upper hand in grub defense.

How to Repair Grub Damage

Because the grubs feed on the roots, grass will need to be started from scratch. Just treat the area like any other bare patch repair and be certain to keep the seed moist while germinating.

LAWN APPLICATIONS:



TIDBITS of THIS 'N THAT:



- For bigger Peony flowers, de-bud several branches. Stake before buds open.



- Plant cool-weather crops: lettuce, spinach, chard, parsnip, onion sets, beets, carrots, kohlrabi, mustard, turnips, radishes, peas, parsley, and potatoes in early May. Soil temperatures should be at least 45 degrees.



- Remove faded flowers from spring-flowering bulbs. Cut off stalks but allow leaves to die down naturally. Fertilize after blooming with 5 10-20.

DEAR LANDSCAPE COACH...

Q: A lot of the perennials in my garden are getting overgrown and I feel like they should be divided and transplanted, when is the best time to do this? Any other tips?

A: As the old saying goes "Every good garden has been in a wheelbarrow at least 3 times!" Generally speaking, April is the ideal time to do any digging up and transplanting. There are a few exceptions, namely Bearded Iris, which should be in July or August and Peonies should be divided and moved only in September. Some perennials can be cut from the edge without digging up the whole plant, especially if they have runners such as bee balm; but others like daylilies, astilbe and catmint have a central crown and should be entirely dug up. If you aren't sure, you are best to dig up the whole plant if you can and divide through the center. You typically want to get at least a 4" diameter division to ensure flowering isn't going to be impacted. There are a few plants that don't like to be moved and in this area the big ones are bleeding heart, balloon flower and blue indigo. Lastly, be sure to water in and continue to water the transplants as if they are new plants coming home from the garden center.

Get to Know Us - Featured Employee:



Maria Heinzelman
Production Coordinator

Maria has been with Lowney's for just over a year now and has moved from our maintenance division to coordinating our construction jobs in 2019. She has been a wonderful addition to

the team and if we could just get her to get on Mother Nature's good side and slow down the rain a bit everything would be perfect!

Maria is sharing her passion for all-things-landscaping with us. Her passion started while raised on her WI family farm which is still running today and was recently acknowledged as a Wisconsin century

farm. Working in a greenhouse growing annual and perennial flowers was her first job "off the farm". After pursuing school, she found herself moving down to South Carolina where she managed Garden Centers and co-managed a landscape company that specialized in small yard landscape design and installation. She recently moved back to Wisconsin to be closer to family and be able to help on the family farm when needed. Any free time she has is spent trying to keep her two boys (three if you count her husband) out of trouble.

Lowney's Crew of the month for May:

We recognize a Crew of the month each month at Lowney's. For the month of May our wonderful crew of Elias, German and Sergio were the winners. They worked on a wonderful project up in Door County that was completed ahead of schedule despite all of the rain that occurred this spring. Next time you are in Egg Harbor you can check out their beautiful work at One Barrel Brewing Company. I am confident that you will see why they were the winners for the month of May!!

Thanks for all of your efforts guys!!!



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