Meehan's Brookside LAWN SERVICE

MUSHROOMS AND FAIRY RING

UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEM FOR A HEALTHIER, GREENER LAWN!

WHY DO I HAVE MUSHROOMS?

As interesting as they are, mushrooms can become a nuisance in landscapes. Large colonies can seriously impact the quality of turf. Mushrooms need three things: organic material to grow on, high moisture levels, and favorable temperatures. During periods of high moisture in lawns, mushrooms flourish on organic matter in the soil. Mushrooms will continue to be produced until conditions change or until their food source is exhausted.



WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT MUSHROOMS?

Homeowners are often concerned about risks to children or pets. There are no fungicides available to control mushrooms. Control in the landscape involves manipulation of the food source of the mushrooms themselves. Most homeowners are satisfied to destroy mushrooms or break them up with a rake or mower and leave it at that. Mushrooms will continue to be produced until conditions change.



MUSHROOM CAUTION

Do not eat the mushrooms you find. Loss of life and serious health problems occur every year to people who guess wrong when identifying mushrooms. Do not make a casual identification of mushrooms and do not recommend eating wild mushrooms; leave the identification to the experts.



FAIRY RING

Fairy ring is a disease in the lawn that can be identified by dark green circles or half circles in the lawn that can be as small as a basketball and as large as a bus. Sometimes there are mushrooms growing in the dark green areas of the circles. On occasion the dark green areas will die, leaving brown circles or half circles.

Fairy rings grow on excessive organic matter in the soil. Regular lawn care services such as fertilization and core aeration will most often mask the symptoms to an acceptable level. In severe cases it may be necessary to remove the soil in the affected area, down to 6" and refill with topsoil, seed, and straw.





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