

IMPORTANT 2024 INFORMATION

WEATHER, WEATHER, WEATHER...It's all about the weather!

CLIMATE CHANGE: Unfortunately, yes, it's true! I can tell you that the climate in our area has definitely changed over the course of my 30 year career. This weather change means greater extremes. Greater extremes such as warmer temperatures, heavier rainfalls, sharp dry periods and a longer growing season are perfect conditions for **weed growth, diseases (fungus) and increased insect activity**. Compounding this, **lawns hate extremes** and suffer greatly during times of change and change is now constant. From a lawn care perspective, the seasonal norms are gone. We are now seeing conditions like heat waves in May and too much rain in August. The following is important lawn information regarding these issues relevant to our new climate.

I AM SEEING WEEDS THAT I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE!

Broadleaf weeds germinate every day and cannot be prevented. The new climate has made **weeds grow faster and bigger**, making them more noticeable. While we are aggressively treating these weeds every six weeks, you will notice them between services. In addition, **climate change** is allowing the migration of NEW invasive weed species into our area. **Kyllinga**, which is part of the sedge family is extremely aggressive and can completely over take a lawn in just a few years. We are aggressively treating Kyllinga wherever we see it. As a result, you will notice it turning brown after spraying. Because it spreads by seed, roots and even by animals, mowers, and foot traffic, treating it will be an ongoing effort. In some cases, Kyllinga may require mechanical removal. If you do not want your Kyllinga treated, please let us know right away.

LAWN DISEASES ARE RUNNING AMUCK with the new weather patterns.

Except for on sod lawns, turfgrass disease used to be the exception. Unfortunately, with our new climate, **fungus is now the norm**. Fungus thrives on heat with humidity. Previously, fungus would often just grow out as the weather conditions improved, but now because the conditions are persisting, so is the fungus which may necessitate treatment with fungicides. Because fungicides are extremely expensive and only last 10 to 21 days, most homeowners choose not to have us apply them. **If you notice fungus spots, stop watering so the areas can dry out for 3 days. Then, please make certain that you are watering DEEPLY (1" of water) ONLY 2X'S PER WEEK.** Frequent watering will cause fungus outbreaks. Please manage your irrigation system accordingly! We will check your lawns for fungus every 6 weeks but if you see spots in between and you want it treated, please let us know.

INSECTS...

The temperature extremes and **longer growing season** are giving insects such as grubs, ticks and chinch bugs a bigger window for them to do damage. Growth cycles that used to start in July and end in September are now extended for 5 or 6 months. In addition, new species are entering our area. To combat these pests, we have added a **second surface insect control application** to our program. Compounding the weather issues, NJ has now outlawed the use of the most effective grub control we have ever used. As a result, in 2024, in NJ we will be trying a new material for grubs. Therefore, **WE CANNOT GUARANTEE GRUB CONTROL**. Additional treatments may be needed with this new material and may result in additional charges.

MOVING FORWARD...

We hope that you find this information helpful. Our goal, like yours, is that you will have a nice lawn. We will continue to make you aware of environmental impacts, and the new lawn strategies to cope with them. Mother Nature and her weather patterns have changed. However, we will continue to apply quality materials to your lawn. You can really help your lawn by paying attention to our instructions printed on every invoice especially regarding **cutting and watering**.

