



Joe Yedowitz, CLT

Controlling Crabgrass in Your Lawn

Your lawn may or may not be snow covered at this moment, but just below the surface is an enemy just waiting for the right opportunity to emerge. While crabgrass may not sound very menacing, it can wreak havoc on your lawn. And when does it germinate, you ask? When ground temperatures reach 55 degrees....and that is right around the corner.

Crabgrass has two main things going for it. First of all, its seeds can lay dormant underground for years and still be viable once it is able to germinate. Secondly, the hot, dry conditions of summer that are harmful to turfgrass are actually favorable for crabgrass. This combination makes crabgrass an incredibly tough adversary.

By the time you see crabgrass, chances are that most seeds have germinated and the weed is already thriving. The best preventative measure you can take is a pre-emergent treatment early in the year. A well-timed herbicide application can stop most crabgrass before it has a chance to take hold.

During the growing season, the best plan is to make sure that your turfgrass is able to compete with crabgrass – hopefully edging it in terms of lawn domination. Giving your grass a proper amount of water and food over the summer goes a long way in fighting crabgrass.



Mulching for Aesthetics and Plant Health

Along with warm sunshine and the return of baseball, fresh mulch is a sure sign of spring. The clean look that it gives plant beds and the sharp contrast it offers to make bright blooms explode with color are undeniable. In addition to adding visual appeal, mulch contributes to the health of your landscape in several ways.

WHEN APPLIED PROPERLY, MULCH CAN HAVE THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS:

- It helps retain soil moisture.
- It reduces weed growth.
- It helps the soil maintain a more even temperature throughout the year.
- It helps prevent soil erosion.
- It prevents crusting of soil surfaces to improve water absorption.
- It protects tree and shrub trunks from lawn equipment damage.
- It encourages the expansion of root systems.

To make sure mulch is able to do its job, however, it's important to apply it correctly. Mulch should be applied to new plants as soon as they're installed. Established plants and beds should be mulched in the spring. Mulch should not be piled up against trunks and stems of trees and shrubs – especially newer plantings. When finished, a newly mulched bed should be no more than 4" deep.

It is easy to appreciate mulch's aesthetic qualities, but the benefits of mulch are more than meets the eye. Spring mulching is an investment in your yard's immediate looks and long-term health.



About Us

Emil Yedowitz Landscaping and Irrigation Solutions is owned and operated by Joseph Yedowitz. Joe began the company back in 1996 and is the 4th generation of the Yedowitz family to provide horticultural services in Westchester County.

We have been serving clients in Yonkers and the surrounding areas for over 20 years. Our full-service, licensed and insured landscape contractors specialize in lawn care and maintenance, landscape design, sprinkler system installation and maintenance, patios and walkways, retaining walls, landscape lighting, and drainage systems. Whether you want to enhance or totally redesign the grounds of your current property, we are the authorities to turn to. Contact us today for more information!

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