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President's Message

This Hallowed Ground

For those of you who are history buffs, you will recognize this as the title to Bruce Catton's book documenting the history of the Civil War from the Union's perspective. For many Americans, there is no place more hallowed than Arlington National Cemetery. I was privileged this past July to once again travel to Arlington to participate in The Professional Landcare Network's (PLANET) 14th annual "Renewal & Remembrance" event. Accompanied by my youngest son, Caleb, we joined over 450 volunteers from the green industry, representing 29 states who came together to maintain and beautify the final resting place for those who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom. Since 1997, One Step employees and their

Having been to several of these events, I continue to be humbled by the reverence that Arlington commands. Funeral marches, while a daily occurrence at Arlington, complete with horse-drawn caissons, marine bands, and the lone bugler playing taps, are all handled with the same dignity and honor that can only come from a nation whose people truly understand the high cost of freedom. British Prime Minister William Gladstone once said, "Show me the manner in which a nation or community cares for its dead and I will measure for you with mathematical exactness, the tender mercies of its people, their respect for the law of the land and their loyalty to high ideals." Arlington is truly a special place, and one that exemplifies these sentiments.

For those who are members of the military, active or retired, or have family in the military, thank you for your service to our country.

Greg Adams



families have joined others in our industry working to enhance the grounds at Arlington. This year, we spent the day applying lime to 275 acres of turf, core aerated 31 acres, planted trees and shrubs, and mulched and cabled trees with lightning protection.



Turf Times

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Fall 2010

UPDATE!
Emerald Ash Borer



By now most of you have heard that the Emerald Ash Borer has arrived here in Monroe County. You may have seen the news reports on TV and the newspaper concerning its official arrival. It has positively been identified in Chili. Conventional wisdom indicates that once identified, anyone within a 15 mile radius of the confirmed site should begin to plan their strategies for dealing with the pest.

The emerald ash borer is native to eastern Asia. It is believed to have entered the United States on wood crates or packing material. Since its discovery in Michigan in 2002, it has spread to 15 states and the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec. Since 2002, the Emerald Ash Borer has been responsible for the death of hundreds of thousands of ash trees. New York is home to one of our nation's largest ash populations. Estimates put our state's population of ash trees at somewhere around 900 million with approximately 16 million in Monroe county alone. We will no doubt see significant changes in our landscapes over the next several years.

The Ash Borer is a small, bright green beetle. The adult is approximately 1/2"-1" long and 1/8" wide. The adult beetles emerge from the tree in mid May and begin laying eggs in the bark of the tree a couple of weeks later. As the eggs hatch, the larvae drill their way into the tree and begin feeding on the inner layer of the tree. They feed all season long and overwinter in the tree. In spring, they emerge from the tree as adults and the cycle begins all over again.

Damage to the tree is first noticed when the canopy of the tree begins to thin and die off starting from the top. If caught early enough, the tree can usually be saved. Prevention is by far the best way to handle to ash borer.

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**Drill Down
and Drink Up!**



Everyone who has lived in Rochester during the summer knows what it's like: Hot, hazy, and humid. Some of us fight the heat with air conditioning, others with fans. Another popular way to cool off is to splash around in the pool. But the most important thing to do during the summer is to stay hydrated.

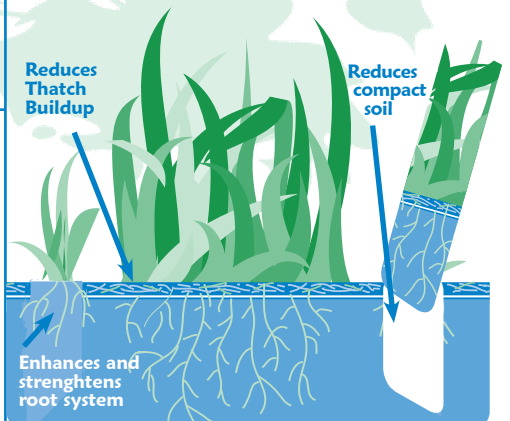
But what about plantlife? Your lawn, like all other living things, needs water and nutrients to survive. Over time, dead roots and stems can accumulate into what is called thatch - a thick barrier that prevents water, nutrients, fertilizer, and pest controls from getting to your turf. With the buildup of thatch, your turf is at risk of being dehydrated and malnourished. Now, you might think that all the rain we've gotten this summer is enough to take care of your lawn. It's true that rain helps hydrate the turf, but at the same time, it can compact the soil around grass roots. Once compacted, it's hard for water and nutrients to reach the roots themselves.

A great way to battle thatch buildup and soil compaction is with aeration.

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Taking a Swipe at Identity Theft



Here at One Step, we pride ourselves in taking care of our customers. With the frightening increase in identity theft worldwide, we want to take every precaution we can to ensure our customers' safety.

Taking cues from the Payment Card Industry (PCI), we will no longer store your credit card information on our secured server. If you normally call us after each visit and instruct us to pay your outstanding charge with your credit card, you will now need to provide us with your card information each time you call. We apologize for this inconvenience, but it is important for us to make sure payments are one hundred percent secure.

Please note, if you are a customer who enjoys our "Auto Pay" system, this change will not impact you. The "Auto Pay" option allows us to automatically charge your account after each visit. If you have any questions or concerns, or wish to set up "Auto Pay," please feel free to call our office. We'll be happy to help!

Rochester Rain and Growing Pains

Rochester has experienced some very extreme weather this summer. Although weather here is fickle, this summer was mainly hot, humid, and rainy. As temperatures began to soar, Rochesterians' bones thawed out from the long, frigid winter. Picnics, barbecues, camping trips, and other outdoor activities were much anticipated and enjoyed in the warm weather. Then, when things became almost unbearably hot, the rain came and cooled the air just enough to enjoy the outdoors once again.



Although these weather conditions were great for getting outdoors, they also had some aggravating side effects. The humidity and increased moisture levels, combined with the heavy and frequent rainfall, resulted in an increased growth of weeds. Summer annuals like spurge, knot weed, and purslane have flourished under these warm and wet conditions. Crabgrass, too, has been a bigger problem this summer. Luckily, weeds and crabgrass have been combated using liquid weed controls and pre-emergent crabgrass controls, but it has been a tough battle to fight.

Mushrooms are another unsightly menace as a result of the hot, moist weather. These weather conditions, combined with organic matter in the soil, such as rotting tree roots, can easily cause mushrooms to pop up.



Removal of the organic matter is one method of preventing more mushrooms from growing. If, however, there does not appear to be any organic matter, then a weather change is what it will take to make the mushrooms disappear. All it takes is a little patience.

Although this summer's hot, humid, and rainy weather has boosted the growth of weeds, crabgrass, and mushrooms, remember to enjoy the warm weather while it lasts. The first fall frost is right around the corner, and winter won't be far behind!

Drill Down and Drink Up! *continued from page 1*

Aeration is completed by using a machine to remove soil cores from the ground. Each core is about a half inch in diameter, and two to three inches in length, about the size of a cork from a bottle of your favorite wine. After being removed from the soil, these cores are deposited above the thatch layer. It may seem odd that thousands of cork-sized soil cores scattered across your yard will make your lawn look better, but in a short while, it does. The cores break down and are dissolved by rainfall and traffic (think of the pick-up soccer games your kids play in the yard). While the cores are disappearing, the holes in the ground where they once were fill with water, fertilizer, and nutrients. The grass roots then begin to grow towards the holes, which results in a thicker, greener, healthier turf.

Aeration is a wonderful way to keep your lawn healthy throughout the year. By drilling down, your lawn will be allowed to drink up all the water and nutrients it needs. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call our office at 594-1095. Your lawn will thank you!

IPM Still Works



There seems to be a big push these days in the horticulture industry towards the use of Organic Materials. The use of Organics is fine, but like most things, they do have their limitations. It is critical to understand what can and what can't be accomplished with Organics. A good quality lawn begins with proper fertilization designed to feed the turf and help fortify the soil. This can be done with either organic or synthetic blends of fertilizer. The most popular organic fertilizers typically are derived from either processed sewage sludge or poultry manure. Proper fertilization will allow the turf to grow and develop to its fullest. A healthy, properly fertilized turf is better able to withstand invasion from weeds, crabgrass, insects and diseases than is a weak neglected turf.

What about weed control?

Even under the best of conditions, weeds are a reality that must be dealt with. There are currently no effective organic weed controls to selectively control broadleaf weeds in a lawn. The organic controls that are available also harm the good grasses surrounding those weeds. For this reason alone, their use in a home lawn is currently not very practical.

And what about insect control?

As is the case with weed control, the use of organics to effectively control turf-damaging insects, such as grubs and chinch bugs, while generally very costly, simply are not effective enough to warrant wide spread use. Milky Spore disease has been around for years as a control method against Japanese Beetles. Its use even under ideal conditions has proved less than acceptable. Another popular organic control for grubs has been the use of Nematodes. These microscopic worms, when established in sufficient quantities, can help to reduce the grub population. Commercially, however, it has been very difficult to achieve consistent results.



So, what is the alternative?

We at One Step continue to rely on the sound management practices of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). IPM works to properly fertilize the turf while allowing the selective use of pest control products for weed and insect control. We are constantly looking for alternatives to traditional pest controls and will integrate them into our program when we feel comfortable we can achieve the results you expect from us. Should you have further questions, as always, please feel free to call one of our experts at 594-1095.



Christmas Décor by One Step



Dreading the idea of climbing on a ladder to string those lights again? Why not let the pros at Christmas Decor by One Step handle that chore for you. Imagine a professionally lit home with wreaths, garland and bows without having to lift a finger!

Schedules for holiday lights are filling fast, call today to secure your spot.

UPDATE! Emerald Ash Borer

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What can be done?

Now that we know this is a true problem of concern, there are a couple of ways to defend our ash trees from EAB. There are currently two effective treatments being used to put a halt to this plague. They include Soil-Applied Systemic Insecticides and Trunk-Injected Systemic Insecticides. Depending on the material used, control with a single treatment can last up to two years. The window for treatment is anytime from late spring as the ash trees begin to leaf out, up until early fall when the leaves begin to drop. If you have an ash tree that you want protected, we would encourage you to contact us as soon as possible. If you have any questions about EAB, or think one of your ash trees has been invaded, please call our office at 594-1095.



You can also visit <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/> or, <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/newyorkinfo.cfm>, or <http://www.stopthebeetle.info/> to read more.