



Turf Times

Fall 2007

Aeration...

Holes for a Healthy Lawn

The exceptionally hot summer weather has placed a lot of stress on lawns this year. It couldn't be a better time to give your lawn the extra boost that fall aeration provides.



When we aerate your lawn, you get a lot of bang for your buck. Simply said, core aeration helps your lawn get extra mileage out of all the other materials we apply during the growing season. It also helps your lawn make the most of the natural nutrients in the soil and environment.

Water reaches the roots of the plants more easily after core aeration. Fertilizer penetrates the soil with ease, boosting the health of your root system.

Here's What Happens

Over time, thatch can build up on the surface of your lawn. These dead roots and stems can accumulate into a thick layer that prevents the nutrients from reaching the roots of the grass. Thatch can also inhibit the effectiveness of fertilizers and pest controls, especially if it exceeds about half an inch.

In addition to thatch, soil can become compacted from heavy traffic. Even moderate rain or watering can cause the soil to pack tightly around grass roots. Soil with substantial clay content also tends to become easily compacted.

The lawns of new homes can be affected too. It doesn't take more than a couple of years under the right conditions for thatch to build up and compaction to be well on its way. New homes are often built on land where top soil has been removed and the soil underneath is compacted during lot clearing.

DROUGHT Recovery for your Trees and Shrubs

Most homeowners in Rochester have seen the effects of little rain on their landscapes this summer. While many people worry about their lawns, it is important not to forget about your trees and shrubs during droughts.

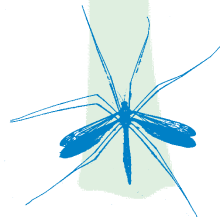
Trees need to be properly hydrated because lack of water can lead to drought stress. Not only can this lead to leaves or needles wilting, curling, turning color, or falling off, but it also leaves trees vulnerable to insects and diseases. In most cases, drought alone does not kill trees; it merely lowers trees' immunity to deadly insects and diseases.

Fortunately, fighting drought stress is not difficult. Consistency, however, is necessary. Start by placing mulch around the tree, within the dripline, about two inches deep. This helps conserve soil moisture. Remember to leave a six inch space between the tree trunk and where the mulch starts. Never pile mulch against stems or trunks.

After mulching, figure out how much water your tree needs. A simple formula can be used for this. First, measure the diameter of your tree.

Crane Fly's Have Arrived!

See inside for more information!



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Turf Grass Benefits Humanity



Oxygen

A turf area just 50-feet by 50-feet absorbs carbon dioxide, ozone, hydrogen fluoride and peroxyacetylene nitrate and releases enough oxygen to meet the needs of a family of four. The grass and trees along the U.S. Interstate highway system release enough oxygen to support 22 million people.

Referrals

At One Step Tree and Lawncare, many of our new customers are referred to us by other satisfied customers. You may receive a \$20.00 referral bonus for each person that signs up for a full year's service, and uses your name as a referral.



(Please be considerate to friends and family by verifying their interest before submitting their names to us.)

DROUGHT Recovery for your Trees and Shrubs

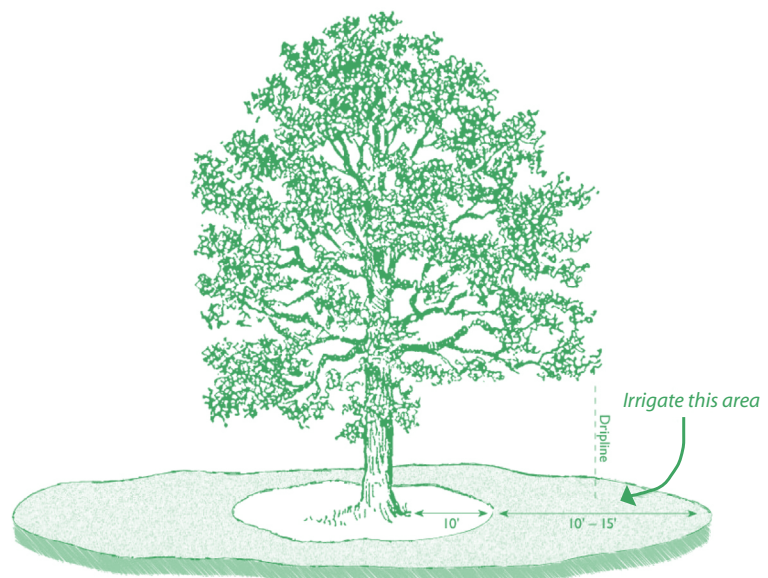


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Measure it at the height of your knee for the best calculation. You should use about ten gallons of water per inch of diameter. So, if your tree's diameter is five inches, you'll need fifty gallons of water. If using a hose, as most people do, remember that it takes five minutes for a hose at medium pressure to pump out ten gallons of water. A basic formula to use when using a hose is to multiply the diameter by five to figure out the watering time. Our five-inch diameter tree would then be watered for twenty-five minutes.

After figuring out how much and how long to water for, water about three times a month. Apply water under the dripline in several locations, not just in one spot, like at the trunk. Roots spread two to three times wider than the tree's height, so it is important to get ample water to all of the roots. Most of the absorbing roots are within the top twelve inches. Don't forget, consistency counts. Once or twice per summer is not enough to fight drought stress. Stick with it, and your trees will be healthy despite the hot, dry weather.

This season you should consider watering your landscape well into the fall to aid in drought recovery and water storage for the long, cold, dry, winter ahead. If you are not scheduled for a Deep Root Fertilization for your trees and shrubs, you may want to consider adding this beneficial service.



Crane Fly's Have Arrived

As if this summer's drought wasn't hard enough on our lawns, the recent invasion of the European Crane Fly is another blow to people who care about their yards. Those yellowing spots and bare patches may not be from the dry weather; they could be from two types of crane flies- *T. paludosa* and *T. oleracea*. Although New York has several species of native crane flies, the *T. paludosa* originated in northwestern Europe, and *T. oleracea* originated central and southern Europe. These two species have since spread to Canada, South America, and the United States, including Monroe County and other counties in New York.

So we already have some native species of crane flies, what's the big deal if different species enter?

An important thing to realize is that the native species are non-injurious. They do not cause damage to turf the way the *T. paludosa* and *T. oleracea* do. These European species damage turf's root systems, causing lawns to turn yellow and develop bare patches. The damaged areas can range in size from a few feet to an entire lawn. Birds and other animals, such as skunks, are also likely to damage turf (for example, peck-holes) from searching for larvae.

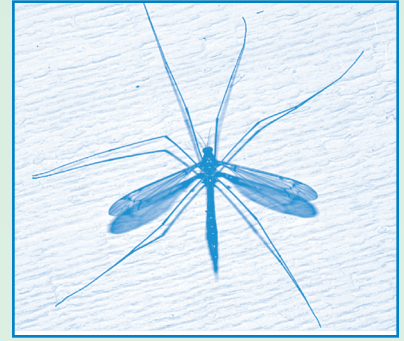
Not sure if your lawn has been damaged by crane flies?

Check your lawn for pupal cases (long, thin, cocoon-like shells) sticking out from the ground. These are most easily spotted on golf greens, where there is low-mowed turf. Most of us, however, do not have such shortly cut lawns, making the pupal cases harder to find. Instead, try looking for the Crane Fly in the larvae stage. Larvae range from approximately 1 1/2 to 2 inches in size. They are grayish-brown and worm-like, with tough skin. It's for this reason that they are commonly called "leatherjackets." They can be most easily spotted in the late evening or early morning when they will often come out of the ground to feed on the grass parts above the soil surface.

If you find you have European Crane Flies, don't panic!

There are several methods of combating these insects. Feel free to call One Step at 594-1095 and your area representative will be glad to provide you with information and discuss alternatives for the best control.

Crane Fly Adult



Adults which resemble large mosquitoes. They do not cause any turf damage at this particular stage.

Crane Fly Larva



This is the larva, which feeds on the roots and crowns of the turf, causing dead and damaged turf



President's Message



Wow, what a season this has been! As I write this message, I am reflecting on the fact it is now September, and we haven't seen any substantial rain in over 3 months. Experiencing what some call the worst drought in over 100 years, many of you are wondering just what effect this will have on our lawns and landscapes. The best answer is that we just don't know. Mother Nature is generally pretty good at taking care of herself, and I have no doubt that the majority of things will be just fine. Will most of the dormant turfgrass recover and be fine? The short answer is yes. Will there be some damage as a result of the drought? Yes, there will be. Fall typically provides an ideal time to repair any damaged lawn areas, and I don't imagine this year will be any different. And what about the effects of the drought on your trees and shrubs? The damage may take a year or two to show up, but there will be issues directly attributable to this season's very dry conditions. The European Crane fly also has made its way into our region this year. Could this insect be the next Japanese Beetle grub of several years ago? Stay Tuned. (See accompanying article on this lawn pest). The arrival of this insect presents us, your professional turf managers, with yet another challenge in our journey to provide you the best in quality turf and ornamental service.

The good news is One Step is here and ready to handle whatever curve balls Mother Nature throws your way. Should you have any questions or concerns with any aspect of your lawn or landscape, please give us a call. Your area representative would welcome the opportunity to talk with you directly.

Thank you for your continued trust and confidence in One Step!

Sincerely,

Greg Adams
President



Get the Latest Online Information

For the most up-to-date information on lawns and landscapes, visit our web site at www.onesteptreeandlawncare.com

Save on Next Year's Service

When you renew early for next year's service, you'll save money. Look for the reminders we'll leave at our next visit.



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