



LANDSCAPE SOLUTIONS
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Here They Come Again

BROADLEAF WEEDS WILL SOON BE MAKING THEIR YEARLY DEBUT

Broadleaf (non-grassy) weeds are a real thorn in the side of homeowners everywhere. Besides the well-known dandelion, there are lots of others that can invade your lawn, including black medic, chickweed, cinquefoil, knotweed and purslane (to name just a few).

The best way to control these pushy pests is to keep your lawn as thick and healthy as possible, since a lush lawn leaves less room for broadleaf weeds to grow.

DENSE TURF CAN BE ENCOURAGED THROUGH:



Regular fertilization.

This will expand and strengthen the root system for more vigorous growth.



Supplemental irrigation.

In the absence of rainfall, you should provide your lawn with 1" to 1½" of water per week.



Insect and disease control as needed.

Left untreated, insects and diseases can kill off large portions of your lawn, and broadleaf weeds will be more than happy to take up residence where your healthy grass used to be.



Proper mowing.

It's best to mow high enough so that no more than 1/3 of the grass blade is removed at a time. This keeps the soil cool and shaded, discouraging the growth of broadleaf weeds which grow best in warm, sunny conditions.



WHAT IF THAT DOESN'T WORK?

Sometimes, even the best-maintained lawns end up playing host to broadleaf weed invaders. When this happens, post-emergent herbicides come in very handy. These herbicides kill broadleaf weeds while they're actively growing (pre-emergent herbicides, like those used to prevent crabgrass, don't work on many broadleaf weeds).

Available in both liquid and granular forms, post-emergent herbicides can take up to three weeks to completely eliminate broadleaf weeds, so you'll need to be patient. It may also be necessary to reapply weed controls if new broadleaf weed seeds happen to germinate.

When it comes to broadleaf weeds, persistence pays off. The right combination of good maintenance practices and weed control treatments is the key to success.

PLEASE NOTE: Newly seeded lawns should be given adequate time to get established before post-emergent herbicides are used on them. Avoid weed control applications until the new grass has been mowed three to five times.

CONTAINER GARDENING: What to Grow?

Thinking about starting a container garden, but not sure about what to plant? From vegetables to fruit to flowers, there are many choices available. Consider some of the following, all of which are well-suited to growing in containers.

VEGETABLES/FRUIT



CUCUMBERS

Require a big container and lots of water.



EGGPLANTS

Grow best when fertilized regularly.



FIGS

Sturdy container required to restrain roots.



POTATOES

Very easy to grow and plenty of varieties to choose from.

FLOWERS



BEGONIAS

Great for hanging baskets.



PETUNIAS

A classic summer favorite.



TIGER FLOWERS

Plant in April for late-summer blooms.



DAYLILIES

Easily divided to create new plants.

Taking Control of Lawn Traffic

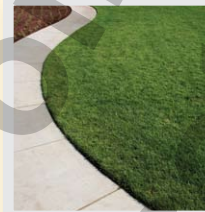
When lawns are subjected to ongoing foot traffic, leaves, stems and crowns can be crushed from continued, direct pressure on grass plants. Soil compaction is also common in these situations, making it harder for roots to expand and limiting the flow of air, water and nutrients to the root zone. If foot traffic is excessive (such as when a path between two points in a yard is constantly used), thinning of turf and death of grass plants are inevitable.

WALKWAYS TO THE RESCUE

The last thing you want in your lawn is an ugly trail of bare soil where healthy grass used to be. In places where extra foot traffic is unavoidable, walkways can relieve pressure on your lawn while enhancing both the looks and functionality of your property.

With gentle curves and subtle changes in direction, walkways can easily guide traffic and help to create a more attractive and interesting setting. Ornamental plants, hedges and shrubs can be installed alongside walkways for added visual appeal and to help tie them into the existing landscape. Wherever possible, wider walkways (48" to 60" wide) work best since they can accommodate two people walking side by side.

Remember, no turf can take continuous trampling and still remain healthy. If you need to control foot traffic on your property, walkways are a practical solution.



There are all sorts of options in walking surfaces, including concrete, brick, pavers, gravel, wood chips, sand and even pine needles. The choice really depends on traffic flow; the more traffic you have, the more durable the walkway's surface should be.



5. Blinds are open in top left window.
6. Shutter on left side of arched window has no top cross bar.
7. A second landscape light has been added to the left of planter with white flowers.
8. Lower branch on right of front tree has been removed.

1. Fountain has been removed.
2. One yellow flower under ornamental tree has been removed.
3. There is more mulch around the tree in front.
4. Rock in foreground is pointer.

Answers to photo puzzle on back page:

Quick Tips for Superb Herbs

We're all looking for ways to save a little on our grocery bills, and growing your own herbs is a fun and easy way to do just that. Whether you plan on cultivating them inside or out, these guidelines can help to ensure herb gardening success:

- Herb seeds should be planted in well-drained, fertile soil with a neutral pH (6.5 to 7.0).
- Don't plant too deep, and keep the soil surface moist.
- Thin out seedlings as they appear.
- Herbs are best harvested in the morning when their oil concentrations are high.
- Wash herbs in cool water after harvesting, and they'll be ready for use. Or, if you prefer using dried herbs, spread them out on a drying rack and let dry for three days.

Of course, different herbs have different requirements for healthy growth. Here are

some care tips for just a few of the many varieties:

ROSEMARY – Loves sun and soil that is rich in lime.

BASIL – Likes a lot of water, warm soil and fertilizer.

THYME – One of the easiest to grow since it can tolerate fairly dry soil.

CHIVES – Rich, moist soil and lots of sun are preferred. Trim regularly for best results.

FRENCH TARRAGON – Does best in sandy loam and shady conditions.

SUMMER SAVORY – Likes rich, loamy soil and plenty of sunlight.



Emerald Ash Borer Update



Emerald ash borers have killed tens of millions of ash trees through the feeding activity of their larvae, which disrupts the trees' ability to transport water and nutrients. This devastating pest continues to spread, and has now been found in the following states and provinces:

- Illinois
- Indiana
- Kentucky
- Maryland
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- New York
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- Virginia
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin
- Ontario and Quebec in Canada

SIGNS OF INFESTATION

The following symptoms may indicate that ash trees are under attack:

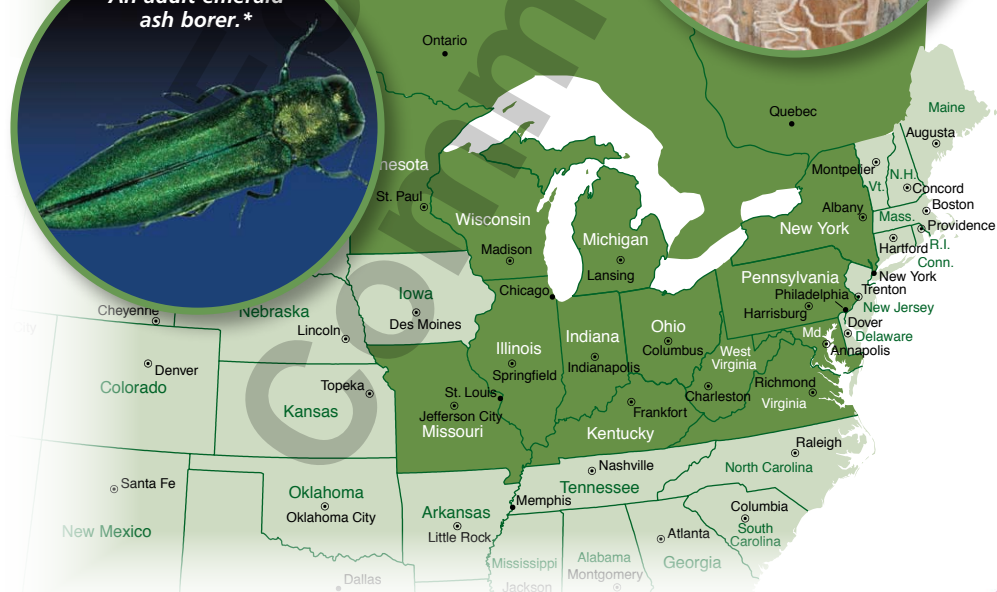
- Vertical splits in the bark
- Serpentine larval feeding galleries visible in the wood grain
- D-shaped exit holes on bark surfaces
- Canopy dieback from the top down
- New sprouts pushing out from the trunk after upper portions of the tree die

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Preventative steps can be taken to help minimize emerald ash borer damage. These include insecticide applications,

regular watering and deep-root fertilization. If an infestation is discovered, however, quarantine and removal will most likely be necessary to stop the pest from spreading to healthy trees.

If you notice any of the symptoms mentioned here, a prompt inspection is highly recommended.



*Photo courtesy of: Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Forestry Archive.



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Did You Know? April is National Garden Month!

National Garden Month is celebrated every April as individuals, organizations and communities nationwide join together to recognize the many benefits gardening has to offer. If you're looking for ways to help make your community a greener, healthier, more livable place, there's no time like the present. The National Gardening Association offers these suggestions:

PLANT A NATIVE TREE – Since they're well-adapted to your area's growing conditions, native trees are less likely to have problems with weather extremes, pests and diseases.

START A COMPOST PILE – An easy way to reduce the amount of yard and kitchen waste heading to landfills while making your own valuable soil amendment for gardening.



Compost makes a great soil amendment.

JOIN A COMMUNITY GARDEN – Perfect when you want a big garden but don't have the space on your property.

PLANT A MEDIAN GARDEN – Those barren strips of grass between the road and the sidewalk can be spruced up with low-growing flowers (you may need to get permission from the city before planting).

MAKE USE OF MULCH – A layer of mulch around trees, shrubs and flower beds will reduce weed growth in those areas while decreasing watering requirements.

Can You Tell the Difference?

See if you can find the eight differences between the two photos. Answers are on page 2.

