# How to Take Back Your Yard from Mosquitoes

Mosquitoes are more than annoying. They also transmit West Nile virus and other diseases, including heartworm in dogs and cats. There are two important ways to combat them.

#### **Banish Breeding Grounds.**

Mosquitoes love moisture. Clear out overgrown brush and eliminate sources of standing water, such as clogged gutters. Empty pets' water bowls and the drainage plates under planters frequently.

#### Get a Free Estimate for Mosquito

**Treatment.** We treat from March through October, to eliminate adults and their larvae. The treatment is safe for kids and pets, so the whole family can enjoy the yard.



# Keep Your Mower Working All Season Long. Your Lawn Will Thank You for It.

Keeping your lawnmower in good working order doesn't just spare you the hassle of a breakdown. It's also important for the health and appearance of your lawn. How?

Turf is healthiest when the grass and the root system both have enough nutrients and other resources. Without regular mowing, extra resources are used up by the grass to grow longer. And since you'll be removing the over-growth once your mower is working again, those resources are essentially wasted. There's also a very good chance the grass that remains after mowing will be pale green or even brownish, not the rich green you love.



Late spring and early summer are the peak growing periods for warm-season grasses, so you'll want to stay on top of mowing. Here are some maintenance essentials to keep your mower going.

**Change the Oil.** This should be done after 50 hours of use or once a year, whichever comes first. Running time and seasonal temperature changes cause the oil to degrade, which reduces the mower's performance and lifespan.

**Replace the Spark Plug.** A dirty or fouled spark plug makes starting the mower difficult and can prevent it from starting at all. Replace the plug after 100 hours of use.

Check the Air Filter. Most filters will need to be cleaned or replaced every three months or at the start of each season. Check the mower manual to see if the filter can be cleaned and reused or if it needs to be replaced.

**Clean & Lubricate Moving Parts.** Even if you cleaned your mower at the end of last season or the beginning of this one, it's a good idea to check regularly for any accumulated grass or other debris. Once it's clean, follow the manufacturer's directions for lubricating parts.

Sharpen the Blade. A dull mower blade rips and tears grass instead of cutting it, which causes grass to brown at the tips – again, not the look you're going for.



# May/June Lawn Care Application #3

## Lawn Care

#### **Fertilization**

Warm-season and cool-season grasses each get an appropriate blend of our proprietary organic fertilizer.

#### **Lawn Inspection**

We monitor for signs of lawn disease and grub problems and make treatment recommendations.

#### Weed Control (hybrid option)

A synthetic pre-emergent prevents crabgrass and other grassy weeds;

a synthetic post-emergent kills broadleaf weeds over the next two weeks.

### Ornamental Tree & Shrub Care (Simply Plus Program)

This treatment will include an insecticide to help with pest control, a dormant oil to prevent fungal diseases, and a fertilizer to help with growth and overall health of your ornamental trees and shrubs.

## July/August Lawn Care Applications #4 & #5

### Lawn Care

#### **Fertilization**

We apply poultry litter with highquality nitrogen and other nutrients that promote healthy growth.

#### **Lawn Inspection**

We monitor for signs of summer diseases and make treatment recommendations.

#### Weed Control (hybrid option)

We apply a post-emergent to kill broadleaf weeds. The August treatment also includes a preemergent that targets grassy weeds.

### Ornamental Tree & Shrub Care (Simply Plus Program)

Bee Safe Pest & Disease Control Our neonic-free treatments include an insecticide to control aphids and other pests and a dormant oil to prevent fungal diseases, such as powdery mildew.



## What You Need To Do To Support Our Treatments & Your Yard

#### Leave Grass Clippings After Mowing

Clippings recycle back into the soil and provide nutrients. Mowing after we treat is fine so long as any wet applications have dried.

# Raise Your Mower Blade High for Fescue

Longer grass lowers the soil temperature, which is good for coolseason Fescue.

### Ensure Your Lawn Gets 1" of Water

**Each Week from Rain or Watering** Water in the morning or around 4 pm. Avoid late evening and nighttime watering.

# Trim Shrubs Regularly & Replenish Mulch

Regular trimming encourages fuller growth, and a 3-inch layer of mulch retains soil moisture.

#### **Inspect Your Yard Once a Week**

Watch for discolored patches in grass and on ornamental tree and shrub leaves, as well as insect infestations. Call us immediately if you see any problems so we can nip them in the bud.

Questions about our service or your yard? Contact Customer Service at 770.777.0764, M-F, 8 am -5 pm, or our branch manager at Mike@SimplyOrganicTurfCare.com. Leave a message after hours; we'll return your call the next business day.

# Hello, Organic Treatment. Bye-Bye, Dollar Spot.

When the fungal disease dollar spot strikes a lawn, the conventional approach is to use a synthetic fungicide. While synthetic treatments are needed at times, our preferred approach is to go organic whenever possible.

And it pays off. We treated this lawn affected by heavy dollar spot (the brown spots in the "Before" photo) with a specific formulation of organic poultry litter. The "After" photo, taken three weeks later, shows healthy, vigorous regrowth.



## Need to get in touch?

### Simply Organic Turf Care

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