

LAWN WINTERIZER

WINTER 2010-2011

Today's Treatment

Today's lawn winterizer treatment is designed to address three important lawn needs for the winter: nutrients, moss, and European crane fly larvae. Please check the back of your invoice for details and instructions. If you have any questions, or would like to talk to your technician, please call our office at 360-491-7711.

Your lawn uses the winter season to grow roots and store up nutrients for the growing season. The liquid bio-fertilizer applied today supplies your lawn with the nutrients it needs for this task, helping your lawn survive winter and prepare for spring. All **Greenskeeper Plus** lawns also receive SuperTrace® (thirteen essential trace minerals in organic acids).

The iron content in the fertilizer applied today will affect the moss in your lawn. Iron is an essential element for successful plant growth, and as a side effect, it also "burns" moss, turning it a dark brown or black color as it decomposes. **There is no way to keep moss from growing back**, so expect some regrowth to occur, sometimes very quickly, depending on the weather. If you are not currently on a Greenskeeper or Sleeping Lawn program, we highly recommend scheduling a follow-up treatment in the spring to help keep moss at bay.

European crane fly larvae can devastate lawns. During the larval stage (Nov-May), these pests feed on grass roots, and in high populations they can do serious damage.

In order to control the crane fly larvae population, treatment must be applied *when the larvae are actively feeding*. Over the course of the upcoming Winter and early Spring seasons, Wolbert's technicians will be monitoring lawns for signs of crane fly larvae. Treatment will be applied to any lawns with a significant feeding larvae population. **BUT, because of the large timeframe in which larvae can become active, we ask that you monitor your lawn between our visits.**



A local lawn in spring, showing damage after a winter European crane fly larvae infestation.

Signs of Crane Fly Larvae

We recommend walking your lawn each week. If any signs of infestation appear, please notify our office immediately.

What to look for:

- Lots of starlings and/or crows feeding on the lawn.
- Thinning, muddy stands of grass with small breathe holes the size of a pencil lead in the soil (not to be confused with earthworm castings, which look like tiny volcanoes).
- Shady, wet areas are the most likely sites for problems.

Notes about Lawn Color

If temperatures dip below freezing before this treatment has been rained on, the grass may turn dark, even black in some areas. This effect is due to the high iron content of the fertilizer

and is only temporary. If we are in a dry stretch of weather, the technician may ask you to water to lessen the chance for discoloration. Any darkening will usually disappear after mowing, leaving that deep rich green color that makes your neighbors envious.

Winter Lawn Fungus

Calm, foggy days and damp nights are ideal conditions for diseases like Red Thread and Fusarium Patch to take hold. **Preventive treatments (before symptoms occur) are highly recommended, especially if your lawn has been a disease victim in the past.** If symptoms are already evident, treatments will stop the disease from progressing, and encourage quicker recovery. Lawns treated in the early stages of the disease should recover without the need for reseeding. Please refer to the special Lawn Fungus Bulletin on the Lawns page of our website, www.wolberts.com, for more information, and contact our office for a free lawn evaluation and quote.



Fusarium Patch Mycelium

Thank you!