

Mushrooms in the Lawn



Most lawn mushrooms do not hurt your lawn or cause diseases. The fungi that produces the mushroom is beneficial in helping decompose organic matter in the soil, making nutrients available to other plants. However, some homeowners consider them unsightly and are concerned for their young children and pets.

Control

Don't spray. Spraying mushrooms with fungicides does little good because the mushroom is simply the fruiting structure of the organism. Most of the fungi is below ground where the chemical cannot reach.

Pick them. The gills in the mushroom cap releases thousands of spores into the air, water or onto animals and humans, dispersing them across your lawn. Carefully pick off the mushroom heads and stems as soon as they appear before they disperse their spores. Dispose in a closed plastic bag.

Improve drainage and air circulation. Aerate and remove thatch buildup from your lawn and try to water less often (hard to control nature). Many mushrooms are associated with over-irrigation and/or poor drainage. This is why we often see mushrooms appear after prolonged rainy periods, and tend not to see them during dry spells.

Prevention

To completely stop mushrooms growing you must kill the Mycelium (fungi) from which they grow which is nearly impossible, and not recommended because of the benefits it brings to the health of your lawn. You can try eliminating the conditions that the fungi like.

Remove/reduce their food source, such as old mulch, grass clippings, pet waste and decaying wood, which can lead to excess thatch buildup (brown fibrous layer of stems and above ground roots of grass).

Change the damp, shady conditions that encourage mushroom growth as they do not require photosynthesis to grow. See above on improving drainage. If possible, try and re-organize your lawn space so there aren't too many areas that rarely get sunlight throughout the day. Trim back branches to create more sunlit spots.

NOTE: If you have mushrooms or toadstools that grow in a circle in your lawn you could be looking at a fungal infection commonly called 'Fairy Rings'.