



October Newsletter 2009

Lawn Care Is A Partnership

The Fall is finally here! The cooler temperatures that we have been experiencing have been a welcome relief, but we are still way short of rain over most of Ohio. Hopefully, some of these hurricanes that have been badgering our southern states will keep sending up some moist air that will turn into rain.

Now is the time to start thinking about fall weed and insect treatments as well as fall fertilizing. Remember that most of the broadleaf weeds actually germinate in September and October, but these young weeds don't really show themselves until next spring. While young, they are very easy to control, so think about broadleaf weed controls now, not next spring.

Mid October through November is also a good time to apply some of the borer, leafminer and pine sawfly systemic insecticides. These insecticides are taken up by the plants this fall, and the residues go into the new growth next spring, thereby protecting the plants-more later.

We're getting many calls and inquiries about the various adult spiders that are making themselves known. Two of the most noticeable are orb-weaving spiders. The ones that are most common are the garden spiders. The females can be nearly three inches across, including the legs. The males are about half this size, but still large enough to cause concern. These spiders make about 2 foot diameter webs among garden plants, between shrubs, or around porches. What is most distinctive about these spiders is that they make a thick, white, zigzag pattern of silk down the middle of the web.

There are three common species of these garden spiders, but most are black with distinctive yellow markings. The male of one species has an almost solid coating of silvery hairs on the back of its abdomen. All are harmless and most will run or drop to the ground if they detect you getting too close to the web. Some, however, rapidly get used to people working around them and these spiders will allow you to get nose-to-fang without dropping. The other common landscape spiders are more rounded in shape with shorter legs. The Arabesque and marbled orbweavers are the two species that commonly build their webs near night lights. They tend to make a new nest every night. These spiders can take on many color forms. The most striking from is to have a bright, mottled yellow abdomen with orange legs. The abdomen is smooth but the legs are hairy. All are harmless and should be considered excellent predators in our landscapes.

A lot more male funnel web spiders are being seen running across basement floors. These can be a bit unnerving as the long legs make the spiders look larger than they really are. The males are the offenders, as they have abandoned their nests in search for females. The females tend to remain in their nests until after mating. The males are dark brown with cream colored stripes. Our native funnel spiders are not in the same group as the ones from Australia. That one has a very toxic, and dangerous venom. Ohio's funnel web spiders will die after the first hard frost. However, by this time they spin a pouch-like egg case that will hatch next spring to renew the cycle.

Well, once again, that is the conclusion of our newsletter. We truly hope that you learned some things that you didn't know before. We also hope that you will continue to come back and visit our website often. Remember, if you have a question about your landscape, the answer is just a phone call away. Thanks and enjoy the fall and the splendid color that comes with it.

Visit our website today
www.pacesankar.com

