

TAKING CONTROL OF LAWN TRAFFIC

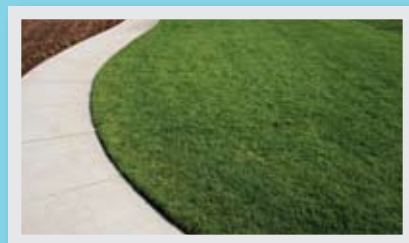
When lawns are subjected to ongoing foot traffic, leaves, stems and crowns can be crushed from continued, direct pressure on grass plants. Soil compaction is also common in these situations, making it harder for roots to expand and limiting the flow of air, water and nutrients to the root zone. If foot 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. To learn more about walkways and how Borst Landscape & Design can help, give us a call today.



A Message from Mark



Dear Valued Client,

The team at Borst Landscape & Design really looks forward to this time of year. Spring is here, and we are able to start performing the work that we all enjoy. Flower buds

begin to emerge on the trees and shrubs, and the perennials are just beginning to poke their heads up out of the soil. It is amazing to experience how just a few things like flowers and the warming of the breeze can lift someone's spirits. It is a great time of year!

We have noticed with the state of the economy that many people have decided to travel less, stay home more and invest their money back into their home landscapes. Popular projects that are being scheduled are pool installations with entertaining patios, outdoor kitchens and fireplaces. Projects have also included a revamp of existing plantings, removal of overgrown

shrubs and revitalization of gardens with new plant material. Simple projects such as adding seasonal color to the landscape with perennial gardens and installation of annuals can change the entire look of a property and enhance the curb appeal of your home.

If you have ideas for your landscape this spring, give us a call. We can design a plan that will complement your ideas and help you schedule from start to finish. We work with many contractors, so even a project that you might not think is directly related to landscaping may be something easily coordinated with our network of people. Bottom line...we are here to help!

As always, thank you for your support. You can reach me at **201.785.9400, ext. 204** or e-mail me at mborst@borstlandscape.com to discuss any of the issues in this letter, to say hello or to talk about your garden.

Sincerely Yours,

Mark C. Borst

Mark C. Borst



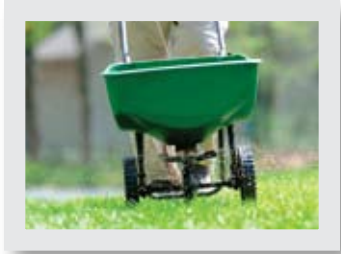
Here They Come Again

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.



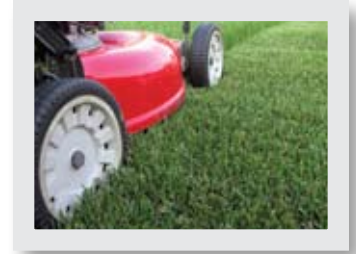
Supplemental irrigation.

In the absence of rainfall, your lawn needs 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. For more information on broadleaf weed control, call Borst Landscape & Design today.

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

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.

