



## FAIRY RING

### DESCRIPTION AND DAMAGE

Fairy rings are circles or arcs of dark green grass surrounding areas of light colored or dead grass. During spring and fall, mushrooms develop in a circle outlining the ring. These mushrooms are signs of the fungus causing the problem. Unless the fungus is controlled, the ring enlarges each year.

The fungus usually lies several inches below the ground and forms a dense layer of mycelium (white hair-like threads) that breaks down organic matter at the outer edge of the ring. The dense mycelium traps the movement of air and prevents the penetration of water. This lack of water, air and nutrients causes the grass to yellow or brown in the ring where the mycelium is the thickest.

As the fungus grows outward and breaks down organic matter, it releases nitrogen. Rapid, dark green growth of the ring is a result of the additional nitrogen.

### CONTROL

1. Mushrooms do not injure the lawn. Simply rake them up and discard them.
2. Aerate the soil. Either remove cores of soil 1-2 inches in diameter or punch holes with a spading fork the depth of the tines. Aerate at least 6 inches outside and inside the ring, including the ring itself. Punch as many holes as possible.
3. Apply a wetting agent (surfactant) over the entire ring. Wetting agents allow water to penetrate soil more easily and deeply.
4. Drench the soil with water from a hose. Sprinklers do not apply enough water at one time. Let water run out of the hose until there is standing water.

Repeat steps 2, 3 and 4 every three days. **Do not skip a step!** You should begin seeing improvement in two weeks. Continue the process for at least one month.

You can also remove the sod, mix soil in affected areas in the upper 6 to 8 inches of soil with a rototiller, and reseed or put new sod in the area.

Keep your lawn in healthy condition. Fertilize at least three times during the growing season. Mow at proper height. Water deeply and infrequently.

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