

Plants on the move to fight your lawn

Many insects can feed on your lawn. Insects can feed on your lawn if it gets too dry, especially in the summer. Lawn care experts identify the most common lawn pests and webworms. They say chinchbugs, grubs, and other insects are most destructive to grass that lacks moisture.

They devour a large section of lawn in a short time and are most destructive to grass that lacks moisture.

Experts recommend that you check with the local extension office. O.M. Smith, 1517 W. Main, Dallas, 75201, 543-TUW.

Soil insects that damage lawns include grubs, chinchbugs, and webworms. Grubs are the larvae of beetles that feed on the roots of grass. Chinchbugs are active at night and hide close to the ground during the day. The presence of starlings or blackbirds often is a solid clue, since these birds like to feed on this insect.

Chinchbugs are active in hot, dry weather and destroy grass by eating leaves or roots. They puncture leaves and suck out vital plant fluids. Control measures should be started early because these bugs can kill grass.

Lawn care experts say if chinchbugs are suspected, cut both ends from a coffee can and pound it into the thatch or soil and fill the can with water. If chinchbugs are present, they will float to the surface.

Grubs are whitish gray, C-shaped caterpillar-like larvae deposited by beetles that feed on foliage plants. They do their damage by eating the fibrous roots of turf grass during warm weather.

The damage may not be recognized until the grass is dead. Lawn care experts recommend removing those patches and seeding the lawn. Sometimes the damage can be noticed in the early spring after winter debris has been removed. The grass may be green, but since the roots are shallow and eaten, it will pull out easily.

Grubs are a favorite food of moles and skunks. Insect control products can also repel these animals, providing a double benefit. The whole lawn should be treated, not just the damaged spots. Spot treatments are ineffective because insects may have already deserted the damaged areas and moved to greener areas.

The experts also advise establishing a fertilizer and watering program throughout the season.



Gig'em, Frog Company

Photo by JAIME LOPEZ

Billy Dorsey, a junior journalism major from Denison, overlooks this year's crop of frogs. Frog company is made up of juniors and sophomores coming joining the Corps of Cadets

this fall. Being a member of the Frog Company is not a requirement for those upperclassmen who join the Corps, but it is recommended.

Woman trips over cat, shoots friend

United Press International
ENFIELD, Conn. — Police said Saturday no charges were lodged against a woman who tripped over the family cat and accidentally fired her husband's pistol through the living room window, killing a friend on the sidewalk.

"Right now it's being considered an accidental shooting," said Lt. Bernard Duffy, but he said it was still under investigation.

Catherine Caetano, 27, was walking with her two young sons Friday when she was shot in the head. They were going to another neighbor's house for coffee.

Tonja Tyler, 25, told police the gun, a .357 Magnum target pistol, belonged to her husband Lawrence, a guard at the state prison at Somers. Tyler had just cleaned and reloaded his gun after returning from target

practice, police said. "She had the gun in her hand," police said, and apparently tripped over the cat. "The gun went off. The victim was walking by on the sidewalk and she was struck in the head."

The two women "knew each other and were friendly," Duffy said. The bullet hole was clearly visible in the living room window of the couple's garden apartment.

Police said the case was officially labeled a homicide because one person killed another.

Police were called to the scene by a neighbor while another took care of the victim's children. Police, who questioned the Tylers for several hours, covered Mrs. Caetano's body with a blanket until a state police ambulance took it to the state medical examiner's office.

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