



# *Living Water*

**Lawn & Tree Care**



## **Fairy Ring** Fact Sheet

Mushroom or toadstool type fungi cause fairy ring disease in lawns. 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 fungi are seen most often during the warm and hot seasons of the year when rainfall is plentiful. The symptoms of fairy ring can appear several times each year. These fungi colonize quantities of buried organic matter such as old lumber, leaf piles and tree stumps in the lawn and can persist in the same area for several years.

As the various causal fungi colonize the organic matter and break it down, typical fairy rings will appear in the lawn. An important by-product of organic matter breakdown is the release of nitrogen (available in the soil) which causes the initial, lush green fairy ring symptom. Depending on the fungal species involved, these green circles or patches may get larger or smaller. All fairy ring fungi ultimately reproduce as mushrooms or puff balls within the ring of infected grass.

To control this problem you can do the following:

1. Aerate the soil. Either remove the cores of soil 1-2 inches in diameter or punch holes with a spading fork the depth of the tines.
2. Apply a wetting agent (dish soap and water) over the entire ring. Wetting agents allow the water to penetrate soil more easily and deeply.
3. Drench the area with a water hose until there is standing water. Repeat the steps above every three days for at least a month. Do not skip a step! You should start to see improvements in two weeks.

Remember to keep your lawn healthy by fertilizing throughout the growing season, mowing at proper height and practice good watering habits.

**Give us a call at 1-800-LAWNCARE if you have any questions.**