

MUSHROOMS

GENERAL

Mushrooms are difficult to control.

Mushrooms are the fruiting bodies of various soil-inhabiting fungi. All lawn grasses are subject to invasion by the causal fungi.

Mushrooms often appear in spring and late summer during periods of high soil moisture. Mushrooms obtain their food from soil organic matter and often are found in areas in the lawn where an old tree stump or root is decaying.

The portion of the fungi that inhabits the soil is a dense white cob-web like mass. Mushroom fungi temporarily exhaust the soil of water and nutrients. Grasses in the affected areas may become weakened and die.

CONTROL

Where mushrooms are present, a hard layer is formed in the soil and turf growth becomes difficult.

The best approach is to disrupt the infested area by mechanical means, such as aeration. Aeration will penetrate and loosen the hard areas providing improved conditions for the turf.

After the aeration is performed it is best to water and fertilize these areas that have been exhausted of nutrients and water.

Complete control or prevention of mushrooms is practically impossible and extremely expensive. This would involve removal of large amounts of soil and chemical fumigation.

The good news however, is mushrooms themselves are short lived. They usually die and fade away within a few days.