



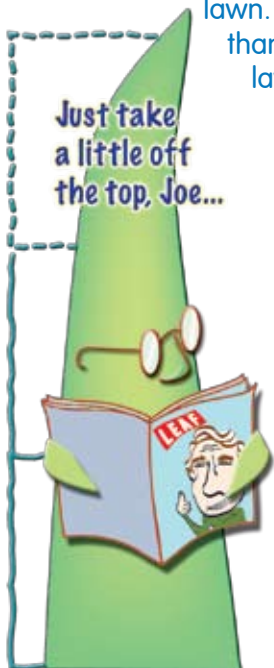
# THE BUGGETTE

APPLICATION #3, 2010 ■ Vol. 2, NO. 10

## Know How to Mow

“Mowing height,” which is the term used for the height of grass after mowing, can make the difference between a yellow lawn and a green lawn. The basic rule of mowing height is not mowing more than one third of the blade at any one time. Mowing your lawn frequently means you can take less of the blade off each time you mow, which will keep your grass greener. However, the heights may vary, depending on the type of grass that you have:

Remember, try not to take off more than one third of the blade at any one time.



Seeded Bermuda:	1 to 2 inches
Sodded Bermuda:	0.5 to 1.5 inches
Centipede:	1 to 1.5 inches
Fescue:	2-3/4" - 3-1/2" inches
Rye:	1 to 2 inches
St. Augustine:	2 to 3 inches

## The Dirt on Dirt

The kind of dirt needed for a healthy lawn is important – not all dirt is created equal. “Bad dirt” is dirt that has a low pH level. Low pH can prevent your grass from getting all of the nutrients it needs to be healthy. Adding calcium and magnesium to your lawn will help this, but knowing the right amount is important. This can be accomplished by having your soil tested. It’s a good idea to test every 3-5 years, before low pH levels start affecting your lawn. If your lawn is being treated and it’s not as green as it should be, it’s time to test your dirt. Getting the pH level back to normal will take 3-6 months, depending on how much calcium and magnesium your lawn needs. Now is the time to call us at 329-4151 and achieve “good dirt.”



## Bare in Mind

by Dick Bare

Hi Everyone! Hope all is well with you and yours.

We recently moved from one part of town to the other and getting ready to leave our home of seven years got me to thinking about the last time we moved.

The morning before closing, one of my neighbors here at the office calls and says that Dion, her ten-year-old son is on spring break, and since he hasn’t seen me in awhile he’d like to come by and visit. Little Dion shows up with a five-dollar bill clutched in his hand (lunch money) and he’s all ready to go. This kid is cuter than the dickens, but he’s got a lisp along with a high pitched voice, so it’s a blast to hear him talk.

We tear around in the pick-up on some errands, and at noon I say, “Okay, Dion, why don’t you go home now for lunch?” He perks up real bright and says, “Oh no, Mither Dick, I’ve goth money for lunth, you’ve goth me all day, therth no one home to wath me!”

Whudayagonna do? You get lemons, you make lemonade. So we had lunch together. While we were eating, Dion asked, “Are caterpillars good to eat?” “No,” I replied. “What makes you ask a question like that?” “You had one on your salad but it’s gone now.”

Dion must have had a good time because he shows up back at the office

## Fungus Among Us

This year in Nashville, we have a larger percentage of customers than usual calling about their lawns having dead or sickly looking patches on them. What they are talking about are fungi, more specifically, patch diseases like Brown Patch and Dollar Spot. While all the rain we're getting is great for the drought, the warm, humid environment we've had is also a great breeding ground for these lawn nuisances.

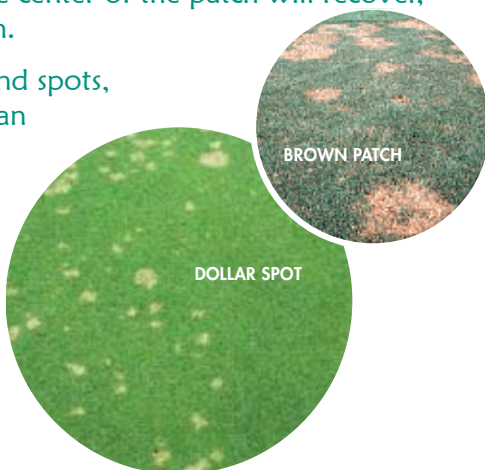
We apply weed-control every two months, but these fungi require a special treatment. In order to get any of these under control, we have to apply a completely separate fungicide application typically for three visits.

Here's what you need to look for to determine if your yard is affected. Call as soon as you see it, so we can 'nip it in the bud' before it spreads.

**Brown Patch:** Also known as large patch, it appears as large, unsightly symmetrical patches. The areas range in diameter from a few inches to a few feet. Over time, if untreated, the center of the patch will recover, resulting in a doughnut-shaped pattern.

**Dollar Spot:** This appears as small round spots, generally just a few at first, but they can multiply to ten or more in a matter of a few weeks. The spots range in diameter from the size of a silver dollar (hence, the name "silver dollar") up to the size of a basketball.

If you've noticed any of these appearing in your yard, call us at 329-4151 and we'll stop by to provide a free estimate for treatment.



## Don't let Japanese beetles devour your trees and shrubs.

These nasty little buggers were introduced into the US in about 1912 and have been making their home here ever since.

Japanese beetles love to eat all kinds of plants, shrubs and trees. They eat the soft part of the leaf and leave the veins. These and other pests, like aphids and white flies, can suck the life right out of your landscape. You'll start seeing them in May and June and they can stay until the cold weather arrives.

As if that weren't enough, there are also some diseases that can kill trees and shrubs like powdery mildew and leaf spot.

While it's better to prevent these insects and diseases from "setting up shop" in your trees and shrubs by having a year round tree & shrub treatment, a few treatments during the summer can save them from being destroyed.



## Want to do our job? Here's how.

If you ever start thinking, "Maybe I should do my lawn treatments myself," just read this.

We estimated the time and cost it would take for you to treat your lawn yourself and it's not pretty.

First, you need to take about an hour to go to Lowe's or Home Depot and buy the following products:

- A 42-lb. bag of a brand name fertilizer **\$45.00**
- A 42-lb. bag of weed control **\$45.00**
- A 42-lb. bag of a product to prevent crabgrass **\$50.00**
- A weed spray to spot treat broadleaf weeds like clover or dandelions **\$17.00**

**Total Product Cost: \$157.00**

Don't forget you're going to need a spreader and a hand or backpack sprayer, all of which can cost up to \$150.



Plan on at least 2 hours to put everything down. Then repeat the cost and time every 8 weeks year round.

### OR

Spend an average of \$58 every 8 weeks and take 2 minutes to pay your bill on line.



## High Praise

"I am not knowledgeable at all about the grass in Nashville and Joel is so knowledgeable. I've had several lawn issues and he has taken care of all of them.

My grass is the greenest in the neighborhood."

**Debbie, Franklin**



## Application #3

### What we did today

#### To your lawn:

1) A blanket application of four kinds of herbicides were applied for weed control. Some weeds, such as Virginia Buttonweed, Yellow and Purple Nutsedge and Wild Violets, are difficult to control and require an additional application. Call our office to arrange for an inspection and quote.

#### 2) Different lawns have different needs:

**FESCUE** lawns received a blanket application of four kinds of herbicide for the broadleaf weeds. This time of year Brown Patch Fungus is active and causes havoc on fescue lawns. If you see brown circular patches, call our office to arrange for an inspection and quote for a fungicide application. Cut fescue lawns at the highest setting on your mower. This will help in lowering the soil temperature.

**BERMUDA** lawns received a treatment of medium-release granular fertilizer. The medium-release fertilizer will provide nourishment to the grass plants until our next visit. April and May are the best months for aeration. Call our office for a quote for this service as we do aerate into August.

#### To your trees and shrubs:

(if you are a tree and shrub customer)

- 1) Today we applied an insecticide to your trees and shrubs to help prevent bugs like lace bugs, aphids and Japanese beetles from settling into your trees and shrubs.
- 2) A fungicide was applied to control diseases like powdery mildew and leaf spot.

### What you need to do until our next visit

- 1) When mowing, do not remove more than 1/3 of the grass blades at each cutting. For optimal appearance, Fescue lawns should be mowed every 5-6 days, Bermuda every 2-5 days (depending upon the type of Bermuda). You don't need to collect clippings as they "recycle" back into the soil providing some extra nutrients. It is safe to mow immediately after we've applied our products.
- 2) Warm season grasses such as Bermuda and Centipede should be aerated in the spring to reduce soil compaction and increase the benefits of our applications. Call us for an estimate.
- 3) Keep an eye out for Brown Patch Fungus on Fescue lawns.
- 4) Routine trimming will help your shrubs grow better.

If you have any questions concerning your lawn, trees, shrubs or our service, please call our Customer Service Department Monday – Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm at 329-4151. If you call after hours, please leave a message and your call will be returned the next business day.

### Helpful Phone Numbers [www.arbor-nomicsnashville.com](http://www.arbor-nomicsnashville.com)

**Main#:** **329-4151**

#### Owner/President

**Dick Bare** .....extension 1114  
richard@arbor-nomics.com  
cell: .....770-815-3879

#### Vice President

**Doug Cash** .....extension 1113  
doug@arbor-nomics.com

#### Area Manager

**Joel Holcomb** .....extension 1127  
joel@arbor-nomics.com

#### Customer Service

**Winnie Harmel** .....extension 1158  
winnie@arbor-nomics.com

**Megan Perry** .....extension 1145  
megan@arbor-nomics.com

**Jessica Raczka** .....extension 1150  
jessica@arbor-nomics.com

**Deborah Norton** .....extension 1151  
deborah@arbor-nomics.com

**Betty Spurlock** ..... extension 1152  
betty@arbor-nomics.com

**Tiffany Powell** ..... extension 1129  
tiffany@arbor-nomics.com

### Spring Fling

Four high school boys afflicted with spring fever skipped morning classes. After lunch they reported to the teacher that they had a flat tire. Much to their relief she smiled and said, "Well, you missed a test today, so take seats apart from one another and take out a piece of paper." Still smiling, she waited for them to sit down. Then she said, "First question: Which tire was flat?"



## Bare in Mind...

<<< continued from page 1

the next day, ready to go.

As you get older, you forget all the crazy things kids do – you could say curiosity killed the cat and the kid. I had to really keep my eyes on Dion so he didn't get hurt around all our equipment. Later that afternoon, we had to go to an attorney's office for the closing on our house. "Oh my gosh, what are we going to do with Dion?" I exclaimed. Turns out that one of the attorney's kids was on spring break too, so he and Dion went into an office and played on the computer. I said to the lawyer, "Can you tell me what your fees are?" He said, "Well, I charge \$500 to answer three questions. And I responded, "That's rather steep, isn't it?" He said, "Yes, now what's your final question?"

After the closing, our mortgage banker, April, who my wife has known for twenty years, invited us to a restaurant across the street from the law office. You talk about fancy.

Its one of those eateries where you get all the drinks you want, all the bread you can eat, and all the bill you can pay. You have to wash your hands before you use the finger bowl.

There were lots of young, hip, successful people milling about, drinking booze and eating horsey dorseys. (I never drink unless I'm alone or with somebody.)

By this time it's getting late and poor Dion is starved. Once inside he darts off to the bar and lovingly looks over the horsey dorsey selection. "Mither Dick, can I eath some of thith stuff right away? I'm starved!" "Sure Dion, help yourself," I reply. He grabs a dish and loads up on what looks to be chicken strips and meatballs. The maitre d' appears and motions us into the dining room, so Dion runs back up to the bar for another load of food.

April, Sharon, and I ask for a table near



a waiter. I know about these places. You're paying for the atmosphere. The

last time I was here, the waiter asked me how I found the steak. I said "I moved the potato and there it was." When we were leaving, the maitre d' exclaimed, "So glad to have you, hope you'll eat with us again!" I replied, "How about now, I'm starved." I

wasn't paying this time though, so I kept my mouth shut.

So here we are, free dinner at a swanky Buckhead eatery with lots of young, beautiful, successful people all around us and suddenly our waiter appears at our table looking very alarmed. "Are any of you the parents of a little boy named Dion?" I stood up and said that he was our neighbor boy. The waiter explained to me that he had gotten sick and had pretty well cleared the bar area.

I said to the manager that maybe he overate the chicken and Swedish meatballs, and he told me that those were fish sticks, not chicken.

I ran out front and there was Dion looking green and holding onto a vase and some napkins. "I'm really sikh, Mither Dick; could you please take me home? Those chicken fingers didn't taste right." So we packed up our little charge and put him in the car with a barf bag and headed back to the office. By the time we got him

home his lips and eyes were

swollen up something terrible.

His mother was horrified at his appearance and explained that he was highly allergic to fish and peanuts. She also said that he should know better to eat either one of them. The look in Dion's eyes showed there was nobody home.

The restaurant manager called later that night to check on Dion, and I told him that he was fine. He had gotten some meds and the swelling had gone down and he was sleeping peacefully.

The manager sighed and told me it took quite a while to get the bar area cleaned up and the young and beautiful back in to eat and drink. I'll never forget what he said next, "If today was a fish, I would throw it back in."

Ok, let's finish up with a cute kid joke:

A six-year-old goes to the hospital with her grandmother to visit her grandfather.

When they get to the hospital, she runs ahead of her Grandma and bursts into her Grandpa's room.

"Grandpa, Grandpa," she says excitedly, "as soon as Grandma comes into the room, make a noise like a frog!"

"What?" said her Grandpa.

"Make a noise like a frog... because

Grandma said that as soon as you croak, we're all going to Disney Land!"

