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## Inaugural Season Wrap-up...

The word is getting out! Organic lawn treatment works!! Thank you to everyone, from the bottom of our hearts, for putting your trust in us. We had a terrific year, and learned a lot. Based on your input, and our first year's experience, we have made some significant improvements.

We are now mixing our own much-improved liquid spray formula, now called **Liquid Gold**, with no increases in our spray program prices. Also, we have incorporated our own custom manufactured granular lawn foods, **Turf Shield 9-0-3** and **Vibrant Plus 11-1-5**, into some exciting new programs, with substantial price reductions on our granular treatments. All the new products and programs are described later in this newsletter. **LOOK INSIDE TO FIND MONEY-SAVING COUPONS FOR THE 2002 SEASON!!!**

## Turf Tips

If we have learned anything, we have learned that there is a natural alternative for every pesticide. For example:

- About a half teaspoon of salt poured over the tap root of dandelions will kill it in about 5 – 7 days...
- Along with a variety of other natural products available to replace the non-selective herbicide Roundup®, vinegar and lemon juice work rather well also... Watch out, though, this will kill grass too!!
- Diatomaceous Earth (readily available) is a very effective insecticide...
- Proper mowing, watering and fertilizing practices are more effective against lawn diseases than fungicide.

*You know, sometimes natural products and practices take a little longer to work than their toxic chemical counterpart, but is immediate results really worth the long term cost to your children, your pets and the environment?*

**Snow Mold** - Last spring when the snow finally melted many of us found our lawns had areas where the grass looked sort of matted down and glued together. This was caused by snow mold disease, which requires 1 to 2 months of continuous snow cover. Normally, this does not cause much problem going into the growing season. However, should this occur again, you'll need to rake these areas out as soon as possible in the spring to get air down to the soil. Not a hard raking, just kind of "comb" your lawn to get the grass standing up. Your lawn will recover quickly, and it's a sure cure for spring fever!

## Let's Make Michiana Pesticide Free!

**June 28<sup>th</sup>** – **The Supreme Court of Canada** banned aesthetic pesticide use in Hudson Quebec. Much of Canada has strict laws governing pesticide use. In addition to the long term affects of chemically synthesized pesticides on your children, pets and the environment, extensive use of these materials is the beginning of a vicious cycle of chemical dependency that actually leads to a weakening of the health of your lawn and landscape, unnecessary increase in the use of these dangerous chemicals, and an increase in susceptibility to disease and weed problems. A strange result, huh?

Help Michiana kick the habit - LET'S MAKE MICHIANA PESTICIDE FREE!  
Please feel free to use, copy, and distribute the coupons on the next page to everyone you know!

\* Refer a friend and get a free gift! (Please make sure they give us your name) Remember, what your neighbor puts on his lawn could be coming out your faucet!



## Pesticide News You Need to Know...

**Statistics cited by the EPA** on children and pesticides are frightening. Research has found that children develop cancer 3 to 9 times more often when pesticides are used around their homes. Other cancers, including brain tumors (up 53% between 1973 and 1995 in children under 5), also have been linked to exposures to insecticides. Scientist Charles Timchalk of Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland is focusing on Organophosphates, a commonly used class of insecticides [A common organophosphate is Diazanone]. They work by targeting and disrupting the central nervous system of insects. "The human nervous system is not much different than insects," Timchalk said, "We have the same target." Children's bodies are still developing and immature systems may not handle toxins as effectively as adult systems. The EPA fears that the greater sensitivity of children could translate to problems with brain or other nervous system development in humans.

Scientists Research Effects of Pesticides in the Tri-City Herald (Kennewick, Pasco and Richland, WA)  
by Annette Cary, Herald staff writer

**Evidence suggests an "environmental causation"** for Diabetes, Parkinson's Disease (PD), neurodevelopmental effects and hypothyroidism, and deficits in intelligence quotient (IQ).

Abstract - Environ Health Perspect 109 (suppl 6):885-903 (2001) by Tom Muir and Mike Zegarac

**Chronic Fatigue Syndrome** could be caused by common chemicals like head lice treatments and insect repellants. Rats exposed to insect repellent and an insecticide suffered brain cell death "consistent with muscle weakness, joint pain and problems with the central nervous system."

Professor Abou-Donia, Duke University Medical Center  
For more information: <http://www.eurekalert.org>

**The risk of Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma** was statistically significantly increased by exposure to phenoxyherbicides, dicamba [commonly in use by many lawn care companies], organophosphorus insecticides and 2,4-D.

Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers, Prev 2001 Nov; 10(11): 1155 - 63

"Pesticides (when used as directed) - KILL!"  
Steve Tvedten

**Child's Play Organic Lawns**

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