

January, 2005

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Child's Play ORGANIC Lawns



"LAWN CARE YOU CAN LIVE WITH"

What's New??

WOW! Check out the new services we are offering! • Child's Play is now offering a duck/goose repellent treatment service. This treatment uses a very benign product called **Flight Control Plus®**, and works by repelling geese two ways: The product causes geese to have an upset stomach when they eat the treated grass, and the product gives off a glow only visible to ducks and geese to remind them of their upset tummy, and to stay away.



We are now able to control creeping charlie quite successfully (see photo to the right). This weed is a member of the mint family, and is easily recognized by its round leaf (about ½" to 1" diameter) that has a "toothed" edge on it. The weed is very invasive, typically has a small, light blue flower in the spring, and spreads by shooting runners across your yard. Please call us for details.



Turf Tips

- ☑ The best way to fight weeds is a thick, healthy stand of turf. If you plan to overseed (sowing seed over an existing lawn), doing so in the fall will give you the best results. Fall brings less competition from weeds, along with gentler rains and cooler weather. Spring overseeding can be done if necessary, but the new grass will have a shallower root system when summer arrives, and some of it may die from heat and drought stress.
- ☑ The following is the list of plants that are poisonous to rabbits. Arrow grass, azalea, carnations, clematis, english ivy, foxglove, ground ivy (creeping charlie), hydrangea, lady slippers, morning glory, queen anns lace, rhubarb, snow on the mountain, and sweet williams. This is not a complete list by any means. There are several sites online that list the plants with pictures and information. They would be great borders for any plant or veggie garden.
- ☑ **From Trudy in our office:** A great tip for getting rid of ants is to use dry instant grits (or other very small granular instant cereal) Sprinkle the grits around the ant mound. The ants will take it back to the nest and eat it. Then, as they drink water the grits will expand, and poof, the ant is no more. I killed off three ant nests last summer using this method.
- ☑ There are a number of plants, outside and indoor, that are poisonous to dogs. Such as: daffodils, day lilies, gladiolas, hyacinths, lily of the valley. Also, cocoa bean mulch is great for your flower beds. It is biodegradable and beneficial to our landscaping. But, it has been found that dogs will eat it, and it will cause a variety of problems for our "best friends". The reactions will vary from vomiting, tremors, tachycardia (affected heart rate and rhythm) hyperactivity and diarrhea. Of course, the amount of effect from the ingestion depends on the size of the dog. The complete list of plants and more information about the cocoa bean mulch, can be found at www.aspca.org.
- ☑ Have you had trouble growing healthy turf in certain areas of your lawn? Does it just seem like no matter what you do, the grass doesn't look right? A laboratory soil analysis is the best way to determine if the soil chemistry is out of balance (like low pH, high sodium or a nutrient deficiency), and if it is, what to do to get it back in balance. Call us for more information.

Our website has a whole new look!

Check out our "new" website: www.childsplayorganiclawns.com! You'll find a fresh new look, cool links, complete descriptions of all our products and services, AND a schedule of applications for our various fertilizing programs and services. Give us a call and let us know what you think, and any suggestions.



Help Michiana kick the habit – LET'S MAKE MICHIANA PESTICIDE FREE!
Please feel free to use, copy, and distribute this newsletter to all your friends and neighbors!
Remember, what your neighbor puts on his lawn could be coming out your faucet!

Pesticide News You Need to Know...



The following are some brief summaries of recent articles of interest to those concerned about pesticides.

December 8, 2004 - Common pesticides may be cause of frog deaths

- New research indicates that frequently used pesticides, including types that were once thought to be relatively benign, make be linked to the widespread disappearance of California frog populations. A researcher at California State University, Sacramento has found evidence that frog declines are associated with upwind pesticide use. Sacramento State environmental studies professor Carlos Davidson says there is a strong association between upwind pesticide use and declines in four frog species: the red-legged frog, the mountain yellow-legged frog, the foothill yellow-legged frog and the Cascades frog. And the declines were most strongly associated with the use of cholinesterase-inhibiting pesticides, which include many of today's most heavily used pesticides [such as Diazanon]. Davidson's findings appear in the December issue of the *Journal of Ecological Applications*.

NC Christmas Tree Farms Show Overall Decrease in Pesticide Use

(Beyond Pesticides, December 8, 2004) While there is a trend towards less pesticide use in North Carolina's Christmas tree farms (NC is a top Christmas tree producing state), nearly every tree grown in the state is still treated with one pesticide or another. According to North Carolina State University's Mountain Horticultural Research and Extension Center, glyphosate [i.e. Roundup] was the pesticide applied most commonly, having been applied to at 94.9 percent of all trees in 2000. Symptoms following exposure to glyphosate formulations include swollen eyes, face and joints; facial numbness; burning and/or itching skin; blisters; rapid heart rate; elevated blood pressure; chest pains, congestion; coughing; headache; and nausea. A 1999 study, A Case-Control Study of Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma and Exposure to Pesticides, (American Cancer Society, 1999), found that people exposed to glyphosate are 2.7 times more likely to contract non-Hodgkin Lymphoma. **But all hope is not lost.** Organic Christmas trees are available. The Agricultural Resources Center and Pesticide Education Project in Raleigh, NC has compiled a list of organic and sustainable tree producers in North Carolina and Tennessee, including Nature's Own Farm of Marshall, NC, which ships pesticide-free Fraser Fir Christmas trees around the country. This year, protect your family's health and the environment and buy an organic Christmas tree.

Pesticide link to Parkinson's grows stronger

Tests show that exposure to low levels of a pesticide, Rotenone, may increase the risks of getting Parkinson's disease, says a team led by Timothy Greenamyre of Emory Uni, Atlanta. They found neurodegeneration of the systems that can lead to Parkinson's Disease.

New Scientist, 06/11/04 <http://www.newscientist.com/news/news.jsp?id=ns9999129>

Referral Program

For each new customer you refer to us who buys a lawn service program or a season's worth of lawn treatment products, you will receive a 10% discount on your program this year, or apply it to next year if you wish. So, lets see...10%, carry the one...hey, 10 referrals that turn into customers – your program is **FREE!**

WARNING:

You can't trust warning labels!
<http://www.concernedmoms.com/>
The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) analyzed 2983 chemicals used in personal care products. The results were as follows:

- 884 of the chemicals were toxic
- 314 caused biological mutation
- 218 caused reproductive complications
- 778 caused acute toxicity
- 148 caused tumors
- 376 caused skin and eye irritations

Check out our web site for great tips, scheduling information and cool links!
www.childsplayorganiclawns.com

Child's Play Organic Lawns

(574) 289-0680

Programs & Services

Child's Play Organic Lawns has a variety of lawn treatment programs and services designed to enhance the beauty of your lawn and target specific problems you may be encountering. Child's Play has developed a line of services designed to meet every customer's lawn treatment goals and budgets. **All of our lawn care programs and products have been carefully designed to build soil life and health, which in turn creates healthier, more attractive lawns. Remember – as always, you receive a 10% discount for pre-season payment on treatment programs!!**

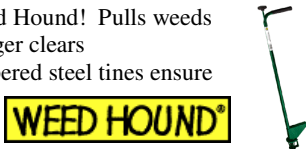
Program	Description	Payments as low as:
Worry Free	A top quality lawn treatment and management program for those desiring a perfect lawn. This comprehensive program incorporates two treatments of our Turf Shield 9-1-3 , two treatments of Liquid Gold , two treatments of granular Vibrant Plus 10-2-5 , and an aeration.	\$53! (7 pmts) for up to 4000 sq.ft.
Premium Combo	Combine the weed stopping power of our granular Turf Shield 9-1-3 , our improved Vibrant Plus 10-2-5 , and our Liquid Gold to see your lawn healthier and more beautiful than ever! Program consists of two granular treatments and four treatments of Liquid Gold .	\$52! (6 pmts) for up to 4000 sq.ft.
Premium Granular	The best of all worlds at an affordable price! Weed prevention, long lasting benefits of our slow release granular products, and iron supplement! Program consists of two granular treatments of our Turf Shield 9-1-3 , and two treatments of granular Vibrant Plus 10-2-5 .	\$62! (4 pmts) for up to 4000 sq.ft.
Silver Combo	Our standard program. A balanced feeding designed to provide substantial weed control and a long lasting deep green. Program consists of two granular treatments, and two treatments of Liquid Gold .	\$52! (4 pmts) for up to 4000 sq.ft.
Individual Granular	Each granular treatment designed to provide a full feeding for your lawn that will last up to three months!	\$66! for up to 4000 sq.ft.
Individual Liquid Gold	Using our own Liquid Gold spray lawn food. Treatment provides a complete, balanced feeding for your lawn using wholesome food-grade ingredients, at an economical price.	\$49! for up to 5000 sq.ft.

~Other Services~

Over seeding	Let Child's Play thicken up your lawn by overseeding, timed perfectly with your treatment program, using high quality, disease resistant premium grass seed, specifically designed for your growing conditions. Remember to notify us if you overseed. Using the Turf Shield 9-1-3 on a newly seeded lawn will prevent satisfactory germination of the seed.	\$60! for up to 4000 sq. ft.
Aeration	Aerating your lawn will loosen compacted soil and allow air, nutrients, and water down to the roots. Ideal for preparing your lawn for over-seeding, and for maintaining turf health.	\$50! per 5,000 sq. ft
Power Rake	Power raking your lawn will mechanically remove thatch that has built up in your lawn, which promotes disease and weak grass roots. Best if performed in the early spring.	\$63! per 5,000 sq. ft.
Lime Treatment	A neutral pH is important for turf grass' ability to extract and utilize important minerals and nutrients from the soil. Symptoms of low pH are a sickly yellow or washed out green color, moss growth or very thin grass stand under trees. Liquid Lime also available at lower prices.	\$54! For up to 5,000 sq.ft.
Natural Fungus Management	Organic treatments using only products approved for organic farming. These programs consist of a consultation, and usually three treatments spaced 7 – 10 days apart. Treat in mid to late spring to prevent summer and fall damage. Can also treat once symptoms occur to prevent spread of fungus. Effective against Dollar Spot, Rust, Red Thread diseases & others.	\$54! per treatment For up to 5,000 sq.ft.
Grub Treatment	Grubs and many other larvae don't stand a chance against Child's Play Organic Lawns natural treatment using parasitic nematodes. Nematodes are a living micro-organism, like little heat-seeking missiles, killing grubs all season long. Best to treat May through September when the soil temperatures are above 60°F.	\$76! For up to 5,000 sq.ft.
Soil Analysis	Child's Play has partnered with a certified soil testing lab to provide a comprehensive analysis of your lawn's soil. The analyses are in color, easy to read format, and provide information about the levels of vital nutrients and trace minerals in your soil based on industry standards. The results also tell us exactly what needs done, if anything, to balance the soil to provide the ideal growing environment for your grass. Other tests are available to meet your specific needs.	\$39.95!
Weeding	Manual weeding for lawns and beds using a variety of techniques and tools. This is a great way to get a jump start for weedy lawns, and maintaining those beds in pristine beauty. Prices based on time and materials.	<i>Call for prices</i>

Products

The following table describes our current offering of products used in our programs, or for sale directly to customers for their own use. Because of the rising cost of fuel, we are now going to be charging a nominal fee for delivery of products. [If you don't see what you are looking for here, just give us a call – WE CAN GET IT!](#)

Products	Description	Sale Price
Turf Shield 9-1-3	Turf Shield 9-1-3 contains the ingredient 'corn gluten meal' which is edible and an EPA exempt organic weed control. The combined action of the fertilizer and the weed control will stop new weeds from germinating and reproducing up to a 60% success rate for the first use and a 95% success rate if used over a three-year time period (study by Iowa State University). Turf Shield 9-1-3 produces a long lasting beautiful color, and controls weeds without the harmful side effects of dangerous pesticides. This product works best if applied in March or April, prior to the weed germination and then again in late August/early September to suppress fall germinating weeds. Wholesale prices available in quantities over 1 ton.	50 lb bags 1 - \$31.95 2 - 4 \$29.95 ea. 5 + \$27.95 ea. Coverage: 2500 – 5000 sq.ft.
Vibrant Plus 10-2-5	Newly formulated granular fertilizer plus iron , manufactured exclusively for Child's Play, containing all food-grade ingredients. Vibrant Plus 10-2-5 provides a complete and balanced meal for your lawn, producing a long lasting lush, deep green turf your neighbors will admire! Wholesale prices available in quantities over 1 ton.	50 lb bags 1 – 5 \$29.95 ea. 5 + \$27.95 ea. Coverage: 5000 sq.ft.
Liquid Gold	This product is the core of our liquid spray program. Liquid Gold is comprised of a blend of wonderful natural products, including Sugar Beet Molasses, Humate, Kelp and other food grade ingredients. A regular program using Liquid Gold provides a fast and long lasting deep green color, and a complete, balanced diet for turf to stay healthy, thick and disease resistant.	Used Only in our Lawn Treatment Programs
Permaguard® Natural Insecticide	Permaguard® , a natural insecticide dust, is derived from Diatomaceous Earth and Pyrethrins (natural extract of Chrysanthemums), and is very effective against ants, crickets, aphids, spiders, fleas and a variety of other common insects. Use Permaguard® inside your home around baseboards, under appliances, around the outside of your home, on your flowers and vegetables, on your lawn, and even on your pets to control fleas! Puffer tubes also available for higher use applications.	\$12.95 for 5 oz. Puffer bottle \$12.95 for 1 lb. Refill bag (+s/h)
Permaguard® Fossil Shell Flour	Pure food-grade Diatomaceous Earth. Dr. Phillip Schaible, at Michigan State University, regarding adding Diatomaceous Earth to livestock feed: "Contains 15 trace minerals important to animal diets, DE mixes well with all feeds while guarding against insect damage. Prevents worms and keeps virus epidemics from developing. Saves albumen, destroys harmful acids, safeguards the stomach. Improves health and growth of young animals. Causes better digestion, allowing animals to absorb a higher percentage of protein from its regular diet." Call for livestock feed rates, and discount prices on higher quantities.	1 lb bag - \$7.00 5 lb bag - \$15.00 10 lb bag - \$20.00 50 lb bag - \$30.00 (+ s/h)
Aggrene® Natural Flower & Garden Products	Natural Liquid Fertilizer 4-3-3, Natural Kelp & Sulfate of Potash 0-8-0, Liquid Bonemeal 0-0-12, and Natural Liquid Lime We have wonderful liquid fertilizers and nutrients, ideal for flower and vegetable gardens, bulb transplants, lawns and ornamentals. Designed for easy application with it's own built in hose-end sprayer. These products will produce amazing increases in fruit and vegetable production, and significantly increases drought resistance. Kelp acts as a "natural sponge" to retain soil moisture and nutrient availability to plants.	\$9.95 per quart (+s/h)
Premium Grass Seed	We have had fantastic results in our overseeding service with this line of premium grass seeds, and we are now making this available for sale directly to customers. A variety of blends are available for both sunny and shady lawns. Just give us a call!	\$2.75/lb for most varieties (+s/h)
Granular Gypsum and Lime	Gypsum is a naturally occurring mineral that has been used for years for binding sandy soils, loosening clay soils, removing sodium, and providing calcium to lawns. Lime is very effective in reducing the acidity levels of soils, and for providing calcium to lawns. We can have an analysis performed on a soil sample from your lawn, which will tell us exactly how much, if any, gypsum and/or lime you need to maintain your turf in top notch condition.	\$8.00 - 40 lb bag (+s/h)
The Weed Hound®	Those pesky dandelions don't stand a chance against The Weed Hound! Pulls weeds out quickly, root and all, with very little effort. A unique plunger clears weeds after pulling, and its durable steel construction and tempered steel tines ensure years of satisfaction. 	\$20.95 (+s/h)

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