

May 19, 2012

Shrubs:

- Azalea leaves that are speckled, look like they have been sprinkled with pepper and salt, may be infested with lace flies. To check for lace flies, turn over the azalea leaves, and if black specks under the leaves are present, then lace flies are likely presents. Irradiate lace flies by applying [Bonide Systemic Insect Control](#). Prevent lace flies by applying [Bonide Annual Tree and Shrub Insect Control](#).
- After your newly planted rhododendrons are finished blooming, remove the spent flowers as soon as possible to prevent phytophthora fungus. When the new growth of your newly planted rhododendron is 4-6" tall, remove the new shoots; your rhododendron will make new growth soon thereafter. Between removing the shoots and the second new growth, the plant's energy will be directed at growing a stronger root system. With the stronger roots, your plant will be more resistant to phytophthora fungus, which kills many newly planted rhododendrons. Always use *Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss* when planting rhododendrons and water with [Kick Start](#) when planting. Reapply the Kick Start every 2 weeks for a total of 4 applications. Then feed with [Plant Trust](#) 3-4 weeks after planting. Rhododendron Roseum Elegans and its hybrids are the most resistant rhododendron to phytophthora.

Lawn

- Keep mowing your [RTF Tall Fescue](#) at 3.5-4". This is the same height that it should have been mowed during the spring. Be sure to keep the mower blade sharp. There have been calls regarding brown patches in lawns. The most common cause for this is fungus. Fungus will occur because lawns were not mowed for 10-14 days and the grass had remained wet from rain. Be sure to mow at least once a week. Do not rely on lawn fungicides to treat your lawn for the brown spots because the fungicide will kill both good and bad fungi. The good fungi is needed because they prey on brown patch and dollar spot fungus. To treat, make a half application of [Turf Trust](#) now, and within a few weeks the brown spots will go away. The C.D.U. and ammonium sulfate will naturally help eradicate the dollar spot and brown patch fungus. However, if your lawn was over seeded last fall and too much seed was used per square foot, then the brown patches cannot repair themselves, and these areas will need to be reseeded with less seed in the fall.
- Never water your lawn in the evening during the summer.
- Do not forget to make the monthly [Kick Start](#) application if you made a phosphate free lawn fertilizer application or if your grass was sown last fall.
- *Kick Start* naturally helps phosphate become available and makes fertilizer more efficient. Go to [Kickstart video](#) to see how kick start has improved grass root systems.
- Reminder, [Green Light Grub Control with Arena](#) should be applied now for a bug free lawn this summer; it will even control most white grubs.

Perennials

- Black eyed susan perennial plants turning black likely have botrytis. To treat this, apply [Mancozeb](#). Make sure your black eyed susan is well fed with [Plant Trust Flower & Bulb](#) which will help prevent botrytis.