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*We pride ourselves on professional and timely service!*

## Lawn Care Spotlight: Dandelions

As the grass begins to green up in the spring and early summer, the vibrant yellow of a dandelion begins to take shape. Dandelions can be one the biggest problems your lawn can face during the season. They are actually classified as a perennial weed, which means that they come back each year. Although dandelions have many great alternative uses, they remain a pest in lawns and landscapes across Iowa. Thankfully there are ways to control the spread of dandelions in your lawn.



It is very hard to control dandelions because their seeds can travel with the wind and they also can have very long taproots. This means that even if your lawn is free, they can still blow in from neighbors or vacant lots / fields nearby. They need to be sprayed for with a broadleaf weed control product or pulled (making sure to get the entire root system)

from your lawn. Do not let the yellow flowers turn to puffy seed heads. This is when they are most susceptible to re-seeding in your lawn. Make sure to mow your lawn regularly so you can make sure to knock the heads off the flowers. It is also important that you don't cut you grass too short. The taller the grass is, the more sunlight it will block out from getting to the ground, where weed growth begins. Leave grass clippings on your lawn. They will act as a mulch to prevent weed seeds from germinating. The benefits of grass clipping to your lawn, under the right conditions, are numerous. Mow "high", leaving the lawn grass at a height of 2 1/2"-3". This will allow the lawn grass to "protect its own turf" better, depriving weeds of the light they need. Don't let bare spots remain uncovered for long, else you're just inviting the invasion of opportunistic weeds. In the fall, fill in those bare spots by overseeding your lawn. Through proper control and prevention practices, your lawn can be weed and dandelion free.

### Special points of interest:

- RAKE OUT PERENNIAL BEDS, REMOVING DEAD LEAVES AND STEMS WHICH MAY HARBOR INSECT EGGS AND DISEASES
- AERATE / OVERSEED LAWNS EARLY IN MONTH AS NEEDED. DO NOT USE PRE-EMERGENT IF SEED IS PUT DOWN IN SPRING
- PRUNE LATE SUMMER AND FALL BLOOMING SHRUBS
- COMPLETE SPRING CLEAN UP OF LANDSCAPE BEDS. REMOVE ALL LEAVES, STICKS, AND DEBRIS
- BEGIN MONITORING LANDSCAPES AND TURF AREAS FOR UNWANTED PESTS

## Sharp-N-Lube Mobile Mower Service

Make sure that your mower is up and running great this spring. Let A+ Lawn and Landscape help you get one thing checked off your to-do list and offer you our Sharp-N-Lube Mobile Mower Service. Our technician will come out to your house and perform a 12-point Service Inspection on your lawn mower. This service is available for all types from walk-behind to riding lawn mowers. This service includes but is not limited to: change engine oil, sharpen and straighten blades, check belts, and clean the air filter just to name a few all included at one low price. Call the office today to get yours scheduled!!

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