



**Special points of interest:**

- Continue to plant perennials, trees, and shrubs
- Prune spring flowering shrubs and lilacs if not already done
- Watch for disease activity in turf as well as plant material
- For a second crop of blooms, cut back perennials which have already flowered
- Regular mowing reduces weeds and is one of the best ways to keep a healthy lawn
- Call to schedule a summer check for your irrigation system to make sure everything is working properly before the summer heat gets here

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## Lawn Care Spotlight: Grubs

Japanese Beetles (white grubs) may be one of the most damaging turf pests in the United States. According to the USDA, Japanese Beetle Grubs alone cause an estimated \$234 million in damage each year. The adult beetles are attracted to turf areas where soil is moist which means lawns getting watered during hot spells are most susceptible. Grubs burrow down in the soil to lay their eggs. This cycle occurs in early to mid-summer and is repeated until each female lays about 40-60 eggs. Once hatched, the grubs will begin to feed on the roots of the turf plants. They are most destructive in late summer, but the damage they cause may not show up until early fall and



by that time it is too late. The best time to control grubs is in early to mid-summer, just after they hatch. At this time they are very susceptible to treatment and just before they start causing damage to your lawn. Grubs will not go away on their own, they need to be treated. We also recommend a preventative treatment be done each year. The key is early detection before damage has occurred.

## Mowing Tips

- Don't cut the grass too short.
- Don't remove more than 1/3 of the leaf blade at one mowing. If the grass gets too tall, you may need to mow it twice, cutting a small portion off each time.
- Avoid mowing when the grass is wet.
- Mow in a different direction with each mowing. This will ensure a more even cut.
- It's ok to leave clipping behind. Contrary to popular opinion, grass clippings do not add to thatch buildup. They are composed of 75% water and will decompose quickly adding nutrients back into the soil.
- Always keep your mower blades sharp. This means having to sharpen them several times during the mowing season.

**We are a locally owned and operated company that has been serving the Des Moines and surrounding areas for over 20 years!**