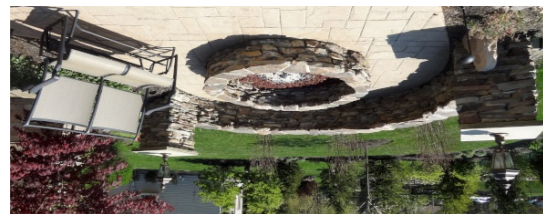


Water Features

Brian Franko, Construction Supervisor

Everybody loves a good water feature. With a call to H&M we can get you up and running in no time. Everything from the smallest of pond-less water features to your grand waterfalls with a pond, we here at H&M can take care of all of that for you. With a thorough cleaning of the feature and an overall inspection of the area, we proceed to look for any leaks or problems that might prevent your feature from running smoothly all season long. We also have many solutions and advice for all your water feature issues or needs. Everything from chemical treatments to aquatic plants and fish life advice to complete pump replacements and pond rebuilds. Tired of having to refill your water feature every week or so? Utilizing your existing lawn irrigation system, H&M can add an autofill that will automatically ‘top off’ your water feature on a set schedule throughout the week. This will eliminate having to worry if your pond will run dry and burn out your costly pump.

If you do not have a water feature and are considering one, give us a call we can design one for you!



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Seasonal Newsletter

Summer 2020

NEWSLETTER H&M LANDSCAPING



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A Letter From The President

When I first started this journey, like most, I felt it was my responsibility to take care of my people. The simple things such as washing your hands frequently. Staying 6 feet apart. Separating team members while in our vehicles. Supplying hand sanitizer, face masks, proper PPE equipment so they were able to do their job. This all became the new normal. Well, as with any journey, we learn a considerable amount as we travel along the uncharted path. I found that the most important thing to remember is to have compassion for people. Not only was it my job to keep my employees and team members safe but it was also my job to understand all the trials and tribulations my team was experiencing on a personal level (i.e., their children not going to school, spouses losing their jobs or being laid off, the anxiety of not knowing what this virus was, and, of course, the mental effects this had on my team). That is why, as a company, we adopted a “people before profits” mentality. Now do not get me wrong it is still my fiduciary responsibility to run the company, but my people and my clients had to come first. If that meant sacrificing profits to make sure the two most valuable resources of my company were safe, then that had to be my number one priority. Without clients I do not have a company and without employees I cannot service those clients. If you are reading this letter that means you are one of the most valuable resources of H&M and for that I cannot thank you enough. Stay safe and stay well. This too shall pass, and we will all be stronger because of it.

Mark Mazzurco, President

Sod Webworm

Krystal Lear, Editor/Newsletter Designer

There are several species of caterpillars called sod webworms that can be highly destructive pests of Ohio home lawns. Damage to grass is caused by the feeding of the larval or “worm” stage. The adult moth does not cause damage to turf, other plants or clothing.

The damage shows up as small dead patches of grass among the normally growing grass. The summer generation may cause general turf thinning or even irregular dead patches in mid-July into early August. Sod webworms prefer sunny areas and the larvae are often found on south facing, steep slopes and banks, where it is hot and dry. Heavily shaded turf is seldom attacked by the larvae.

The most severe damage usually shows up in mid July and August when the temperature is hot and the grass is not growing vigorously. In fact, most sod webworm damage is mistaken for heat and drought stress. Sod webworm-damaged lawns may recover with light fertilization and an application of an insecticide.

Turf grass Attacked

Sod webworms appear to feed on all the common turf grass used in Ohio. However, common Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass and fine fescues are the ones showing damage the most.

Recognizing Sod Webworm Injury

The sod webworm caterpillars live in tunnels constructed in turf thatch or extending to the soil under the turf. These tunnels are silk lined and the webbing joins soil particles and leaves together. The larvae emerge from these burrows to chew grass blades off just above the thatch line, usually at night.

In thick, green turf, injury appears as small brown patches about the size of a quarter to three inches in diameter. When many larvae are present in mid-summer, the small brown patches run together and form large irregular, thin and brown areas.

The surest way to tell if you have sod webworms is to find a suspected area of infestation (brown patches). Get down on your hands and knees, take your two index fingers and part the grass blades in the area between dead and live grass and look for an area with small green pellets. The pellets, called frass, are the excrement of the larvae and indicate that a larva is close by.

The adult moths fly mainly in late June and again in July. Seeing these moths fly up while mowing or walking around the lawn does not confirm that damage is, or will be done by the larvae. The adult moths can fly considerable distances and may be coming from other infested areas.

Controls

The best way to control sod webworm and if your lawn had a past history of insect problems would be to apply a preventive insect application to your lawn in early July. Most webworms are easily controlled if the pesticides are ingested when the larvae feeding. I would recommend a preventive application to your lawn if you want to make sure your lawn insect free.

Please don't hesitate to call H&M Landscaping for any lawn problems or questions that you might have about your lawn.

The Cattle and the Prod

Chris White, Executive Vice President

Recently, I came across a quote from Winston Churchill that said “I am certainly not one of those who need to be prodded. In fact, if anything, I am the prod.” After contemplating the obvious visual of a cow and an electrical prod, I started thinking about whether I am the cattle or the prod.

I AM THE COW. My thoughts turned to mentors that I've had. My boss, my family, my peers. At times, they've been the catalyst for the successes that have come my way. They have been the driver to a destination; or the slap in the face; or the subtle encouragement that helped me push just a little more for success. The cow doesn't always see it from the prod's perspective. The prod is not evil, the prod is just there to get things moving along, maybe take a new direction, or sometimes stop the wrong choice.

I AM THE PROD. From my dealings as a cow, I decide that sometimes I am better at being the prod. I've given back to bosses, peers. And being a parent, I've definitely done some prodding of the young calves (hopefully my two beautiful daughters don't read this and realize I just called them cows... trust me, they're not). It's actually harder to be the prod than being the cow. Being the prod involves making the right (if sometimes unpopular) decision. It's pushing people past what they think they can achieve. It's getting a little more done at the end of the day. It's not settling, it is the drive for just a little more.

Many cows don't have a prod. And there are some prods who may not have a cow. The magic happens when the two meet. It can be painful, too. Yet in the end, it's worth it. So, if you are a prod today- be sure to push, encourage, council, and challenge your cow. And if you are the cow today, listen to the wisdom, don't give up and be sure to thank the prod.

