

Mushrooms & Toadstools

Mushrooms and toadstools are the fruiting body of a fungus that is decomposing organic matter in the soil. The fungus and the organic matter are there all the time. When the correct soil temperature and moisture levels are just right, the fungus will produce mushrooms and toadstools. This process can not be prevented or altered. This important process is one of nature's way of reducing all of the organic matter in the environment. In general, mushrooms are not harmful to people or the environment, although there is one soil fungus that can damage turf. This is known as a Fairy Ring.

Mushrooms can take many forms from standard toadstools to blobs. While we can eat many mushrooms, there are many that are poisonous, even deadly. Keep your mushroom purchases to the grocery store.

Mushrooms can occur in turf areas, mulch and landscape beds.

If you are concerned about the mushrooms, simply cut them off and rake them up for disposal.

Fairy Ring: This can be a problem in many lawns. A Fairy Ring is when the growth of the fungus begins to retard the roots of the turf and can kill it. It will appear as a large irregular brown circle or partial circle. Sometimes the grass will be dead along the circular line with dark green borders. The green area is from nitrogen release due to the decomposing organic matter. Mushrooms may also appear in the green area from time to time. If this is a serious problem, the soil will have to be removed, replaced and re-seeded. This is a major undertaking. To date we have only done this once on a ring that was about 10 feet across. It was a successful repair job.