

# NEWSLETTER

Ayles Natural Landscaping Ltd. Newsletter

Summer 2015

## Weed Control

Most home owners can attest to the struggle of keeping weeds off of their lawn. These weeds to most, are very unsightly and are not welcome. Weeds are often an indication of problems in the grass plant environment and killing them without addressing the underlying problem will lead to unsatisfactory results.

### Tips for Killing Weeds

The most effective way to kill lawn weeds is to maintain a dense and vigorously growing turf cover.

**Often turf weeds can be controlled by altering the cultural practices to favor the grass plants rather than the weeds.**

These cultural controls may include; Raising or lowering the mowing height, changing the frequency of mowing, lengthening or shortening the periods between irrigations, increasing or decreasing the application of fertilizer, aerating the soil, over seeding and topdressing.

**Use of chemicals is sometimes necessary to control weeds effectively in turf.**

Unfortunately a controlled spot spray application to eradicate the weeds is just a quick fix. Once the weed is gone it is crucial to ensure the bare spot is top dressed with good quality soil and seeded. Weeds can not establish in a healthy stand of turf. Leaving the spot bare will guarantee the return of weeds.

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*“My back ground is in construction, and I was extremely satisfied with the end product provided! I would not hesitate to use Ayles services again.”*

*- Dave Wallace, Riverview, NB*

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Lawn Art

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Chinch Bugs (nymph stage)

## Dare I say the word? Winter...

Although there is still plenty of nice weather for us to enjoy before the dreaded white stuff hits, it's never too early to get a quote for snow removal services. You can sign on anytime to give yourself peace of mind knowing that you will be taken care of this upcoming winter.

After experiencing the winter we had last year, we all need to be prepared for whatever mother nature decides to throw at us this year.

Give us a call so we can get you set up on our route before this years quota fills up.

## The Hairy Chinch Bug

Chinch Bugs take up residence in the thatch layer of a lawn. They are black with a white spot on their backs between their wing pads. Adult chinch bugs are roughly 4mm in length. An immature chinch bug (the nymph) is bright red with distinctive white bands across the back. As it matures, the colouring changes to orange then brown and finally black. Nymphs do not have wings.

Chinch bugs feed by sucking the sap from the crown and stems of turf grasses, as they feed they also inject the grass with a toxic fluid that kills it. The damage caused by chinch bugs appears quickly in hot weather, it shows up as irregular yellow patches which can spread and destroy the entire lawn, if left untreated. Hot and dry are their two favorite climate conditions.

Chinch bugs like poorly tended lawns with compacted soils, a lot of thatch, and a lack of moisture. Maintaining your lawn properly will discourage infestations and improve tolerance to damage. Be sure to have your lawn aerated to reduce soil compaction, remove thick layers of thatch in the fall, do not over fertilize, water the lawn thoroughly once or twice a week when summer hits, keep soil moist to a depth of 6 - 8cm, do not cut the grass too short, and use lime when soil pH is low.

## Life Cycle

Adult chinch bugs spend the winter in a sheltered location; hedges, shrubs, garden beds or even the siding on your house. When warmer conditions occur the females leave the sheltered location and lay up to 200 eggs on grass and soil in a dry area. Within about 3 weeks the eggs hatch and produce nymphs. The nymphs pass through 5 growth stages (which are known as instar stages) before becoming adults. The 3rd instar stage is the best time to treat and kill the chinch bugs.



Winter 2015

## Words from Matt

*Q:What do you like most about working at Ayles Natural Landscaping?*

M: "It's a positive team driven workplace. Also a fast paced environment that promotes growth and continuous learning"



Matthew MacLeod

## Meet Matt MacLeod.

**Landscape Management working supervisor;  
Landscape and Turf Management**

Matt began working for Ayles Natural Landscaping in 2011 where he earned the nickname Shaggy. He stepped into a crew leader role the moment he started. As a Landscape Maintenance (LM) crew leader he was responsible for his crew, and made sure that all of his sites were gardened and mowed; tended to according to each contract.

After working with us for a couple of months, Matt became interested in becoming a Certified Horticulture Technician (CHT), that fall he took the testing and became certified. Over the years he has expanded his field of interest and started the study to become qualified in Integrated Pest Management (IPM). He just finished the testing which allowed him to become a certified applicator.

In the 2014 season he was promoted to be the Landscape Maintenance Supervisor, making him responsible for all of our LM crews and our Organic Turf Management (OTM) crew.

Matt is a jack of all trades, he is available wherever we need him. From fixing broken down equipment, setting up and repairing irrigations systems, to climbing in a leach filled pond to clean it, he does it all. Matt is a valued member of our team and we are happy to call him one of our own.



# Landscape NB Softball

This year was the first year our team at Ayles Natural Landscaping participated in the annual Landscape New Brunswick Softball tournament. Fun was had by all. Our team played Price Landscaping first. Both teams played really well and the end result we were told, was a tie game at 12-12 (we didn't keep score accurately, but rough guess we had more like 14/15 runs) the second game we went up against Lawn Rangers, I was sure to keep score this time. We creamed them 19-8. Look out 2016 tournament, Ayles Natural Landscaping will be coming back for more fun!

## It's for a great Cause

Each year money is raised for Pink Days in Bloom funding breast cancer research. It's clearly for a great cause. Thanks to everyone who donated, and who came out to watch the games.



Ayles Natural Landscaping – Building Relationships into your Landscape

## Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services and products

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## Peanut Butter & Chocolate Dessert



**Nutritional Facts:** 1 serving (1 Piece) equals 366 calories, 21g fat (11g saturated fat), 22mg cholesterol, 307mg sodium, 40g carbohydrates, 1g fiber, 5g protein

## Recipe:

### Ingredients:

20 Cream Filled chocolate sandwich cookies (Oreo's), divided  
2 Tablespoons butter, softened  
1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened  
1/2 cup peanut butter  
1-1/2 cups confectioners' sugar, divided  
1 carton (16 ounces) frozen whipped topping, thawed, divided  
15 miniature peanut butter cups, chopped  
1 cup cold milk  
1 package (3.9 ounces) instant chocolate fudge pudding mix

### Directions:

1. crush 16 cookies; toss with the butter. Press into an ungreased 9-in. square dish; set aside
2. In a large bowl, beat the cream cheese, peanut butter and 1 cup confectioners' sugar until smooth. Fold in half of the whipped topping. Spread over crust. Sprinkle with peanut butter cups.
3. in another large bowl, beat the milk, pudding mix and remaining confectioners' sugar on low speed for 2 minutes or until soft-set. Fold in remaining whipped topping.
4. spread over peanut butter cups. Crush remaining cookies; sprinkle over the top. Cover and chill for at least 3 hours.

**Yield:** 12-16 servings