

Hotline Question for April 19

Mushrooms have been coming up in my lawn lately and I am afraid my child might eat one. Is there a spray I can use to get rid of the mushrooms?





There is no fungicide product that will get rid of mushrooms in a lawn. Lawn mushrooms are the fruiting part of different kinds of fungi that live in soil and feed on (decompose) dead plant material.

Many wild mushrooms are toxic and children should be taught not to eat them. The best way to protect young children is by inspecting a lawn before they go out to play. Remove any mushrooms you find and put them in the trash, then wash your hands.



Mushrooms may grow in a new lawn if a lot of organic matter was used to amend the soil for planting. The mushrooms should decrease in a year or two as the organic matter breaks down. Old lawns with a lot of thatch (a layer of dead leaves and stems on the soil surface) may also have mushrooms at certain times of the year. It may help to remove excess thatch and periodically aerate the lawn (remove cores of soil). Mushrooms may also grow from dead tree roots in a lawn unless the roots are removed.

Pestnote reference

Refer the person to UC Pest Note “Mushrooms and Other Nuisance Fungi in Lawns” and to the Healthy Lawns info at

<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74100.html>

