



Eco-Turf Talk

PJC Organic Products & Programs

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*PJC Organic
is the manufacturer of
ProHealthy Turf Organic
Products & distributor of
soil amendments.
We provide product, and
support to landscapers,
schools & municipalities
that want to transition
from a conventional
approach to an all
natural organic turf care
program for the
maintenance of their
lawns and athletic fields.*

Practical Approach Proven Products

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In the News: Roundup Trials - Bad News for Monsanto/Bayer

In case you missed it there have been three trials charging that Bayer/Monsanto's Roundup (glyphosate) causes Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma (NHL). Two trials (Johnson and Pilliod) were tried in California District Courts and the Hardeman trial was heard in San Francisco's Federal Court. The scoreboard reads:

Plaintiffs (Johnson, Pilliod, Hardeman) - **3**
Defendants (Bayer/Monsanto) - **0**

Perhaps a better scorecard are the financial judgements:

Dwayne Johnson orig. \$289,200,000.00
Judge later reduced punitive damages award resulting in judgement of: \$78,500,000.00
Edwin Hardeman \$80,200,000.00
Alva & Alberta Pilliod \$2,055,206,173.00

Current total of outstanding judgements from the three trials: **\$2,213,906,173.00**. That's over \$2 billion dollars!

But that's not all, Bayer has lost over 44% of its value since its Monsanto merger begun in May 2016 and was finalized in June 2018 for \$62.5 billion.

While the \$2B in punitive damages awarded in the Pilliod case are likely to be reduced, analysts from Bloomberg Intelligence have raised their estimate of a settlement value to as much as \$10 billion, up from a peak of \$6 billion for the tens of thousand cases yet to be heard. Bayer/Monsanto continue to say the will not settle these cases without continuing to go to trial; even though Judge Chhabria, the federal judge in the Hardeman case, has advised them to re-think their legal strategy.

Sources: Wall Street Journal, Forbes
Plaintiff Attorneys' website:
<https://www.baumhedlundlaw.com/toxic-tort-law/monsanto-roundup-lawsuit/>

Other News:

Maryland appeals court upholds pesticide ban

May 3, 2019 [\[read more\]](#)

Harrell's discontinues glyphosate products.

Insurance company no longer willing to provide coverage for claims related to glyphosate due to the recent high-profile lawsuit and the many thousands of lawsuits since.

March 14, 2019 [\[read more\]](#)

Was that Spring ?

Last year the season started late and this year looks to be behind where we were last year. While average air temperature was 6° higher this April compared to last, according to UMASS May 15th Landscape Message recorded soil temps of 49°F in the sun, which is 5° colder than it was this time last year. Grass seed needs soil temps at 55°F to germinate.

The most likely cause for cold soil temps is this year's high moisture content.

It is safe to say that many of the same stresses our lawns suffered last spring are in place this season. The lawns will be nutritionally challenged; many may show decreased turf density, if you seed sliced the

(continued)

Weed Spotlight: Clover

Get ready ... last year we saw a fair bit of clover and this year appears that it will be no different. Clover is more likely to establish itself during a cool, wet spring when soil temperatures remain in the low 50s. Certainly, these are the conditions we have experienced thus far. It does well when there is *not* a lot of available nitrogen in the soil and when turfgrass is thin

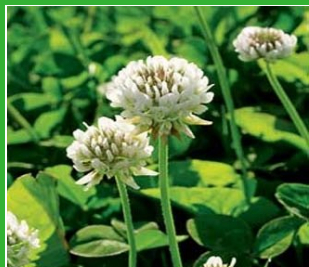
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	Rain	Snow
March 2018	5.07"	23.3"
April 2018	4.62"	1.3"
March 2019	2.95"	13.5"
April 2019	6.52"	

Source: NOAA Station Boston, MA



All Natural Fertilizer
 +
 Soil Amendments
 +
 Cultural Practices
 =
 Healthy Turf



Shamrock
 Meadow Flower
 Trifolium
 Clover

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 Providers of premium
 organic fertilizers
 & soil amendments.
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Was that spring? - continued

new seed likely has not germinated.

So, what to do? Where possible continue to seed slice thin lawns with Tri-Rye seed now. The difference in germination time between perennial rye and a fescue could make the difference in a thicker stand of turf that thwarts summer weeds and one that does not.

If unable to over seed, expect increased weed pressure on thin lawns going into the summer and be prepared to communicate this expectation to your clients with a plan to over seed in the fall.

Spring fertilizer should already have gone down with a second application by the end of June.

Other Tips:

- ✓ Soil Test to determine soil amendment needs for the season (i.e. lime, organic matter, CEC etc.). Apply as soon as practical in the season; lime can take up to 6 months to have an effect.
- ✓ Refrain from aggressive raking which will further damage new grass growth, removes organic matter & thins turf.
- ✓ Bare soil is the first place weeds will take hold. Repair with Perennial Rye.
- ✓ Mow at 2 ½ for the first couple of cuts to push lateral growth raising height of cut to 3 ½" during the season.
- ✓ If you have an irrigation system check for damage over the winter. Replace any heads that may have been broken.
- ✓ Check your watering schedule. With all this rain you should not have to run your irrigation system except if over seeding. Save Water! 💧

Soil Testing



Take any course on organic lawn care, view an article on the internet or read a book, the first thing you are told to do is take a soil test. So you dutifully take a soil sample, send it off to a lab; get the results back – **then what?** If it's not Greek to you, it may be to your clients.

PJC Organic can provide you with soil sampling supplies, the report and product recommendations in easy to understand format.

Contact us to learn more!

Spotlight – continued

Clover will germinate in soil temperatures as low as 45° while cool season grass seed needs soil temps between 60° - 65°. The optimum growth temperatures for turfgrass shoots is 60° - 75°, and roots 50° - 65°.

It should be recognized that clover is a beneficial plant. Clover is a legume that can fix free nitrogen from the atmosphere and share it with turfgrass.

Some things that you can do:

- **Increase Turf Coverage** through more vigorous over-seeding program
- **Fertility** review your fertility program and increase delivery of nitrogen. Target #N in residential lawns is 3#N/season. High end lawns & athletic fields #4N/season.
- **Lime** to maintain pH of 6.5 to 7.0 which is critical to desired soil biology and fertilizer effectiveness.
- **Organic Matter** focus on improving levels of OM to help buffer soil conditions. Higher height of cut, deeper roots, add to OM
- **Aerate** heavily compacted soil causes stunted roots – aerate in the fall, it should only be done in the spring if absolutely necessary 💧

New Products Now available from PJC Organic

Coast of Maine



Crab

Squid

Kelp

Green Gobbler 30% & 20% Vinegar Non-Selective Weed Control



Certified For Organic Use



Derived Naturally From Corn



Biodegradable & Non-Toxic



Safer Alternative to Harmful Chemicals

Practical Approach ~ Proven Products