

The Earthworm



February 2015

The Windsor Garden Club

President: Laura Jary Vice President: Cindy Daniels
Director (Past President): Erin Bourdon Treasurer: Jim Bennett
Recording Secretary: Laurie Durant Corresponding Secretary: Wendy Mitchell
Earthworm Editor: Lois Kelly

President's Message

"You make a living by what you get; you make a life by what you give.

~ Winston Churchill

Hello There!

Well, Mother Nature is giving us a very cold January but just think the first day of Spring will be March 20, 2015!!!

Our Executive Board of Directors just met this weekend and it looks like we have another exciting year coming our way. We have a strong membership, as Jim Bennett reports we are still SOLVENT. Our scholarship committee will be submitting information to the schools by mid-February; the Logo committee will be showcasing their design(s) and comments at our February meeting. The Garden Mart Committee has submitted their application for our usual location for Saturday, May 9th and our Garden Tour Committee is at work getting host locations this July's 2015 Tour. Our meeting schedule is confirmed for our upcoming 2015-2016 calendar and lastly our Program Committee is busy at work planning a great variety of programs and field trips.

In the meanwhile, we can look forward to our February meeting "Soup Talk" coming up on February 9th. We encourage all members to attend this meeting and possibly bring a friend who has an interest in gardening or first time gardeners to attend and bring questions.

This is one of our most favorite meetings where we discuss views and opinions and ideas, while we warm up with a variety of homemade breads (yum!), soups and other tasty treats. Please bring one of your favorites to share.

Laura

Laura Jary,
WGC President

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

1. **December 2014:** As always a good time was had by all who attended to create wreaths for local organizations. A great turn out and everyone enjoyed catching up and are looking forward to another successful year in 2015.

The Holiday Brunch was a success as always and well attended. A reservation has been made for next year's brunch which will be on December 6th at noon. Seems a long way off but the way time flies it will be here before you know it.

2. **Next Meeting:** Our next meeting on February 9th will be our "Soup Talk" and social event with questions being asked and answered. Members are asked to bring their specialties, whether it is soup, bread, salad or dessert. **For those of you bringing soup, please bring soup spoons.** Bowls, plates, napkins, cups and regular plastic ware will be available.
3. **Upcoming Field Trip:** Boston Spring Flower Show "Season of Enchantment" will be held Saturday, March 14, 2015. Cost \$74.00. Don't miss the annual kick-off to spring! Enjoy exquisite gardens, featured speakers, demo plus a fabulous marketplace with 200 plus vendors. There will be time on your own at Quincy Market. Call Friendship Tours 860-243-1630 to reserve your spot.
4. **Possible Field Trip:** It was discussed at the Board meeting that members might be interested in a field trip to Logee's in Danielson. This could be done on a Saturday in March. This will be discussed at the February meeting.
5. **Northwest Park Country Fair:** Although Fall is still far away we need to think about our baskets. The WGC will be donating three baskets with the following themes: Garden basket, Gluten free basket, Happy hour basket. It would be helpful if donations are in by the last meeting which is in May. Also at the WGC booth giving out small bulbs was suggested. Any further suggestions will be discussed at the February meeting.
6. **Website Committee:** Jim Bennett would like to have an exercise to determine monthly how often people go on to the website. This would be very helpful and would determine what issues interest people the most. Also he has added a new page based on the subject of invasive plants.
7. **Reservation Confirmations for WGC meetings September 2015 – May 2016 at LP Wilson:** The following dates have been set for the 2015 – 2016 WGC meetings: September 14, 2015 ; October 12, 2015; November 2, 2015; December 7, 2015; February 8, 2016; March 14, 2016; April 11, 2016; and May 2, 2016. The times will be 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Please note that some of these meetings will take place on the first Monday instead of the second Monday of the month.
8. **Summer months:** The WGC will need members to volunteer their

homes for our June, July and August schedule. Thanks in advance to those who volunteer.

Thanks to Laura for adding the following page regarding grubs. A problem we have all had a one time or another.

Also don't forget to bring a non perishable food item for Windsor's food pantry.

HELPFUL HINTS AND INFORMATION:

Gardening Know How - <http://www.gardeningknowhow.com>

Lawn Grubs – How To Get Rid Of Grub Worms

By Nikki Phipps (Author of The Bulb-o-licious Garden [1])

Lawn grubs live in the soil eating grass roots and leaving your yard brown and unattractive. Not only can these pests damage the lawn, but their presence also invites unwelcome wildlife that feed on lawn grubs – digging up patches of grass in search for them. The majority of grub worms come from Japanese beetles [2], which lay their eggs in midsummer in sunny areas of the lawn. Taking care of this problem is simply a matter of how to detect grub worms and when to apply grub worm treatment.

How to Detect Grub Worms

Knowing how to detect grub worms is key to treating them. Visible lawn grub damage can be seen from late summer to early fall. Look for irregular brown patches of lawn that peel away easily from the soil, like carpet. To determine the extent of infestation or which areas require treatment, dig up small sections of lawn. Typically, more than five grub worms per ¼ square foot warrants treatment and lawn grub control.

When to Apply Grub Worm Treatment

Once lawn grubs have been detected and treatment is necessary, you need to know when to apply grub worm treatment. The best time for treating grub worms is in late summer or early fall while the grub worms are still small and close to the surface.

Grub worms are less susceptible to treatment in the spring, as they are too large and no longer feeding. For this reason, insecticides are less effective. Spring rains can also make this difficult, as applications may be washed away.

When choosing insecticides for lawn grubs, it's important to consider the various types. For fall treatment, Dylox is the most effective and fast acting available. However, two products worth consideration for use early in the season, Merit and Mach-2, can be helpful for prevention. These target the pests before they lay their eggs, killing them and any hatchlings before infestation occurs. Always read and follow instructions carefully when using these types of products.

Natural Grub Treatment

For those choosing a more natural grub treatment as how to get rid of lawn worms, there are several options available. All of which are considered safe and effective. These include milky spore, neem oil, and nematodes – available at most garden centers.

- Milky spore [3] is a disease that can effectively treat lawn grubs and is environmentally safe. Spores are applied to affected lawn areas, infecting lawn grubs as they feed. Once the grubs die and decompose, additional spores are released into the soil, which helps prevent further infestations.
- Neem oil [4] is a botanical pesticide containing insecticidal properties. Neem oil works more as a repellent against Japanese beetles and lawn grubs – inhibiting egg laying, growth and feeding. Neem oil is mixed with water (as directed) and sprayed onto affected lawn areas.
- Beneficial nematodes [5] are also used as natural grub treatment. These tiny, soil-dwelling worms release bacteria into the soil that infects and kills lawn grubs. Nematodes are available in liquid form or mixed with water and sprayed onto affected areas.

Once you know how to detect grub worms and how to get rid of grub worms, you'll be better equipped to treat the problem more effectively.