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What Are Those Large Round Fungus Balls That Appeared In My Lawn Late Last Summer, And What Can I Do To Prevent Their Return?

Jerry Goodspeed

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ask A Specialist

A weekly question/answer column

What Are Those Large Round Fungus Balls That Appeared In My Lawn Late Last Summer, And What Can I Do To Prevent Their Return?

Jerry Goodspeed answers:*

Those large balls are part of a fungus that feeds on decaying material. They will normally not harm the grass, but can be unsightly.

- They are always present in the soil to a certain degree and probably did not come in from the seed. If you worked some organic material into the soil, the fungus may just be breaking it down.
- I know of no good control except to be certain to water deeply and infrequently, giving the soil a chance to dry out between waterings.
- The fungus requires water to survive and thrive and will become less of a problem if the soil is given a chance to dry out between waterings.

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* Jerry Goodspeed is Utah State University Extension Horticulturist