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## Turf vs. Trees

### Chemical Lawn Care Programs Can Have A Deadly Impact on Trees

In the October 2003 issue of "**Turf**, for Turf Care Professionals", writer Tracy Powell interviewed a number of industry professionals about the different nutritional needs and potential hazards of the un-natural relationship between your trees and your lawn.

First of all, trees were designed to grow with other trees in a forest, not as part of a beautifully manicured and often heavily chemicalized lawn program.

Secondly, we think of trees with deep root systems and assume that they receive their nutritional needs from much deeper levels than lawn grasses. That is largely untrue. The majority of tiny root hairs that draw in the nutrients needed by trees are in the top 6-12 inches of soil and are competing directly with your lawn for many of the same nutrients, including water.

As challenging as the competitive environment may be between lawn grasses and trees, a major health challenge for trees is trying to survive on the wrong kind of lawn care products.<sup>1</sup> Many commercial lawn products, including fertilizers and particularly weed killers, can be absorbed through the root-hairs, weakening the tree. This can cause stunted growth, poor color, greater susceptibility to disease and even death. According to **Turf**:

***"This intermingling of roots is touchy, as broadleaf herbicides have the potential to kill trees if picked up by the trees' roots."***<sup>2</sup>

"That is why integrated plant health care, using nature's own ingredients, is so critical", says Robert Riley, founder of Green Pro Services®, an organic-based lawn, tree, and shrub health care products manufacturing company. "Today's beautifully landscaped properties require a professional who knows both trees and lawns and the inter-relationships between the two. Just as importantly, we have three decades of experience using the right products. The GreenPRO® **Comprehensive Lawn Care Program** is based on the use of a proven, highly effective combination of organic and natural ingredients. The use of chemicals is dramatically reduced in favor of less toxic, organic products, supporting the natural processes of Nature".

*Green Pro Services® is a nationally recognized company which has specialized in the development of advanced organic plant health care products for healthier landscapes and a safer environment for over 30 years. In addition, Green Pro Services® provides custom spray application equipment for the Arborist and Greens Industry. For more information, call 1-800-645-6464.*

<sup>1</sup> Jim Skiera, Associate Executive Director of the International Society of Arboriculture, *Turf*, October 2003, pp. A14.

<sup>2</sup> *Turf*, October 2003, pp. A14.