# A Chemical Romance part III

Another product that can be injurious to trees is moss killer for lawns. The challenge is moss often grows in the shady portions of lawns and shady areas are usually under trees. Specifically, inside that sensitive drip zone we talked about last week. Be very careful to read the label of what ever moss removal product you are using. Even if it says it is safe, I highly suggest avoiding applying in that early spring time when leaves are just coming out. Instead, physically rake out the moss and bring in new top soil and shade tolerant seed to top dress the area with. Better yet, eliminate the lawn and enlarge the area to a bed of wood chips! Your tree will love that.

There are also several weed preventing products called pre-emergences out there that essentially attack weeds in the seed stage that in theory should be safe around trees. Again, I strongly suggest staying outside the drip zone or treating anywhere there are surface roots exposed. Always read labels carefully and consider hand weeding the area in your planter beds where your trees are planted.

The last type of product that is injurious to trees is a type of herbicide that can sterilize the ground. These products can be an entire eradication of vegetation and have a lasting residual of up to ten years! I understand its application in treating gravel driveways and that area beside the garage that always grows weeds each summer, but it also has its drawbacks. For one, if plans change and you want to plant anything in that area, you will need a complete soil replacement. Further some of these ground clear type products can be water soluble. I have seen extremely wet seasons flood these areas and move the product to other areas such as a neighboring yard that is slightly lower. This can result is some very dead landscaping! The same with the driveway applications. They can move down and into the soil along the drive where trees are planted.

In closing of this series, I simply urge caution and common sense. I titled this series A Chemical Romance because that is often what happens. We often have such romantic visions of how we want our landscapes to be but trying to avoid good old fashion hard work, we become dependent on chemicals and the vision can turn toxic.

For further questions, consultations and quotes give us a call today and thank you for your patience with our backlog!