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6 Causes and Solutions to Standing Water in Your Lawn

Ah, spring! Temperatures are rising, flowers and trees are blooming and rain showers are abound. While spring downpours are vital to the health of your lawn and garden, if you don't have proper drainage, these rainstorms can lead to standing water in your yard. Aside from being unattractive, standing water can seriously impact the health of your lawn and bolster the population of mosquitoes and other unwanted pests.



Causes and Solutions

A number of factors affect how efficiently your yard drains. Here are the most common causes and the most helpful solutions.

- 1.) Sloping Terrain:** Excessive water runoff during the rainy season can accumulate in low lying sections of your lawn.
Solution: Install a yard drain in the basins where water collects to help distribute the accumulation.
- 2.) Clogged Drains:** Leaves, sediment and other debris can build up to obstruct the flow of water from your yard.
Solution: Regular maintenance can keep your drains and drywells functioning properly.
- 3.) Artificial Obstructions:** Sometimes recent construction projects (new patio, embedded fence) can be a catalyst for standing water.
Solution: Diverting the flow of water from problem areas is relatively easy and can help alleviate the accumulation.
- 4.) Soil Conditions:** Some soil conditions promote slow draining, such as hard clay.
Solution: Aeration certainly helps, as does altering the composition of your soil by introducing organic matter, gypsum and/or limestone.
- 5.) Changes in Vegetation:** The removal of plants or ground cover can alter drainage patterns, which can lead to water accumulation.
Solution: When redesigning your yard, make sure you take drainage into account. Aerate the new space and have a plan for water flow.
- 6.) Architectural Drainage:** Roofs, eavesdrops and downspouts all empty into specific areas, leading to water accumulation.
Solution: Make sure gutters are debris-free and be sure to divert downspouts to areas with proper drainage.



Spring Garden Strawberry Salad

- 1 ½ cups trimmed fresh sugar snap peas
- 4 ounces baby arugula
- 2 cups sliced fresh strawberries
- 1 cup seeded and chopped English cucumber
- ¾ cup frozen baby English peas, thawed
- 4 ounces Gorgonzola cheese, crumbled
- 6 cooked bacon slices, coarsely chopped

Instructions

- 1) Arrange sugar snap peas in a steamer basket over boiling water.
- 2) Cover and steam 1 to 2 minutes or until crisp-tender.
- 3) Plunge peas into ice water to stop the cooking process; drain.
- 4) Cut peas diagonally in half.
- 5) Toss together arugula, next 5 ingredients and sugar snap peas on a large serving platter.
- 6) Dress with Sweet Basil Vinaigrette or other vinaigrette of choice and serve.

Recipe courtesy of
southernliving.com

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