

# THE Arbor-Nomics® BUGGETTE



## Five Time Best of Gwinnett Winner

It's the time of year when *Gwinnett Magazine* announces the results of its annual reader poll. And for the fifth year in a row, our awesome Gwinnett customers have voted us a Best of Gwinnett winner in the landscaping services category, which includes lawn, tree, and shrub care.

The polling process starts with nominations on the Best of Gwinnett website, and voting remains open throughout the year. The tens of thousands of votes are then vetted using such tools as Better Business Bureau complaint reports, voting pattern analyses, and various ranking sites.

Winners in each category are named at one of three levels: Ones to Watch, Among the Best, and The Best.

For five straight years, your votes have placed Arbor-Nomics at The Best level. We can't thank you enough for such a strong show of support year after year. And we promise to work just as hard to earn it again next year!



## Don't Let Mosquitoes Spoil Your Outdoor Fun

Nothing ruins time in your yard like nasty, annoying mosquitoes. **We provide a Mosquito Treatment that targets both adult mosquitoes and their larvae.**

Here are several things you can do to make your yard less hospitable to mosquitoes.

- Correct any drainage problems that result in standing water.
- Refresh the water in birdbaths and pets' water bowls frequently and empty the drainage plates under potted plants.
- Check that your gutters are free of debris and are draining completely.
- Clear your yard of overgrown brush, piles of leaves, and fallen tree limbs.
- Make sure the openings on rain barrels are covered with screening.

**Our treatment program runs from March through October, so contact us today at 770.447.6037 for your free estimate.**



## Bare in Mind

by Josh Bare



**Chess seems to have taken the country by storm, owing in large part to the overwhelming popularity of the Netflix show *The Queen's Gambit*.**

The pandemic probably has something to do with it too. People are looking for fun ways to fill the extra time they're spending at home, and there was a long stretch during the spring of last year where everyone was selling out of jigsaw puzzles. Now it's chess sets.

In case you're one of the few people who haven't seen *The Queen's Gambit*, it takes place in the '60s and follows the life of Beth, an orphaned chess prodigy. Since the show started running this past October, the sale of chess sets has increased by more than a thousandfold. This is more for everyday

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# May/June Lawn Care

## Application #3

**Please note:** There are times when we may need to modify the treatments we apply due to weather.

### LAWN TREATMENTS

#### Weed Control

**All Programs.** Lawns were treated to control dandelions and other broadleaf weeds.

**Silver Plus, Gold Plus & Platinum.** We applied a treatment to control nutsedge and other grassy weeds.

**Note:** Some weeds, such as wild violets and Virginia buttonweed, require specific herbicides. Contact us for a free estimate if you have these or other stubborn weeds.

#### Fertilization

**All Programs.** We applied Arbor-Nomics' Special Blend fertilizer to nourish turf during the growing season.

#### Pest & Disease Control

**Silver Plus, Gold Plus & Platinum.** We treated lawns with a fungicide to prevent brown patch and dollar spot.

**Gold, Gold Plus & Platinum.** We applied our Outdoor Pest Control, which targets fire ants, fleas, ticks, and spiders.

**Add-On Service: Mosquito Treatment.** This is available as an add-on service only. Customers who have requested Mosquito Treatment will receive eight treatments in total between March and October.

#### Aeration

**Platinum.** Aeration will be completed for all lawns by the end of May. Aeration loosens up compacted soil so that air, water, and the fertilizers we apply can get down to the grass roots where they are needed.

### ORNAMENTAL TREE AND SHRUB TREATMENTS

#### Pest & Disease Control

**Gold, Gold Plus & Platinum.** We applied a fungicide to control powdery mildew, leaf spot, and other fungal diseases. We also applied an insecticide to control aphids, lace bugs, and leafhoppers.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO DO UNTIL OUR NEXT VISIT

#### Leave Grass Clippings After Mowing

Make mowing easier for yourself and give your lawn a nutritional boost by leaving the clippings behind. They recycle back into the soil and provide nutrients for your turf. Mowing after one of our treatments is fine; just be sure that any wet applications have dried.

#### Mow Fescue at the Highest Blade Setting

Letting Fescue stay a bit taller helps lower the soil temperature for this cool-season grass.

#### Watch for Discolored Spots on Your Lawn

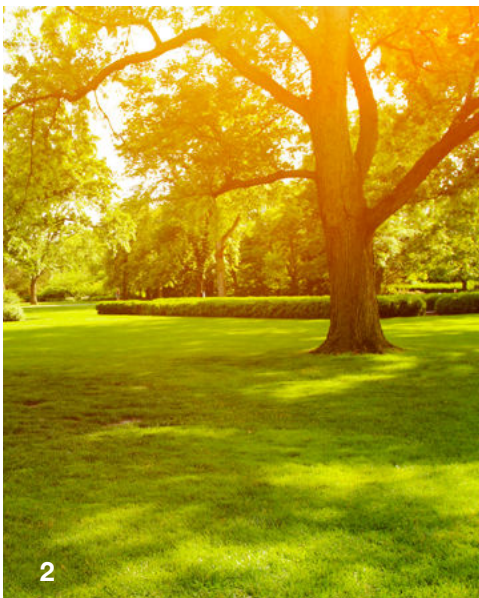
The fungal diseases brown patch and dollar spot show up as discolored patches and can spread quickly. If you are on our Silver or Gold program and think your lawn might be affected, contact us right away for a free analysis and treatment estimate. (Fungicide treatment is included in our Platinum and Plus programs.)

#### Trim Shrubs Regularly

Routine trimming encourages fuller growth.

### QUESTIONS CONCERNING YOUR LAWN, TREES, SHRUBS OR OUR SERVICE?

During our busy season, we recommend emailing us at [info@arbor-nomics.com](mailto:info@arbor-nomics.com) or using our Chat feature on [arbor-nomics.com](http://arbor-nomics.com). Of course, you are always welcome to call our Customer Service Department, Monday – Friday, 8 am – 5 pm at 770.447.6037. If you call after hours, please leave a message and your call will be returned the next business day.



## Are Your Mature Trees Getting the TLC They Need?

If you've ever planted young trees, you know they need special care in order to survive and thrive. But did you know the same is true for mature trees? In fact, compared with young trees, mature trees are more susceptible to disease and heal more slowly when damaged.

One of the best things you can do for mature trees is to **make sure they are pruned every two years**. The benefits of regular pruning are many, including:

- **Reduced Stress:** Removing dead or diseased wood, as well as excess weight from the ends of branches, reduces stress and lowers the risk of broken limbs.
- **Improved Energy Flow:** Removing interior branches that rub together allows energy to flow to the exterior of the tree.
- **Improved Airflow:** Strategic pruning improves airflow, which in turn controls insects that cause damage and disease.

For safe, effective pruning, contact Arbor-Nomics Tree at 770-368-0072.

# Protect Your Lawn and Plants from Summer Heat

Add equal parts of heat and humidity, and what do you get? Conditions that are right for turning your Atlanta yard into one hot mess. Not to worry – with a watchful eye and a little know-how, you can keep your lawn and other plants looking their best all summer long.

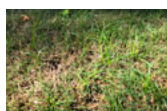
**Be on the lookout for these lawn threats:**



**Brown Patch:** This is a fungal disease that shows up as unsightly circular patches, ranging from a few inches to a few feet in diameter.



**Zoysia Patch:** Another fungal disease that affects Zoysia grass, causing the blades to take on a tan-orange color. The patches start out small, around a couple of inches, but can quickly expand to 20 feet or more in diameter.



**Nutsedge:** This stubborn weed is most common in Bermuda grass but can affect any type of lawn. It's easily identified by its three-sided stems and star-like flowers.

Prompt treatment is important, especially for the fungal diseases. So let us know if you think your lawn may be affected. Treatment is included in our Platinum and Plus programs, and it's also available as an add-on to our Silver and Gold programs.

**Pay extra attention to hanging baskets and potted plants when watering.**

As temperatures rise, the soil in containers dries out more quickly, and you will need to water more frequently. Irrigate at dawn and dusk to reduce water loss from evaporation.

**Add a thick layer of mulch around newly planted trees and shrubs.**

A little extra pine straw or shredded bark mulch reduces both heat stress and water loss, making it easier for the roots to get established.

## Helpful Contact Information

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## 5 Sun-Filled Facts About the Summer Solstice

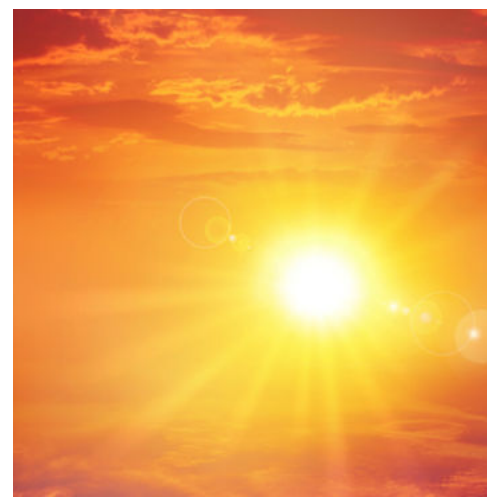
This year, the summer solstice is June 20th, and it couldn't happen on a more appropriate day of the week: Sunday. What's so special about the Earth's brightest star on this day?

**1 The Sun stands still.** Normally, the Sun's zenith moves continuously north or south relative to Earth. But on the June solstice, the Sun reaches its northernmost position and, for a moment, stands still before reversing its direction southward. In fact, the word solstice comes from Latin sol (Sun) and sistere (to come to a stop or to stand still).

**2 The June solstice occurs at the exact same moment everywhere on Earth.** In the Northern Hemisphere, it marks the start of summer. But in the Southern Hemisphere, that same moment is the winter solstice, marking the start of winter.

**3 The distance between the Sun and Earth is at its greatest during our summer.** That may seem counterintuitive, but it's true. So why is it hottest in the summer, when we're actually the farthest from the Sun? It's because the Northern Hemisphere faces toward the Sun during this time. (In the winter, it faces away from the Sun.)

**4 There's 24 hours of sunlight and darkness at the poles.** On the summer solstice (in the Northern Hemisphere), the entire Arctic Circle experiences a full day of total sunlight. On the other side of the world, the Antarctic Circle is plunged into 24 hours of darkness.



**5 The summer solstice is celebrated around the world.** The Sun holds a special place in many cultures, so it's no surprise that people around the world celebrate the summer solstice with feasts and gatherings filled with dance and music.



sets. Apparently, the supply of pricey, high-end chess sets has been able to keep up with demand.

Fortunately (or, unfortunately for me), the Bare household already had a chess set, and my oldest son, Lincoln, and I have been playing quite a bit. Truth be told, our shared pastime has little to do with the Netflix show – it's more about just spending time together. And what better reason can there be than that?



*Dad and son enjoying a game of chess*

But I have to admit that I'm smarting a bit as I write this. Lincoln just beat me for the first time. **I know I'm not that good of a chess player, but Lincoln is 12, and I thought I could hold my own for at least another year or so.** This evening, he set me straight. (And if the experience makes me think of any show, it's not *The Queen's Gambit*. It's more like *Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader?*)



*Lincoln (12), Levi (7) and our neighbor Chago (8) enjoying a game of chess*

I suppose it's the natural order of things – kids eventually surpassing their parents – but it is somewhat bittersweet for me. Lincoln's at the age where he is building up his independence and his competitive side.



It goes without saying that I'm proud of him, especially that he took it upon himself to get books from the library and start studying up on chess strategy. **(As an aside, the sale of books on chess has also seen a huge increase since *The Queen's Gambit* launched – by more than 600 percent.)**

Motivated as much by ego preservation as curiosity, I picked up one of Lincoln's library books and began reading, hoping to pick up a few tips. My ignorance of the game quickly became evident to me. And just as quickly came a loud outcry



*The Queen's Gambit Netflix Miniseries*

of protest from Lincoln. Apparently, I was not allowed to also study up! At least my son still saw me as someone who could become a worthy opponent. I was also glad for him that he felt beating his dad was a feather in his cap that he would not relinquish easily. Good for him!

**In pondering the ins and outs of chess, I see some analogies to life, ways in which strategies and lessons learned from the game can be applied to some of life's endeavors and important decisions.** For example, in chess, as in life, it's important to know what your end objective is, devise a strategy for achieving it, and do your best not to get distracted along the way.

However, even executing this perfectly doesn't guarantee success. In chess, your opponent is bound to have a few tricks

up their sleeve you never anticipated. That's why one of the fundamentals of the game is to leave yourself options for revising your strategy. You want to situate your pieces in a way that gets you closer to achieving your goal, while also giving you ways of moving around inevitable obstacles, instead of being derailed by them.

This is the kind of mindset I want Lincoln, and all my kids, to develop and bring with them into adulthood. **Whether it's choosing a career path, making a big business decision, or any other pursuit, it's important to have a clear goal, a sound strategy, and a plan B for when life throws you a curve.**



*The Queen's Gambit Netflix Miniseries*

**There's one more thing I think chess teaches: perseverance.** Lincoln demonstrated this beautifully. Instead of being discouraged by the times he lost to me, he decided to learn how to become a better player. That made him a winner even before he ever beat me. And his example shines a light on my own reaction to failure, which is to reject it as unfair. I guess I'll need to work on that.

In the meantime, now that Lincoln's in bed, I thought I'd sneak-read one of his books and see if this old dog can learn any new tricks. At least it's more honorable than my original plan, which was to end this article with: Anyone looking to buy a used chess set?

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***Please let me know any thoughts you might have on this article. I can be reached at 678.313.4568 or Josh@Arbor-Nomics.com.***