

# Snow mold

## The weekend gardener's worst nightmare

by Ed Philbin

With record setting overnight lows last week, winter seems to be holding on a little longer this year. But landscaper Gerry Chিকেletti says it's never too early to get started on your lawn and garden, cold temperatures or not. Snow mold draws Chিকেletti's ire these days. The mold, which appears as dead, matted grass, is caused when grass is covered by snow for a long period of time. A buildup of moisture under the grass promotes mold

growth and bugs.

Chিকেletti recommends cutting your lawn in the fall, leaving the grass blades one inch so that snow can't mat it down. If the mold takes hold, rake it out. "Rake the lawn vigorously, removing dead material, then go over it with a lawnmower," he said.

You could save a lot of hard work by renting a power rake from a local equipment rental store, he added.

Spring is the best time of year to prevent crabgrass and grubs, Chিকেletti said. A generous dousing of lime will help slow their growth. The grubs, which eat grass roots, attract black-

birds and skunks. Check to see if the lawn is pockmarked by beak holes or

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Photo by Don Carey



Kitchens by Kennedy, which has operated in Dallas for many years, has opened a new showroom at the intersection of Rt. 309 and West Center St. in Shavertown. Jennifer Simon, left, and Debbie Kennedy showed two of the store's displays of refacing and doors.

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