

## Scrambled Eggs and Lice in the Landscape

By: Melinda Sperl

If you have trees and use bark mulch you may have both Scrambled Egg Fungus and Bark Lice although they are two very different problems.

Bark Lice will appear in your trees as a fine web that covers the bark of your tree. This webbing is actually built by a tiny insect that looks something like a small Cicada. They build the webbing to trap and feed on the lichen on your tree. It is actually a beneficial insect so leave it alone and let it “clean” your tree.



Scrambled Egg Fungus is found in your flowerbeds. When in its wet stage it does look like scrambled eggs. It turns brown as it ages and if disturbed, tiny spores are released into the air where it spreads. While unsightly, it is not a harmful fungus and feeds on organic matter. Like a lot of funguses, it a compliment to your gardening skills as it will only grow on good balanced soil. Leave it alone and it will go away quickly enough.

Happy Gardening!

Melinda Sperl is a Horticulturalist and the owner of Dream Landscape Design, Inc. You can reach Melinda at [Melinda@dreamlandscapedesign.com](mailto:Melinda@dreamlandscapedesign.com) or [www.dreamlandscapedesign.com](http://www.dreamlandscapedesign.com)