

GROUNDSKEEPER™ NEWSLETTER

Volume 6, Issue 2

Unusual Weather (as Usual)

This is our second newsletter of 2015. As usual this year has brought unusual weather. We had record rainfall and the ground was saturated for most of the spring and start of summer following another harshly cold winter. Recently, it became very dry and unseasonably cool. The good news is that there was little need to use your sprinkler system on your turf for most of the year, saving water and money. Additionally, it seemed that spring perennials held their blooms longer than normal.

With the rain comes more weeds and we have a lot of budding maples and trees in turf. These will usually die when cut by a lawn mower because they don't have enough energy to stay alive once their leaves are cut. For other broad leaf weeds, herbicides have been relatively ineffective because of the constant rain. Additionally, we have seen a lot of fungus in your turf, particularly dollar spot and rust.

This year we have received a lot of calls about drainage. I encourage you to remember that a saturated lawn is nuisance, but to be expected with the amount of rain that we've had. If you have standing water for more than a half day or are getting water in your house then you have a problem that may need to be addressed. Once your yard dries out these drainage issues can be more easily addressed.

Lastly, a reminder that we are on Facebook - you can Like us there and find timely information from time to time. Also, if you have any comments, suggestions or requests, please let us know.




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Landscape Design • Installation • Maintenance • Tree Care

OUR SERVICES

Outdoor Lighting

Ponds

Pavers

Putting Greens

Tree Services

Shrub Pruning

Landscape Design



Gardening Tips

SEPTEMBER

- Late August to mid September is the best time to seed a new lawn
- Late summer and early fall is a good time to divide perennials
- Fertilize trees and shrubs in September
- Deadhead perennials and discard dead foliage to lower the potential for disease

OCTOBER

- Spring flowering bulbs can be planted until the ground freezes
- If weather is dry, water plants deeply, especially evergreens until the ground freezes
- Continue to mow your lawn to 3" until the final cut. Then cut your lawn to 2" to prepare for winter

GIVE YOUR LANDSCAPE A FACELIFT

Homeowners have several reasons for upgrading their landscaping.

Curb Appeal

Many homeowners have landscaping that is outdated or overgrown. We see a lot of landscaping from 20 to 30 years ago. Lava rocks, evergreens, etc. Installing mulch, removing overgrown bushes and updating these areas with flowering shrubs or perennials can completely change the look of your house. Often this can be done much less expensively than you might think and can completely change the look of your house.

TREE REMOVALS

As more trees die from EAB, we have witnessed many do it yourselves removing their dead trees. We encourage you to contact us or another reputable tree care company to have your trees removed. Removing trees is dangerous—approximately 100 people are killed annually trying to do this work themselves.

It is also important that you remove the tree as soon as possible. The longer a dead tree stands, the more brittle and dangerous it becomes. It also becomes more difficult and dangerous for tree removal experts to climb. Typically a tree can be removed without bringing equipment into your yard (other than a stump grinder to grind the stump). We prefer to remove trees without bringing equipment into your yard because the equipment does too much damage. In the event that you have a tree that is accessible with equipment (on hard surfaces), we may use our bucket truck to help us. Rest assured, however, that the majority of trees can be removed with a qualified climber and the appropriate rigging.

Please DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DO THIS YOURSELF. Call us, or another professional tree service to take care of your trees!

TURF DAMAGE

Due to the heavy rains and the two harsh winters, you may be observing significant damage to your turf. Typically, the most important factor in your turf's health is proper care. This includes watering, mowing and aeration. Most people overwater their turf. 1" of water per week is all your turf needs. An overwatered turf results in a shallow root system that makes it more likely that your turf will succumb to stresses from harsh winters, drought or excessive heat. Also, most people cut their turf too short. Mowing to 3" plus is best for the blue grass and rye grass turf we have here in the Chicago area.

Aside from this we recommend aerating annually because it reduces compaction. The soil in this area compacts easily. Reducing compaction will help your lawn grow thicker and out compete weeds. Lastly, the fall is the best time of the year to seed your lawn to fill in bare spots and thicken your lawn.

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Solve Outdoor Problems

Do you have an unsightly view from your yard (barn, storage shed, poorly maintained property)? Drainage issues? Space that is poorly utilized? These problems can often be addressed with landscaping. We often use plantings and landscape beds in lieu of fencing. This is usually much less expensive and gives you something attractive to look at. We can also implement ideas that

will help you make your yards more usable.

Outdoor Entertainment

Do you like to grill and entertain during the spring, summer and fall? We can give you design ideas and install outdoor kitchens, fire pits, fireplaces and patio spaces to help you enjoy your yard fully in the summer.

Check out our website or call us for design ideas for your yard. We can design upgrades that will fit most budgets to help you further enjoy your outdoor space!



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