

BestYard BestNews

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For Lawn and Landscape

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Spotlight

*"So what does the rest of
the year have in store for
us?"*

Owner's Corner

By Chris

The school year has come to an end. Summer is here and it is getting warmer each day.

This change in season and weather introduces various issues to our lawns and landscapes each year. This year we are seeing lots of damage in the lawns due to chinch bugs and billbugs. These particular insects are very active right now. We are currently treating these insects everyday so that we can stop them doing damage to your lawns.

After the treatment, we are over seeding the damaged turf areas so we can get your lawn looking beautiful again. If you have brown spots or damaged turf areas in your lawn, please call us immediately so we can provide you with a free analysis to make sure your lawns aren't being attacked by these insects.

Please see *Owner's Corner* on page 2

Turf Care

By Steve

Wow! This is a really interesting year so far. Weeds are going crazy, insects due in June or July have been active since a month ago. Winterkill has been heavy due to our warm dry winter.

So what does the rest of the year have in store for us?

We haven't gotten to the heat of the summer yet which will bring a whole new batch of interesting problems.

The main things we will be watching for will be:

Chinch Bugs - These little pests have been active for a month or more already. I expect that we'll see more of them doing damage

Please see *Turf Care* on page 3

Landscape Maintenance

By Laurie

The rains in May and June have been a blessing after our dry winter. Our gardens and lawns are looking so lush and healthy. The early spring blooming flowers such as our native columbines have been a real showstopper and their blooms last so much longer in these cooler and wetter conditions. Unfortunately our opportunistic weeds are as vigorous as ever and seem to double in size overnight.

If you have not yet planted your annuals there is still time. However, the supply of annuals at the garden centers may be dwindling or pretty well picked over. Why not enjoy a new patio or flower bed this summer? Attract hummingbirds or butterflies to your yard. Our knowledgeable staff will be glad to add more color and interest to your garden or redo an old overgrown landscape.

In June and July we will maintain your gardens by fertilizing, deadheading, weeding, and checking for any diseases or insect pests. Please call us if you have any concerns. We will be glad to check and diagnose the problem. We use several products that are totally organic that have been quite effective in treating some problems. We try to use the most eco-friendly and effective treatments.

Please see *Landscape Maintenance* on page 4



Proper adjustment means a green lawn

Owner's Corner from page 1

Sprinkler systems currently are set for spring temperatures. As it starts to get warmer this summer, your lawn could start to show signs of stress. If your lawn starts to show brown spots or yellowing, call us so we can come out and do a sprinkler tune up to make sure that your lawn keeps getting adequate water.

I want to again personally thank you for your continued business and I hope you have an enjoyable summer.

Mowing

By Steve

Many people wonder why we mow grass as high as we do. After all, wouldn't it look better if it was trimmed shorter?

The answer is a simple no, it won't look better and many times will look worse.

Most grasses, bluegrass especially, is engineered to grow best when mowed at a height of 2 ½ - 3" tall after mowing. This height will give the best return on color, health, and root growth.

In fact, lawns mowed short, like a golf course, will lose color, be less energetic, and will be more susceptible to disease, stress and insects. Remember that we're talking about a grass made to be cut short for the gold course and a grass made to be cut higher to allow better health.

This brings up the question about cutting it short on the last mowing of the season.

There is nothing wrong with cutting it a little shorter on the last mowing of the season but it should never be "scalped." Scalping a lawn for the winter is not necessary and will be damaging to the lawn. The rule is, cut it to a height that will allow it to stand when it has snow on it. This is generally no less than about 2-2 1/2 ". This helps the grass avoid laying down when the snow hits which helps to avoid the snow molds.

One more thing about cutting; Never cut it short in the spring! This is when it needs the blade more than ever to get started after the winter.

Turf Care from page 1

to our Colorado lawns.

Billbugs - I have seen more billbug activity this year than in all my years of lawncare. They favor lawn edges near driveways, walkways, etc...

Ascochyta - This disease happens overnight. Literally. It is a strange disease that likes to follow tire tracks, mowing lines, or anywhere the grass is stressed.

Necrotic Ring Spot (NRS) - Active in the spring, it will show up as rings in the lawn this coming summer. This is one of the most difficult diseases to control.

This is just a short list of things that we will be seeing this year.

Lawns can be tricky. Many insects and diseases mimic each other and make diagnosis difficult. This is one of the many reasons we don't try to diagnose over the phone.

You don't have to guess what is going on in your lawn and trust me your neighbor doesn't know as much as he thinks. Call us so we can come out and diagnose the problem for you.



Proper mowing height means a greener healthier lawn



Can you identify this insect?
You don't have to guess,
ask us, we know.

Landscape Maintenance from page 2

Did you know that several nurseries and garden centers will recycle your plastic pots and trays? This is a great way to reduce the amount of waste going into our landfills. Tagawa, Castle Rock Gift and Garden Center, Groundcovers Greenhouse, Echter's Garden Center, and Nick's Garden Center are just a few stores that will take your plastic plant containers. So, go "green"!

Irrigation

By Jeff

We're coming up on the heat of the summer soon. Now is the time to ask yourself if your system is up to the task of keeping your lawn green this summer.

Now is the time to get your system checked and adjusted. This is especially crucial for systems that are a little older and need extra care.

If we can catch a problem with coverage now before we get into the heat of the summer, we can help you avoid brown spots and other problems with your lawn.

This can be a simple adjustment or adding another zone to deliver the water needed. We are always happy to come out and take a look at your system and let you know what needs to be done.

If you have out of town guests this summer why not visit the Denver Botanic Gardens. It is a real treasure. There is plenty of shade to escape the heat and peaceful settings like the Japanese gardens to recharge the soul. The Betty Ford Alpine Garden in Vail and the grounds of the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs are spectacular and worth a visit, too.

So if you have any questions or concerns about your sprinkler system make sure you call us and arrange for a check today.

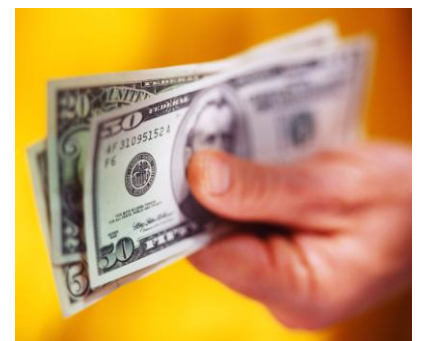


Avoid drought stress by keeping your sprinkler system adjusted correctly.

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News & Information Spotlight

By Steve

Parker - There isn't much time to get entered into the 13th Annual Xeriscape Garden Contest. Entry deadline is June 22nd!

For more information:

<http://www.pwsd.org/pdf/Conservation/2009XeriscapeGardenContest.pdf>

Highlands Ranch - CALLING ALL KIDS K- 12! Make a water conservation video and get your chance to win a trip to Kennedy Space Center, watch a shuttle launch, and have lunch with an astronaut! Contest ends July 4th.

Go to: <http://dcwater.org/>

Aurora - Fireworks information at

<http://www.auroragov.org/AuroraGov/News/408206>

Denver - A potpourri of different events and happenings. Go to:

<http://www.denvergov.org/> and look under announcements for movies in the park, entertainment at Red Rocks and more!

Castle Rock - This sounds fun! Rockin' The Fourth in Castle Rock. Live Entertainment, bouncy houses, apple pie bakeoff, roller derby and bike stunt teams will be there. Something for everyone.

<http://www.crgov.com/News.asp?NewsID=1474>



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