

BestYard.com

News

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Owner's Corner

By Chris & Rochelle

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Happy Spring everyone and welcome to our first official Owner's Corner for the 2008 season.

We're taking a moment here to thank each of you for your confidence in our company and continued business.

Each month we will use this "corner" to communicate and keep you updated on important information about your lawns and gardens.

Our goal is to provide you with the best yard on the block. That's why we are so excited to combine BestYard.com and Five Star Garden Service along with their knowledgeable and experienced teams together into one company! Taking care of your lawn, garden, accent lighting and more is now available from BestYard.com. One stop shopping at its best.

This year has already proved to be interesting. I am currently sitting here writing this column and watching the rain come down.

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Garden Talk

By Debbie

Our name may have changed but the service we give you hasn't. Keeping your garden and landscape looking great is still our number one priority. May is a great time to get your plants ordered and ready for planting. Call us now to place your orders and get scheduled.

If you're wondering when to plant, here is some information you can use. The average date of Denver's last freeze is May 5th, but we have been known to have a freeze as late as June 8th.

We are still performing Cleanups (raking, weeding, edging beds, dividing perennials as needed, debris removal) through May so it's not too late if you still need to get on the schedule.

Maintaining your newly planted bulb beds require uniform moisture but do not waterlog the ground. Too much moisture can cause the bulbs to rot. Check the soil moisture by probing it with a finger or trowel. If it's

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"The average date of Denver's last freeze is May 5th, but we have been known to have a freeze as late as June 8th."

Turf Care

By Steve

Troubleshooting a lawn...

Troubleshooting a lawn is not always easy, even for people that work on lawns regularly. Many of the signs are small and easily missed.

Even though it is still early in the season, I have already seen my first cases of chinch bugs, ascochyta, winterkill and leaf spot. The reason for this is probably our warm dry spring.

Problem areas usually start small and grow in size over time. Often we don't get called until the area has grown into a sizable area of the lawn. By the time that happens, it has done damage to the lawn requiring sod or overseeding. Don't wait too long to call us! Water will usually solve most problems but there are diseases out there that actually use the water to spread. So if you water the area extra for a couple of days and the problem spreads, call!

Necrotic Ring Spot continues to be a problem in Colorado. This disease is caused by a fungus, creates rings and is active in the spring and again in the fall of the year. Its active temperature range is actually quite narrow but the rings usually appear in the summer making it appear that the disease is just getting started when in fact it's been active for months. It can be spread in quite a few different ways so is almost impossible to narrow it down to one source. Avoid overwatering and high rates of nitrogen when NRS is present in the lawn.

Biologicals are a term we are using quite a bit this year. It's a fancy term for the microbes, beneficial bacteria and fungi found naturally in the soil. The **Bio Plus** program adds biologicals to the soil increasing the diversity, numbers and activity of the biologicals in the soil. Biologicals are important because they help break down fertilizers, neutralize toxins, and loosen the soil to mention a few. The funny thing is that biologicals work more on the soil health than the plant. Healthy soil means healthy plants.



Ascochyta Leaf Blight in Blue Grass.

“Even though it is still early in the season, I have already seen my first cases of chinch bugs, ascochyta, winterkill and leaf spot.”

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And do we need it! The dry winter and spring has caused problems in both lawns and gardens. Sprinkler activations are moving as fast as we can to get moisture to the lawns especially for the aerations. The wetter soil gives better plugs and we want the best plugs we can get for your lawn.

Check out our new website!!! A whole new look with useful information for you. Make it a point to make regular visits for updates and specials.

Getting married or know someone who is? Let us brighten the special event with our decorative lighting at affordable prices.

Thank you and we look forward to being your lawn and garden company.

Christopher and Rochelle Dominy

News and Information Spotlight

Keeping up with news concerning lawns, gardens, landscape.

Denver – Restrictions in effect from 5/1/08 to 9/1/08. For details go to www.denverwater.org and click on 2008 Summer Watering Rules and Tips.

Aurora – Restrictions in effect from 5/1/08 to 10/31/08. For details go to www.auroragov.org/AuroraGov/Departments/AuroraWater/index.htm and click on Water Restrictions.

Parker – No Watering Restrictions. For details go to www.pwsd.org/index.php

Parker is having a Xeriscape Contest. Entries must be received by 6/20/08. For details, go to their website and click on Xeriscape Contest.

Castle Rock – Restrictions in effect from 5/23/08 to 8/31/08. For details go to www.crgov.com and click on 2008 Mandatory Watering Schedule. Check out *Town Water Wiser Classes*. Complete the class and you are exempt from watering restrictions! See the above site for class dates and times.

Highlands Ranch & Centennial – Restrictions are always in effect. For details go to www.highlandsranch.org/index.html and click on Water & Sanitation, then click on Water Conservation.



Watering Restrictions going into effect for 2008.

Garden Talk(Cont)

drying out at 2-3” deep, it’s time to water. Applying mulch (2” depth) will help retain moisture and keep the soil looser. Remember, mulch will keep the soil from drying out as quickly as non-mulched beds. If you have any questions or concerns, be sure to call us.

Mowing

By Brandon

Time to start mowing the lawn is upon us once again.

As in seasons past, BestYard.com will be mowing on a 4 day week. Friday will be a makeup day to cover for days lost to weather or mechanical problems. If it rains on your mowing day, your day will move to Friday that week.

We set our mowers to maintain a height of about 3” after the cut. We do this because bluegrass is designed to grow best at 2 ½” to 3” tall. This is extremely beneficial to lawns when the heat of the summer starts. The grass blades help to shade each other and this helps the soil retain moisture. Aerations are still being performed. If you haven’t ordered your spring aeration yet, give us a call to get on the schedule. Remember, our aerations are a double pass unlike other companies that only go through your lawn once. That double pass aeration means more plugs and a better aeration for your lawn. Don’t bother raking up the plugs, they create a top dressing as the plugs dissolve which is beneficial to the lawn. Spreading ¼” compost or top soil over your lawn after the aeration is done is beneficial and can help stimulate biological activity in the soil along with adding organics to the soil.

Lighting

An affordable way to add to your home's look and value is easier than you think with Landscape Lighting.

BestYard.com offers design and installation of landscape lighting to enhance and accent your home, gardens, water features and more. See what we can do for your home, call us today!

Are you a June Bride? Give your wedding or reception that extra splash of excitement with BestYard's Event Lighting! We can dress up your special occasion with affordable accent lighting for that special ambiance. We're scheduling for June now so call or email us for a free estimate.

"Give your wedding or reception that extra splash of excitement..."

Irrigation

It's that time of year and our technicians are out busy activating systems and checking them for proper operation. Activations will be continuing this month and through May. If you haven't already scheduled for your activation, you still have time to call us and get it on the list.

When setting your clock, consider watering early morning before 6:00 AM or evening to allow the lawn time to dry before our crews come out to mow. It will be healthier for the lawn and gives a cleaner cut.

If you start your own system and find a problem, we can repair it for you

Best Neighbor Program

BestYard.com Pays You!

Yes, it's true. Refer your neighbors, family, and friends* in our coverage area and earn \$25.00 in BestBucks for anyone that signs up for one of our programs**. Use this to apply to your current service or to try a new service that we offer.

Best of all, there is no limit to the number of people that you can refer.

*New Customers Only.

**Programs consist of 4 or more treatments.



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