



Grass Roots

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Turf Talk 2016.01

At this writing, we are just into the early routes of the first pre-emergent application for 2016, which we anticipate completing in four to five weeks. With the recent cold snap, soil temperatures have regressed a little, so crab grass germination will be slowed. Fortunately, we were not the recipient of the large amounts of snow our neighbors to the north received.



Henbit

We are seeing some henbit, a winter annual weed which we are spraying. In the spring, it has purple flowers. We typically see it in beds, the edges of walkways and driveways, anywhere that grass plants are not strong. If it occurs in the turf itself, the area is a candidate for overseeding. The weed

does not withstand the summer heat.

We are often asked about spring seeding. We believe late summer /early fall is the best time. Soil temperatures bounce around in the spring, sometimes delaying germination. Waiting until soil temperatures stabilize leads to later germination and plants that may succumb to early summer heat. Fall brings more stable irrigation and temperatures and foot traffic tends to be less than the spring, all of which is beneficial for healthy plant growth. That being said, we will do spring overseeding when the situation warrants it, such as to bring back a lawn that has been severely damaged.

If you are one of our clients that is repairing vole damage in your lawn this year, please let us know if the tracks start to fill in after lightly raking the area. Feel free to e-mail us "before and after pictures" so we can see the progress. You can also send us pictures of the voles you successfully trapped.

As always, we appreciate you entrusting us with your turf-care needs. We hope you enjoy your yards.



Picking Plants for Your Landscape

When creating a landscape, there are so many choices when it comes to plants that it can be overwhelming. The following may help you on your search for the perfect plants.

Begin with the area in which you will plant. If you have a smaller or temporary fixture, such as window boxes, planters, or hanging baskets, annual flowers are a great option. While annuals are often thought of as vibrant flowering plants like begonias, impatiens, and petunias, they also include lesser known but equally beautiful plants such as potato vine, purple fountain grass, and coleus. While annuals tend to bloom their entire growing season, they only have a life-span of a single growing season. After the plants die, remove them. The following year, you can replant with the same plant or try something new.



This annual planter uses the thriller, spiller, filler technique. The thriller plant (triangle palm) stands out above the rest. The spiller plant (potato vine), cascades down the sides of the fixture. The filler plants (fanfare impatiens and ageratum), fill in the rest of the space.

Considering larger areas, such as a traditional landscape bed, you can plant annuals, perennials, shrubs or a combination thereof. Avoid overcrowding perennials and shrubs so they can establish a healthy root system. Perennials and shrubs are an essential part of most landscape beds, bringing depth and lovely foliage all season long. If they flower, they can be as vibrant as annuals even if it is only for a few weeks rather than over the entire summer. Popular perennials include Cone Flower, Shenandoah Switchgrass, and Hosta. To give your landscapes an extra punch, the very popular knock-out rose shrubs are always a hit. Typically, you should not have to replant perennials or shrubs every year as perennial is defined as living for more than two growing seasons. Depending on the type of perennial, how it is maintained, and other environmental factors, they may last the life of your landscape! This is also what makes

them appealing and more practical for larger planting areas.

Annuals are less hardy plants than perennials, and they do not withstand frost well. For that reason, they should not be planted until after the "frost-free" date. In Nebraska, that is considered to be Mother's Day.



This landscape incorporates begonias (annuals), viburnum and hollies (shrubs) and three different varieties of hosta (perennials).



Reminders

1. Schedule Sprinkler Turn On with CM's
2. Sharpen mower blades
3. Mow at 3" or higher
4. Apply pre-emergent weed control to landscape beds one soil temperatures reach 50-55 degrees.
5. Begin treating flowering crab apples for cedar apple rust.

Schedule a Consultation



Ask The Arborist

Ask the Arborist: Express Edition

This month, we will quickly answer several questions that are among the most common we are asked. So let us begin Ask the Arborist: Express Edition.

As my tree grows taller, will the lowest branches of the tree raise with it or will they remain the same height?

The height of the current branches will not change. As the tree grows, it will put on new branches at the top of the tree. The current branches will grow larger but they will not move higher on the trunk.

I have an irrigation system; do I need to hand water my tree?

The irrigation system will help cover the water needs of newly planted trees but they should also have a nice long soak from the hose about once per week during the summer months.



Royal Star Magnolia



Dwarf Alberta Spruce

If I plant a bigger tree, will it grow faster and be healthier?

When it comes to selecting trees, the quality of the tree should be the first factor to consider. Just because a tree is large does not guarantee that it will establish and grow more quickly than a smaller tree. The health of the root system is the most important factor when it comes to how well a newly planted tree will perform, so choosing a healthy tree that has been well cared for will give you the most bang for your buck.

Is fall is the best time for planting a tree?

Yes, fall is the best time for planting but it is by no means the only time of year that a tree can be successfully planted. When a tree is planted in the fall, it has some time to "get settled" before it will undergo the stress of putting on new growth during the following spring. However, spring and summer are great times to plant trees as well, they will just need to be monitored a bit more closely to ensure that they are getting adequate water to keep up with the needs of the root system.



Pagoda Dogwood

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