



SPRING

**GOT A QUESTION?
GO AHEAD
AND ASK!**

Our success is built upon your continued satisfaction. We value our partnership with you and want to thank you for the confidence you place in our abilities.

Strong customer relationships begin with good communication. That's why we encourage you to call our office anytime to discuss concerns, problems, suggestions, or simply to ask a question. We're here whenever you need us to provide the answers you're looking for.

If you'd like more information about our services, or even if you just have a question about a certain plant that's growing in your landscape, please don't hesitate to get in touch. It's always a pleasure to hear from you!



Getting the Best of Broadleaf Weeds

REGULAR MAINTENANCE GOES A LONG WAY

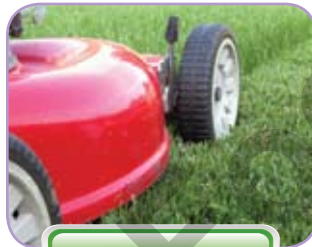
Dandelion, chickweed, ground ivy, henbit, knotweed, plantain, thistle...all sorts of broadleaf weeds will soon be making an appearance. It would be great if we could eliminate these pests once and for all. The thing is, they create *a lot* of seeds, so complete elimination isn't possible.

Just one dandelion seed head can hold over 200 seeds, which are capable of traveling very long distances by wind, water, on animals and on the bottoms of our shoes. New weed seeds are constantly finding their way into the soil on your property, and they can remain in the soil for years until they get enough sun and water to germinate.

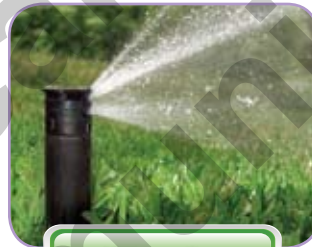
GOOD LAWN CARE PRACTICES CROWD OUT WEEDS

Proper lawn maintenance encourages thicker, healthier grass, and that's the best way to prevent broadleaf weeds. The denser your lawn, the less room these weeds will have to grow. Three keys to crowding out broadleaf weeds are:

- Removing no more than 1/3 of the grass blade each time you mow. This keeps the soil shaded to discourage germination of weed seeds.
- Making sure your lawn gets from 1" to 1 1/2" of water per week from rainfall or sprinkling.
- Fertilizing regularly to expand your lawn's root system for more vigorous growth.



Mowing



Watering



Fertilizing

POST-EMERGENT HERBICIDES CAN HELP TOO

Whenever broadleaf weeds pop up, they can be spot treated with a post-emergent herbicide. Keep in mind that it can take up to three weeks for treated weeds to die off, and repeat applications may be necessary if new weeds appear throughout the season. Also, if your lawn has been seeded, post-emergent herbicides shouldn't be used until the new grass has been mowed at least three times.

Yes, broadleaf weeds are a nuisance, but they can be managed. With the right lawn care practices, post-emergent herbicides and a little patience, they won't have nearly as much of an impact on your lawn.

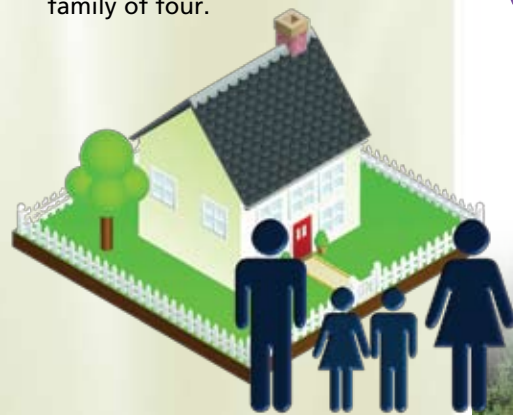


MAY WE RECOMMEND...

- National Arbor Day is the last Friday in April. Visit www.arborday.org for some great ideas on how you can get involved.
- If you notice any dead or brown patches in your lawn, try raking them to stimulate new grass growth.
- Flowering trees and shrubs should be pruned right after they bloom. Waiting too long will lead to nipping of next year's buds.
- Consider adding a blended topsoil mix to your planting beds. A combination of topsoil, sand and compost will promote healthier growth.

APRIL IS NATIONAL LAWN CARE MONTH! HERE ARE SOME QUICK FACTS ABOUT LAWNS THAT YOU MAY NOT KNOW:

- A 50' x 50' lawn produces enough daily oxygen for a family of four.



- Eight healthy front lawns have the cooling effect of 70 tons of air conditioning. That's enough for 16 average homes!
- There are more than 30 million acres of lawn in the United States alone.



Outdoor Fireplaces Are a Hot Item!

One of the biggest trends in landscape improvements is the outdoor fireplace, which makes it possible to enjoy your outdoor living space all year-round. If you've been thinking about adding a fireplace to your landscape, you have some decisions to make. For example:

- 1 Do you want gas-burning or wood-burning? Wood-burning fireplaces provide a more authentic look and feel with crackling sounds and the smell of smoke. Gas-burning fireplaces don't create any smoke and are easily turned on and off.
- 2 Do you want to include a grill for barbecuing? What about storage space for wood or shelves to hold other items?
- 3 What construction materials do you want to use? Brick, stone, concrete...a combination of all three? How about adding small rocks or tiles for a unique finishing touch?
- 4 Where will your fireplace be located? You'll want to keep it as far away as possible from your home, plants and any other structures that could burn. Also, be sure that there is at least 3' of clearance between seating areas and the fireplace (for both safety and comfort).

Carefully planned and professionally installed, an outdoor fireplace is sure to become a popular "hot spot" on your property. Enjoy!



An outdoor fireplace and pool combine for multi-season enjoyment.

Treat Yourself to a Shady Escape

When it comes to the sun, it's definitely possible to get too much of a good thing. Without enough shade in your yard, the amount of time you get to spend enjoying your outdoor living space is going to be limited.

OPTIONS FOR CREATING SHADY AREAS

One obvious way to bring shade to your yard is to plant trees, such as oaks and maples, which will provide ample shade once they've had a chance to grow. Of course, that's not going to take care of your problem right away.



This vine-covered pergola provides a shady retreat from direct sun.

If you're looking for a quick fix, a table/umbrella combination or an awning can be added to your existing patio or deck. Or, you might even consider installing a permanent wooden gazebo if you have the available space in your yard.

For a more natural-looking shade source that blends in better with your landscape, a vine-covered trellis or pergola makes an excellent choice. Installed over a patio or seating area, this wooden latticework structure will provide beautiful shade and shelter once the vines get established.

The great thing about vines is that they can flourish in very narrow spaces. Plus, they can grow in only half a season, rather than the many years it takes for a tree to reach full size. There are plenty of vines to choose from. It's simply a matter of matching the plant to your needs, tastes and growing conditions. Morning glory, grapes, hardy kiwi, rose, clematis and wisteria are all good to work with.

No matter what type of shade source you choose, you'll be enhancing the looks, functionality and value of your landscape. It's definitely an investment worth making!

Give Hummingbirds a Reason to Drop By

Did you know that hummingbirds are the only birds that can fly both forwards and backwards? They can also hover in midair, fly sideways and even fly upside down. If you've ever seen one of these birds up close, you know how mesmerizing they can be.

It's always a treat when a hummingbird shows up on your property. You can increase the chances of a visit by including hummingbird-friendly plants in your landscape. Hummingbirds are known to feed on the following:

SHRUBS

- Butterfly bush
- Trumpet vine
- Summer sweet

PERENNIALS

- Bleeding heart
- Beard tongue
- Bee balm
- Coral bells
- Butterfly weed
- Daylily
- Cardinal flower
- Delphinium

ANNUALS

- Impatiens
- Salvia
- Snapdragon
- Petunia
- Nasturtium
- Spider flower
- Morning glory
- Flowering tobacco



Hummingbirds will liven up any garden with their acrobatics.

Hummingbird feeders help too, and you can easily find them at your local garden store. Feeders work best if they're hung in a quiet spot away from noise and traffic (ideally close to a window so you can watch from inside and avoid disturbing the hummingbirds as they feed). Good luck!



PROPER SPRING MOWING FOR HEALTHIER GROWING

Your lawn's mowing needs change as quickly as the weather, and right now is one of the toughest times of the year to "keep up." Following the tips mentioned here will provide your lawn with a foundation for good health throughout the growing season ahead.

STICK TO THE "1/3 RULE." It's tempting to cut as short as possible to increase the amount of time between mowing. However, "scalping" the lawn removes too many of the green, food-producing cells needed for healthy growth. Instead, mow often enough so that you don't need to remove more than 1/3 of the blade at a time.

HAVE YOUR MOWER BLADE SHARPENED. A dull mower blade will shred the tips of your grass blades, making your lawn more susceptible to disease.

CHANGE IT UP. Varying your mowing pattern will encourage grass blades to stand up straight for better air circulation and a more attractive lawn.

With these mowing basics, you'll be well on your way to a thicker, greener, easier-to-care-for lawn!

Word Search

CAN YOU FIND THE 10 SPRING BULB NAMES HIDDEN IN THIS PUZZLE?

- | | |
|----------|------------|
| ALLIUM | IPHEION |
| ANEMONE | IRIS |
| DAFFODIL | IXIA |
| FREESIA | RANUNCULUS |
| HYACINTH | TULIP |

N	I	I	S	I	A	W	C	R	L	C	B	E	D	F
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Words can be found forwards, backwards, vertically, horizontally and diagonally.