



LANDSCAPING UPDATES

NEWS FROM VALERIE BRUNS LANDSCAPE SERVICES

The lawn season begins April 1st and ends November 15th. The following tips may be helpful to you this season.

MOWING

- Please remove toys, dog chains, hoses, lawn furniture, kiddie pools, and any obstacles from the lawn on mowing day.
- Please do not water lawn areas the night before or on mowing day.
- Crews mow the entire property first, and return later to blow grass clippings off patios, walks and driveways. There may be a few hours between the mowing and cleanup.
- Mowing is performed a specific number of times throughout the season. Occasionally, mowing of certain areas or the entire property will be skipped if there is minimal new growth or during drought conditions. If you think your lawn was missed please call your property manager before 3:00 p.m.
- If it rains on your scheduled mowing day, mowing will be re-scheduled the following day.

OTHER SERVICES

- A crew other than the mowing crew may perform pruning, edging, weeding, and cultivation.
- Pruning, edging, cultivation and weeding are performed a specific number of times throughout the season.
- Crews start and finish work at spe-

cific points throughout the property.

- Spring cleanup is performed in April or May.
- Fall cleanup is performed October through November 15th.
- Lawn areas damaged during snowplowing will be repaired with seed or sod in spring. You are responsible for watering new seed and/or sod.

TO MINIMIZE COST INCREASES, HOMEOWNERS SHOULD PICK UP TOYS FROM THEIR LAWNS AND CLEAN UP DOG DROPPINGS FROM THEIR YARDS AND ALONG COMMON AREAS WHILE DOG-WALKING.

IT IS A HEALTH HAZARD FOR THE GRASS CUTTERS TO DRIVE THROUGH FECAL MATTER.

FLOWERS

- Please do not plant flowers around tree crowns. Flowers require more water than trees and over watering flowers may cause water to sit under the tree ball and rot the roots.
- Please do not place flowerpots

around tree crowns. Tender tree roots lie just below the soil surface. Pots placed on the tree crown compact soil and cut off oxygen to the tender roots.

- We try not to damage flowers while performing routine maintenance in plant beds and tree crowns, but try as we may, damage is sometimes unavoidable. We do not reimburse homeowners for flowers damaged during routine maintenance.
- Please do not plant flowers at the edge of plant beds. Suction from mower blades or the string from the trimmer may damage flowers.
- If you do not want crews to work in your plant beds please inform the property manager in writing. Flags will be provided to mark the beds.

WATERING

- Water new seed/sod daily to keep the roots moist until it is established – See below **
 - When leaves on young trees and shrubs appear limp, place a hose at the base of the plant or tree and water at a slow trickle for 30 minutes.
 - When outdoor temperatures exceed 75 degrees water lawn, trees and shrubs early in the morning or after 5:00 p.m. to limit disease and evaporation of water.
- ** A guideline for watering most plant material is 20 minutes or 1 inch of water once a week.

**THE LAWN SEASON BEGINS APRIL 1ST AND ENDS NOVEMBER 15TH.
THESE TIPS MAY BE HELPFUL TO YOU THIS SEASON.**

ACCENT LIGHTS, ORNAMENTAL DECORATIONS & BIRD FEEDERS

- We will not be responsible for damage to landscape lighting, ornamental decorations, fences, statues or planters in plant beds or tree crowns that may occur during routine bed maintenance.
- We will not be responsible for weeding plant beds or tree crowns with bird feeders. Seed droppings sprout in the soil spreading masses of weed grasses throughout plant beds and tree crowns.

Thank you for your cooperation.

VALERIE M. BRUNS INC.



COMMERCIAL CHEMICAL APPLICATIONS

Commercial chemical applications are different than what most homeowners use. While homeowners are very familiar with the all in one ‘weed and feed’ product commonly available, Valerie M. Bruns uses two separate products, a fertilizer and a weed control. These are done in two separate applications.

FERTILIZER

Fertilizer is a granular product applied with a spreader. In the spring, the fertilizer is typically combined with a ‘pre-emergent’, used to prevent the germination of crab and weed grasses. It is commonly referred to as a ‘crabicide’. It will not prevent the growth of most other weeds but will prevent

the germination of any grass seed planted within approximately 6 weeks of application. The manufacturer states that seeding within 4 months may inhibit the establishment of desirable turf grasses. If a homeowner insists on seeding, we recommend roughing up the area, adding 1-1 ½” of topsoil and making sure the seed has good soil contact.

WEED CONTROL

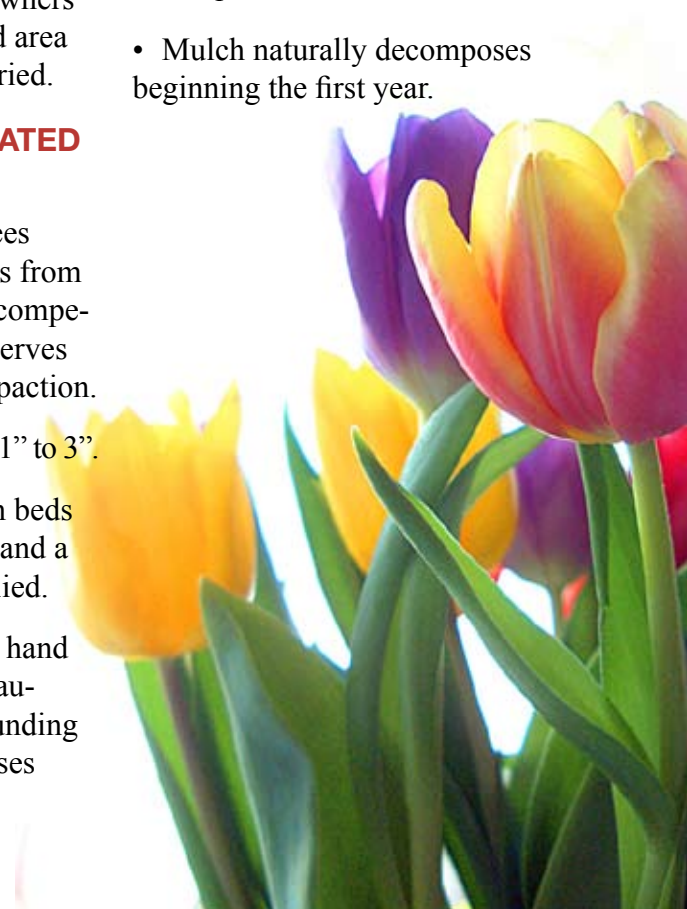
This is a lawn product commonly referred to as a ‘post-emergent’, meaning it kills only visible weeds. Weeds that emerge after treatment will not be affected and will continue to grow. It is a liquid product applied by a backpack sprayer, hose or ride-on sprayer. As many homeowners worry about their pets’ health, we do advise homeowners to keep them off the sprayed area until the weed control has dried.

ALL MULCH ISN’T CREATED EQUAL!

- Mulch is beneficial for trees and shrubs; it protects trunks from mower damage, eliminates competition from grass roots, conserves moisture, and prevents compaction.
- Mulch trees and plant beds 1” to 3”.
- Prior to mulch installation beds should be edged, cultivated and a pre-emergent herbicide applied.
- Workers spread mulch by hand around trees and create a “saucer” to retain moisture. Mounding mulch at the tree crown causes

moisture to run off with little benefit to the tree and may lead to root rot or damage to the trunk.

- Mulch is mechanically blown onto slopes, embankments, highway-right-of-ways and in open areas to control erosion. It’s fast and less expensive, but has limited use in ornamental plant beds containing plant material, perennials, or tender groundcovers that can be damaged by the high pressure.
- Free mulch from municipalities and utility companies may contain chips from dead and diseased trees.
- Mulch should be replaced or “topped” every two to three years. Plant beds that are routinely maintained will lose mulch with each cleanup.
- Mulch naturally decomposes beginning the first year.



LANDSCAPE SERVICE CALENDAR*

MONTH	LAWN CARE PRACTICES
April	Spring cleanup and snowplow turf repair. 1st turf fertilizer, fertilize trees & shrubs Mowing begins mid to late April 1st cultivation, edging & weeding of plant beds begins late April to early May - weather dependant - rain
May	Cultivation, edging and weeding of plant beds continues. 1st turf weed control, Sidewalks edged 1st pruning begins when new growth hardens off, late May to 2nd week of June – weather dependant - rain
June	2nd turf fertilizer - grub treatment available on T&M. Plant & turf watering programs begin - available on T&M. Sidewalks edged. Annual property walk with PM.
July	Monitor turf for pests/problems. Sidewalks edged. 2nd pruning of shrubs as needed begins late July. 2nd cultivation, edging and weeding of plant beds as needed begins.
August	Monitor turf for pests. Sidewalks edged. Landscape budgets submitted to property managers. Turf renovation** begins last week of month (optimum time) - available on T & M.
September	Turf renovation continues through end of month - available on T&M. 3rd turf fertilizer, 2nd turf weed control. Plant material installation begins - available on T&M. Sidewalks edged. Fall cleanup begins end of month including 3rd pruning of shrubs, cultivation & edging of plant beds, & shrub fertilizer.
October	Fall cleanup continues. Plant material installation continues.
November	Fall cleanup completed. Final turf mowing.

November 15th - END OF SEASON

The above services are WEATHER DEPENDANT. Services will be performed based on weather conditions.

*This calendar is a general outline of lawn care services. Consult individual contract for specific services and fertilizer applications.

** Turf renovation includes core aeration, dethatching and slit seeding performed spring or fall annually on T&M.

Note: some practices cannot be done in conjunction with another; such as reseeding and applying most herbicides, or fertilizing new seedlings at rates for established lawns.

