

FALL CLEAN-UP

Eddie Murillo, Maintenance Supervisor

Fall has arrived and soon we can expect to see a beautiful display of colors throughout the landscape. With such a display comes an equal abundance of work and headaches. Before fall clean-up, lawns and beds will be covered with leaves and branches. Walkways and patios will become cluttered with unsightly piles of debris. The benefit of our fall clean-up program is not just curb appeal, it will also prevent staining on decks, walkways, patios and driveways from leaves that have accumulated over time. Piles of leaves left on the lawn will kill the grass, so it is necessary to remove them as they accumulate. To do so we use backpack blowers, push blowers, leaf rakes and manual labor for removal of all leaves, sticks and debris. The annuals will be removed, and perennials cut back. This process will take place on a weekly basis for the fall season. Ultimately it will create a clean curb appeal and give you as a home or business owner the opportunity to enjoy fall for what it has to offer.

WATER FEATURE WINTERIZATION

Brian Franko, Construction Account Manager

There are many things to consider when deciding whether to leave your water feature running throughout the winter:

If you have fish in your pond the fish need at least 18 inches of swim room under the freeze line. In Northeast Ohio H&M recommends that your total pond depth be at least 3 feet deep. That gives the fish 18 inches of swim room, as well as the 18 inches of frost line.

Install an aerator to make sure the fish get a good air supply from the surface during winter shutdown of your pond. Installation is easy; one of our techs can take care of that for you.

Install a pond heater for better waterflow during the winter temperatures. This is a sure-fire way to keep the surface of your pond open to fresh air for the fish. All you need is access to a GFCI outlet.

Install netting over the entire pond to keep debris from collecting in your water feature. This also ensures there is minimal clean-up to get your water feature ready for the summer season.

If you decide to take your pump out for the winter, submerge it in a 5-gallon bucket of water. This will safeguard against the pump seals drying out and causing problems next year when you restart your water feature.



Plan. Design. Build. Enjoy.



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FALL 2018

CONTACT US!

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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our Commitment Is To Exceed Your Highest Expectations The First Time

Diversity – the Wikipedia definition states a range of things. Well, I view diversity a bit different.

As I was looking to develop a team, I always thought I wanted 5 more of me. After 31 years in business, I have come to the final realization that strength comes with Diversity. The more diverse your team is, the stronger it is. I always said I don't want to be the smartest person in the room because if you are the smartest person in the room you have nothing to gain from being there. I can say with all the conviction in the world I am not the smartest person in the room when it comes to the team at H&M Landscaping. It amazes me every day how much I learn when interacting with my staff. I know when we have an issue that we need to deal with and I don't have the answer on how to resolve it, all I need do is pull my team into the same room, lay out the issue and let the juices flow. Now sometimes the conversation might be a little passionate, but I know at the end of the day they have the best interest of the company and more importantly, our customer at heart.

I know I have written several articles about the amazing team we have at H&M Landscaping, but every time I start to consider a new President's Letter, I think about what makes us different, what makes our product so unique, what makes our world go 'round and I always come back to our people. Thanks to all the amazing staff at H&M Landscaping.

Mark Mazzurco

Mark Mazzurco,
President



From left to right: Kelly Lively, Eddie Murillo, Mike Hetzel, Bill Girtz, Phil Mann, Stan Deweese (in the loader), David Knaus, Kevin McCausland, Steve Fuller, Bobby Lester, Kathy Hupp, Jerry Wilthew, Mark Mazzurco, Nick Tinik, Kelly Oehler, Ralph Smith, Heather Koon, Larry Koon, Tonya Bukky, Craig Kachline, Summer Benbow. Missing from photo: Mark Barker, Brian Franko, Steve Petersen, Susan Hutson and Bill Keach.)

"I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot. Together we can do great things!" - Mother Teresa

Why, How & When to Aerate your Lawn

Dave Knaus, Maintenance Supervisor



Aeration is a vital part of any good lawn maintenance program because it allows air and water to penetrate built-up areas of grass or lawn thatch. Aeration is the practice of perforating the soil with small uniform holes to allow nutrients, air and water to reach the grass roots. This allows the roots to grow deeper and stronger, helping you to achieve a beautiful lawn. The main reason for aeration is to alleviate soil compaction. A lawn or turf area that is too compacted will not permit proper air circulation, water or nutrients to reach the grass roots. There are two main tools to aerate a turf

area – a spike aerator and a plug aerator. With a spike aerator you simply use the tool to poke holes into the ground with a solid tine or fork. Plug aerators remove a core or plug of grass and soil from the lawn. For the best results, use an aerating tool or machine that removes plugs of soil. You will need an aerating tool that removes soil plugs around 2-3 inches deep. When you are ready to aerate your lawn you must do a few things:

- Make sure the soil is moist before aeration. Do it the day after a rain or a heavy watering.
- Make multiple passes over heavily compacted areas.
- Allow the plugs to dry, then break them up by running them over with your lawn mower or by pounding them with the back of a rake.
- Continue basic lawncare practices such as proper fertilizing, mowing and watering. This is very important to ensure a successful treatment.

The best time for aeration is during the root growing season when the grass can heal itself. One of the best times is fall when it is cool and moist. This gives your lawn or turf area the best shot at thriving throughout the season.

TWO SOUNDS OF AUTUMN ARE UNMISTAKABLE...THE HURRYING RUSTLE OF CRISP LEAVES BLOWN ALONG THE STREET...BY A GUSTY WIND, AND THE GABBLE OF A FLOCK OF MIGRATING GEESE.

- HAL BORLAND

H & M Landscaping can do your fall clean up !

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CHRYSANTHEMUMS "Mums" - A fall favorite, but did you know there are two types of mums? A perennial mum is commonly referred to as a hardy or garden mum, while the florist mum is an annual and will give you only one season of color. The florist mum can be grown indoors and is one of NASA's top air purifying plants. To tell the difference between the two types: the annual flower is usually larger in size with thin or narrow leaves while the hardy mum will have smaller flowers and more round leaves that are deeply lobed. Chrysanthemums are easy to grow and will give you many years of lasting fall color in your garden. Whether you devote a small space or large, chrysanthemums will add beautiful fall season color! Why not add autumnal color to your landscaping – Call H&M Landscaping to schedule an appointment with our experts to create your fall garden design dreams! *Kathy Hupp, Office Assistant*

DID YOU KNOW?

Nick Tinik
Maintenance Production Manager

- On the first day of autumn, the sun is aligned with the equator between the north and south poles. On that September day, the light and dark hours are nearly equal. That's why it is called 'equinox', derived from the Latin word 'aqueous' which means 'equal'.
- There are only two days of the year when you can stand an egg on its end, the autumn and spring equinox. To do this you will need an egg, it does not have to be hard-boiled. Place the egg on a hard, flat surface on its largest end. Carefully pull your hands away and it should remain upright.
- Plants use sunlight to create nutrients and feed themselves, keeping their green color. As the days become shorter and plants get less sunshine, they stop producing these nutrients and display a different color. Yellow and orange sit below the green all the time and red and brown are made from wastes and nutrients trapped in them.
- Many people suffer from allergies that are based on pollen and mold spores from plants. As the plants slow down their creation of chlorophyll they also reduce the number of spores and pollen they generate. This alleviates the potential for more severe allergy attacks. It is generally felt that the first hard frost kills the leaves completely and stops all production of spores and pollen. The ushering in of the cool weather is a sign of relief for those who suffer from adverse reactions.

IMPROVING YOUR CURB APPEAL

Jerry Wilthew, Maintenance Supervisor

As the dog days of summer are winding down, there may be some aspect of your outdoor living space that does not meet your standards.

Hardscape

Have you been dreaming of a patio/retaining wall/outdoor kitchen/fire pit? Maybe what you already have needs a facelift? Sometimes a simple pressure wash and re-sand can bring back that brand-new look. Possible settling over time can be remedied by relaying/re-leveling existing layouts. You know the standard you are after. Multiple scenarios could be addressed to achieve them.

Softscape

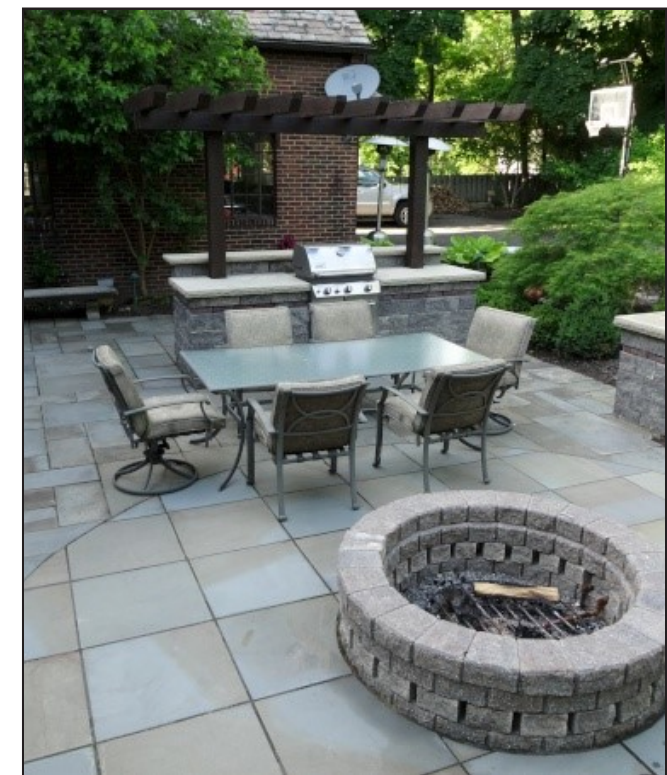
Are your plants/trees doing well? Are there areas that need improvement? Many new plant varieties are available that could address species that might not be doing well. Possibly you just want a new look. Many times, you just need a "picture" of someone else's rendition of the space in question. Also, don't forget the option of removal. Some plants need a lot of sun while others do well in the shade. Is everything planted in the proper location?

Carpentry

Decks, gazebos and trellises can really add an awesome look to your property. They do not need to be generic. Decide what you want and have it custom built.

Lawn

This summer was a more normal Northeast Ohio summer; that means hot and humid. Summer is their stress time and a lawn can struggle until cooler temps arrive in the fall. Keep in mind that cool-season



grasses need sunlight (preferably morning), drainage and air movement to do their best. Do you have shaded areas that are not up to your expectations? Again, don't forget the option of removal, trees in this case. Maybe these poor areas could turn into wonderful shade gardens. Lower-limb removal could also do wonders. Aeration is one of the best things that can be done to improve your lawn; consider annual core aeration. Even if you are doing everything right, weather is the wild card. Dry weather will always bring dormancy in non-irrigated lawns. Irrigation is very helpful but can also bring fungus pressure as moisture levels remain high on grass blades. Consider introducing newer varieties of seed into your lawn. Many of these species have been bred to be resistant to insects, fungi and drought.

If you have concerns in any of the areas mentioned above, consider setting up an appointment with one of our staff to address your needs. Don't wait too long because after all this is Northeast Ohio and before you know it, the Lake Erie snow machine will be kicking in and we will all be dreaming of summer once again.

