

## PREPARING YOUR LANDSCAPE FOR SPRING

MARK BARKER  
BRANCH MANAGER

As spring is fast approaching and right around the corner and hope of warmer weather start to come to fruition, now is the perfect time to take care of landscape clean up that has been pushed aside by this very cold winter season. When starting into this task, we all have many great ideas of what we want our yard to look like this year, but often don't plan or take all the necessary steps early enough to get the benefits we envisioned early on. That being said, I have prepared a list of tips for you to consider when preparing your landscape for spring.

1. Cut back dead leaf material and prune deadwood out of trees and shrubs
2. Fertilize all perennials, trees and shrubs
3. Install spring pre-emergent weed preventers (timing is critical and can be the difference between pulling weeds all year)
4. Mulch installation and cultivation—preparing planting beds with organic mulch will supply nutrients to shrubs and perennials throughout the season.
5. Early lawn repairs caused by winter damage. Keep in mind it takes 21 growing days for bluegrass to germinate, so planting early is ideal, but make sure your protect seeded areas from frost.
6. Spring plantings—perennials, trees and shrubs—take advantage of cooler weather and typical spring rain to help start your new planting
7. Make sure yard care equipment has been serviced and will be ready when you want to go to work
8. Get your irrigation start up scheduled before it is in dire need
9. Consult with your landscape professional early if you wish to have a project done by a specific timeframe. Spring is typically one of our busiest times of year, but early planning will get your project completed.
10. Fencing, arbors or trellis—inspect for loose, damaged, or missing boards and identify painting or staining needs.

By starting your spring with a good planned list and following some of these tips, your landscape will be well on its way to a healthy start of the season. I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable season and wish you all the best of luck with your landscape.



## CONTACT US!

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SPRING 2015

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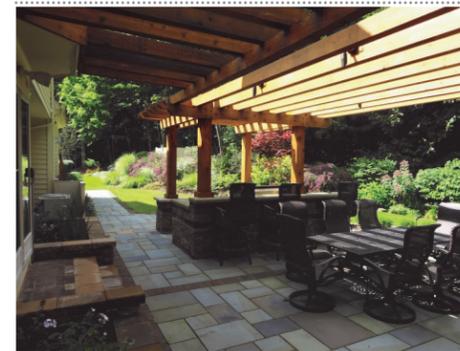
## A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

we receive from people who do not directly interact with our staff, but were able to enjoy your space through the web. I have always said our customers are the most important part of our company and the way to exceed their expectations is a two prong approach. It is always important to aggressively hire new talent and to retain existing team members to create a repeatable experience for our clients. With that being said I am excited to introduce you to three new members of the H&M Team. All of which have been in the landscaping world for many years and bring a combined 80 plus years of experience to our company. Joe Wilks will be joining us as a registered architect and has over 15 years of creating out door living spaces for clients to enjoy. Tom Lawrence has been in the landscape industry for over 30 years. With an extensive back ground in plants and turf maintenance he will be adding his skills to the H&M Maintenance Division. Tim Korte rounds out our new team members. Tim has joined the H&M team with over 40 years of landscaping experience. It has been exciting to see how each and everyone of these new team members have helped to mentor and coach our existing team. I am excited to see how when we blend the new team together with our existing staff the synergy that will be developed to increase the H&M customer Experience. I would be remiss if I

didn't acknowledge our existing team members who have been promoted to new position in our company. Myron woods has been promoted from Project Manager to Softscape Supervisor, Steve Peterson has been promoted from a Foreman II to a Construction Supervisor, John Web has been promoted to our Yard Manager, and last but not least Jerry Wilthew has been promoted from a Chemical Foreman to Maintenance Supervisor. All of these new team members and promotions bring new energy and a different perspective to our team. I think H&M Landscaping company has been, and remains, on the cutting edge of the landscape industry because it is a melting pot of new talent and seasoned veterans. I have always said that when you buy our product you have a ton of other choices, but at the end of the day our people make the difference. I may be a little biased but I believe we have the best people that the landscape industry has to offer. Thanks to all of our loyal customers. Without you, we would not have been able to be part of all the beautiful landscapes we have been lucky enough to create across north eastern Ohio.

*Mark Mazzurco*

Mark Mazzurco, President



**Is it spring yet?** What a winter for Northeastern Ohio. Record amounts of snow coupled with record low temperatures has made me, and I am sure all of you, anxious for the birds to start tweeting and the sun to stay in the sky for more than an afternoon. With spring on the horizon, we know that warmer temperatures are right around the corner and of course spring operations start for H&M Landscaping. The smell of fresh mulch or cut grass lingers through the air as the days get longer and your yard starts to transition from white to green. As always, we are committed to making your experience with H&M Landscaping one that you not only enjoy, but want to share with your family and friends. Many of you have used Facebook's social media platform to share your experiences with your friends and I thank you for that. It is refreshing to hear all the compliments

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## THE H&M INSIGHT



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR H&M TEAM MEMBERS

Sam Kent, March 10

Mark Barker, March 21

Miguel Murillo, April 6

Ralph Smith, April 13

Scott Wood, April 21

Dave Hartman, April 25

Robert Thompson, May 2

Eddie Murillo, May 5

John Bates, May 6

Kerri Brent, May 11

Frank Galino, May 11

Tim Korte, May 11

Sergio Aboytes, May 20

Tom Holecek, May 20

Enjoy your day!

## SPRING LAWN CARE TIPS

PETE SAVIOLI  
MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

As spring approaches, we are all excited for the warm weather, the smell of spring and getting out of the house to enjoy it! Spring is also the time of year to start getting your lawn and landscape back in shape from the grueling winter months. It is important to jump start your lawn and landscape in the spring to have the best looking yard.

All of us get spring fever and the first warm day everyone is out cleaning up their yard from the winter. It is important to give your lawn adequate time to dry out. If you start to rake the thatch or snow mold out of your lawn while it is too wet, it will actually cause more harm than it will benefit. Raking your lawn while it is too wet will actually pull the grass and the roots out of the soil, leaving undesirable bare spots.

Once your lawn has dried out, you can safely start cleaning up your yard from the previous fall and winter months. The first, and most important, thing you want to do is rake all the thatch and snow mold from all lawn areas. Remove any leaves and debris from all turf areas. If you didn't have your lawn aerated and over-seeded in the fall, it is a good idea to have it done in the spring. You can also put down Lime after your lawn is aerated. This will help improve the soil quality and the overall quality of your lawn.

Spring fertilizer is very important to the overall health of your lawn. It is very important that you use a pre-emergent fertilizer in the spring to prevent crabgrass from germinating in your lawn. The timing that the fertilizer is applied is also very important. Don't apply the fertilizer until the ground temperature is at least 50 degrees. You also don't want to wait too long to apply it either because you will give crabgrass the opportunity to start to germinate before the fertilizer can prevent it. If you see that Forsythia are in bloom, that is a good indicator that the ground temperature is 50 degrees. Never apply pre-emergent fertilizer around newly planted grass. It will stop the grass from germinating and it most likely will not grow.

Get your irrigation system turned on and any broken parts repaired so it is ready for the season. Don't start watering your lawn until the warm, dry summer months. It is actually good for the roots of your lawn to be slightly stressed. This will encourage deep rooting of your lawn and it will prepare it for the dog days of summer.

When it becomes time to start cutting your lawn, be sure to get your lawn mower ready for the season. Check and or change all the fluids in the mower. Change the spark plug and any filters as well. Be sure to sharpen the blades. This will insure that your lawn is being cut and not sheared. Make sure when you cut your grass for the first time, you cut it short. This will remove all the dead grass tops and provide newly emerging leaves the sunlight they need to get them growing.

Spring is an important time of the year for your lawn. Get your lawn and landscape off to a good start this season. The more work you put into your lawn this spring, the better it will look the rest of the season. Follow these spring lawn care tips to the greenest lawn on your street!



## Lawn Drainage Issues

NEIL ZELONIS  
CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISOR

Spring is a great time to assess any drainage issues you may have in your yard. As winter snow melts and spring rains arrive, there is a large amount of water traveling through everybody's yards. Drainage problems will usually reveal themselves during this time of year. Those areas of the lawn or landscape that hold water for extended periods of time not only can be annoying by leaving these areas too soft and muddy to use, but can damage turf and plants not adapted to wet conditions.

The good news is that for every drainage problem, there is a solution. In general, drainage issues are corrected in one of three ways or by using a combination of these three methods.

1. Improve soil permeability through aeration, thatching and soil amendments

2. Redirect the water. This can include regrading or actually installing any of a variety of yard drains.

3. Installing plants that are meant to grow and thrive in wet conditions. Plants adapted to wet conditions will use more water and, in some cases, will actually pull enough water into their root system to dry up an otherwise wet area.



Consult your landscape professional to see what is the best course of action for your particular drainage issue and you can enjoy a lawn and landscape free from puddles and swampy areas. Good luck and enjoy the spring.

## PLANTS THAT BENEFIT FROM EARLY SPRING FERTILIZATION

TIM KORTE  
VP BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Finally, we are coming out of this brutal 2015 Winter. As you survey your landscape, don't neglect to consider fertilizing your plants this month. While not everything needs to be ferted, some plants benefit more than others.

**Liriope** - This is probably the most under-fertilized plant I see on properties. It likes a lot of nitrogen and will be chlorotic and weak if not fertilized correctly. Don't be skimp with fert on this plant, it's not like you have to mow it! A healthy bed of Liriope will also have less weeds than weaker beds.

**Summer flowering shrubs** - Even more than Spring flowering, Summer flowering shrubs have to put on new growth before they flower. Without the new growth, flowering may be greatly reduced. This includes some obvious ones such as Roses and Abelia, but also, Crape Myrtles, Hy-

drangeas, Butterfly Bush, Hypericum Spirea and Rose of Sharon.

**Shrubs grown for their foliage** - The concept is the same as the previous group, these plants have been pruned back so they can push out new, ornamental growth during the growing season. Once again, fertilizing these plants will help push out the new growth that is necessary

for their ornamental appeal. This includes Barberry, Redtwig Dogwoods and Variegated Privet.

**New Plants** - Newly installed plants, trees, shrubs, groundcovers, etc. all need extra fertilizer since they do not have the root system to go into turf or other areas to pick up nutrients, it is important to give them some slow-release fertilizer before mulching. Their establishment will be faster if their leaves are a deep green color and more able to maximize food production. New trees are one plant that

I see nutrient deficiency with more than any other, so we need to make sure we supply supplemental nutrients.



Call H&M Landscaping to receive a free quote on fertilizing your plants this year.



“ No Winter Lasts Forever,  
No Spring Skips its Turn ”

## DID YOU KNOW?

NICK TINIK

MAINTENANCE PRODUCTION MANAGER



- The vernal equinox is the first day of the year when we have twelve hours of daylight and twelve hours of night.
- In spring, the Earth's axis is tilted toward the sun, increasing the number of daylight hours and bringing warmer weather that causes plants to bring forth new growth.
- Baby birds learn to sing during spring. Although they are born with the ability to sing, they must learn the specific songs of their species. They often learn their songs within two months of being born.
- Daylight Savings Time saves approximately 1% of electricity a day. It adds up to a lot when figuring in the entire nation (except Arizona and Hawaii of course).
- Spring fever is a real syndrome. When the temperature rises during the warm spell after a long winter, there is a dilation of the blood vessels so blood can be carried to the body surface where heat can be lost quickly. People experience an energetic feeling when this happens.



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