

FIREPITS FOR ENTERTAINING

BRIAN FRANKO
CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISOR

Everyone dreams of having a fireplace in their home – a centerpiece of the living room around which family members can gather and which provides a feeling of warmth and comfort during cold days. However, few people realize that an outdoor fire pit can provide the same benefits – but outdoors, on the patio or in the backyard, where a whole range of other options for enjoying the fire pit opens up.

Having a fire pit is the perfect excuse to gather your friends and loved ones together, whether formally or informally. The central location of the fire pit allows people to gather around it in wicker chairs, enjoying its warmth while also using it as the centerpiece for meeting and conversing with others.

You can throw a party for your friends in the neighborhood, inviting them over for some great food and lively conversation. Take this opportunity to break out your best silverware and try that new recipe you've been meaning to tackle for months; entertaining is a great way to not only bring others enjoyment, but to have some fun for yourself.

Or you could have a more informal, family-oriented gathering; for birthday parties, anniversaries, graduations, or any other type of special occasion, use the outdoor fire pit as a way to draw people together. You can try your hand at barbecuing (on a grill of course, not over the actual fire) or even just order pizza to celebrate around the fire together. Get together to watch the big game, and then move to the backyard, around the fire pit, to replay its greatest moments. Congratulate a family member on a new job or an engagement with celebratory drinks around the fire pit.



With so many different types of fire pits to choose from, you'll be able to enjoy the process of selecting what you want your fire pit to look like along with appreciating the pit itself. Start by looking at what shape you want it to take, from circular to rectangular; consider what other shapes are prevalent on your patio, then just go off of your instinct. You can also choose from several different stone types. Each of these has its benefits, but ultimately it comes down to what you see as matching better with the other decorations in your backyard and what your personal tastes are. Colors such as Fossil Beige, Oxford Gray, and Harvest Blend, provide variety, and textures from tumbled and weathered, or clean and contemporary, add a sense of elegance to the finishing's. Finally, enjoy the fire pit as simply a way to carry out many of the moments of everyday life that families share so often. You can eat dinner together on the patio, rather than staying inside because the fire pit will provide light and warmth. Spend evenings just sitting on the patio and talking, or bring the kids out into the backyard for some camping in the summer.

Give H&M a call now, and someone from our Sales Department will stop by for a free and friendly estimate. There are no limit to the possibilities, all you have to do is dream it, and H&M Landscaping will make those dreams a reality...



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SUMMER 2016

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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Well here we are and I cant believe it's June already. This spring has come in like a lion and I don't just mean the weather. I've been in business for nearly 27 years now with an amazing staff and for that I am blessed. I have always lived by the mantra: what doesn't kill you, makes you stronger; but I must admit, the federal government and its lack of accountability has tested H&M Landscaping's resolve more than any other challenge we've faced in business. Their delay in processing our H2B petition has sent a rippling effect through our customers and our dedicated H&M team. Many of you know we utilize the

H2B seasonal worker program to help support us in the labor arena. For more than 15 years, we have used this program to fill the large void in the labor pool that exists in our community. These seasonal workers bring a strong work ethic, pride in their work, and skill set that is critical to supplying the exceptional customer service that our clients deserve. The government felt that if they dragged their feet for an extra 60 days and delayed completing our application, we would be forced to fill those open positions with local labor. After running numerous ads in every paper in Northeast Ohio, many online ads, and even with hiring 20 temporary employees, the quality of service you are all accustomed to was substandard (to put it mildly). I have always said that we don't sell top soil,mulch,lawn service; we sell our people. That's what makes us different than all the other landscape companies in Northeast Ohio. The good news: our seasonal workers arrived

as of mid May. The bad news: this is almost eight weeks later from our original petition date and our hard working team members and loyal clients have suffered. Chalk one up for the federal governments failed effort to make our lives better by trying to know our business better than we do. November can't get here soon enough and I hope changes are coming to get our team to a better place. I built my business with good people, and over the last 8 years, those people have had to tolerate increasing interference from the powers that be. After all, they have done so "well" with the post office, social security and economic growth - at least they are consistent!. Thanks for your continued loyalty and your patience as we work through this hurdle on the way to the finish line.

Mark Mazzurco

Mark Mazzurco, President

THE H&M INSIGHT



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR H&M TEAM MEMBERS

June

Christopher Rodriguez, June 2
Carols Preza, June 3
Hugo Hernandez Perez, June 4
Joe Werling, June 5
Chris Fiorille, June 9
Gerardo Santos Anguiano, June 9
Israel Juarez Valadarama, June 11
Nick Tinik, June 13
Jose Razo, June 14
Samuel Jimenez Mandujano, June 15
Thomas Cross, June 19
Juan Soto Porras, June 25

July

Carlos Ramierz Perez, July 2
Jerry Wilthew, July 4
Frank Cestnik, July 7
Fermin Cisneros, July 7
Sergio Ornelas Preza, July 7
Primitivo Rodriguez, July 8
Joseph Brush, July 10
David Reho, July 11
Mario Conzalez Gomez, July 13
Justin McDonald, July 15
Michael Gomez Nava, July 17
Gerome Anderson, July 20
Juan Fonseca Estrada, July 22
Jose Ramirez Olivarez, July 23
Christopher Stone, July 23
Justin Sulek, July 27
Coleen Oehler, July 29

Enjoy your day!

SUMMER WATERING—TREES AND SHRUBS

ED SMITH
CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISOR

Over- and under-watering are two of the most common mistakes made in the landscape. To avoid these mistakes, learn about the types of plants you will be caring for and their – often very different – water requirements. If you are caring for a landscape in the desert southwest, chances are the plants will be extremely drought tolerant. They may require water only every few weeks. A landscape in northeast Ohio, however, may need watering weekly or even more frequently during times of drought. Water requirements vary with the seasons, as well. Summer heat dries out the soil and stresses plants, making it necessary to water more frequently.

Soils also play a large part in the watering needs of trees and shrubs. Sandy soils along the eastern seaboard dry very quickly, but the loamy soils of the Midwest tend to retain moisture much longer. Clay soils hold moisture the longest, and it is in these soils that over-watering usually occurs.



New Plants

Newly planted trees and shrubs need more water than established plants. If planting during the hot months, plan on daily watering for the first few weeks. It is best not to plant trees and shrubs during the summer months.

The ideal planting times for new trees and shrubs is spring and fall. New plants will still require daily watering for a week or two, but they will establish much more quickly when not stressed by the intense summer heat. By week three, watering can be tapered off to every two or three days. At eight weeks, a weekly watering should be sufficient.

Established Plants

Established plants need water less frequently – once or twice a month depending on rainfall - but in larger quantity to support a more extensive root system. Water deeply, to a depth at least 12". Use a garden spade to dig down and check soil moisture levels.



Tip

A freshly mulched garden bed is more than just aesthetically pleasing. It retains soil moisture while suppressing weeds, preventing diseases, and moderating soil temperatures. As they break down, organic mulches also enrich the soil.

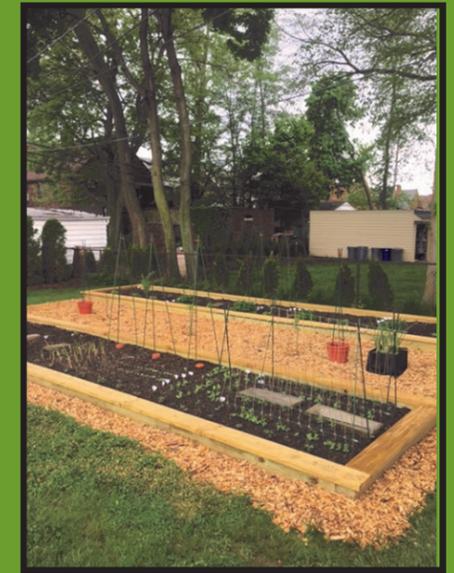
If you follow these principals about watering, your trees and shrubs will make it through the summer. Any questions you might have, please call H&M Landscaping and we will be happy to assist you with you watering needs.

RAISED GARDEN PLANTER GARDENS

KEVIN MCCAUSLAND
CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISOR

Now that the cold night temps are gone until fall, it time to start your summer garden if you haven't started it yet. In many rural neighborhoods, Raised planter boxes has risen in popularity over that last couple of years. The picture to the right are 2 raised planters for vegetable gardening at a customer in Shaker Heights. The first step to build your own container garden is to determine the exact location. Abundant sunlight is the most important factor to consider. Once you have chosen the perfect location

and size to build, you can start construction. This planter box we made with 6x6 pressure treated lumber as the base and walls and we used 2x8 as our top cap. You will need to anchor the 6x6's into the ground with 2' long pieces of rebar every 3' on center or so. After completion, you will need to chose a good quality of planting mix to fill the planter box. I prefer to use 40% topsoil, 30% compost, and 30% sand. You can do your own research and decide what you would like to use. If this project seems to large, call H&M Landscape today to schedule your 100% free estimate with one of our many qualified team members!



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eyes ”

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- The term Landscape was originally a painting term in the 17th century from the Dutch word landschap from the middle Dutch landscap meaning "land" - region – and "scap" - ship or condition. In 1886, a more familiar interpretation of the German word landschaft came into common usage to denote a "tract of land with its distinguishing characteristics".
- Trees drink about 2,000 liters of water each year.
- Strategically planting trees and shrubs can save you up to 25 percent on your energy bills. Not only do they provide shade in the summer, but serve as a windbreak in the winter, too
- The "knock on wood" tradition comes from a time when primitive pagans used to tap or knock on trees to summon the protective spirits that resided in them
- Tomato juice is the official state beverage of Ohio, honoring the part A. W. Livingston of Reynoldsburg, Ohio, played in popularizing the tomato in the late 1800s.



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