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Spring Lawncare and Landscaping Tips

By Clint Allison

With spring in full bloom, now is the time homeowners and businesses focus on beautifying lawns and landscaping.

Taking care of your lawn now will help establish an attractive lawn in the hotter, drier summer months and when the temperature cools in the fall.

Here are some general tips to ensure your lawn remains lush through fall:

- Seed or re-seed if you have unsightly areas or grassless spots
- Fertilize to help lawn growth
- Aerate your lawn to remove harmful thatch
- Remove weeds with either a chemical spray or pulling by hand
- Make sure your lawn and landscaping gets plenty of water
- Have a professional activate your irrigation system

Making sure vegetation gets enough water is critical to maintaining healthy lawns and landscaping. When Mother Nature does not supply enough water, you may rely on an irrigation system for a more permanent fix.

If you have an irrigation system, the spring start-up process is important to maintaining your lawn and landscaping. The first step is having a professional conduct the spring start up, which includes putting the backflow preventer back together and making sure there are no water line leaks. After that process, each zone should be checked to verify that the rotary and fixed spray heads are operating properly. Once the entire system has been checked, the controller will be tuned to an appropriate setting for the upcoming season. Overall, the entire process takes about 45 minutes to an hour to complete, but is well worth it.

I recommend homeowners water their lawns for shorter periods and with more frequency during the normally cooler, wetter spring months and for longer periods of time and with less frequency to combat hot and dry weather. In the spring, you could water your lawns and landscaping daily if you are not receiving much rain. During a typical summer, I would suggest watering three to four days per week; this promotes deeper root growth and a stronger lawn that does not stress as easily.

To avoid future lawn damage from hot weather and lack of rain, you can cut grass to about four inches high or more. During drier months, lawns need to be watered to prevent it from going dormant or dying. Weeds also will thrive when a lawn is stressed from heat and lack of water.

For more tips and information, visit Rainscapes' website at www.rainscapes.com, check us out on Facebook or call me at (865) 981-4270.

Rainscapes is the only national Irrigation Association Certified Irrigation Contractor in East Tennessee, offering diverse residential and commercial irrigation products and services, including system installations, seasonal irrigation maintenance and landscape lighting and design. Rainscapes was founded by Clint Allison in 1996. In 2010, Allison acquired Duck Irrigation in Knoxville, Tenn. With the acquisition, Duck Irrigation merged and consolidated under the Rainscapes' brand. Visit www.rainscapes.com for more information.