



Specialists in Turfgrass and Landscape Design

TURFGRASS & LANDSCAPE DESIGN
517-627-9669
Since 1971

Need Help?

Please review this list of services we can provide to you.

- Fertilizing
- Weed Control
- Aerating & Seeding
- Mowing Service
- Fungus/Insect Control
- Tree & Shrub Care
- Vegetation Management
- Pruning & Trimming
- Mulching/Topdressing
- Perennial Beds
- Consulting
- Field Mowing
- Commercial Snowplowing/Salting
- Landscape Design & Installation

Commercial & Residential • State Certified Technicians

— (517) 627-9669 —

P.O. Box 190 • Grand Ledge, MI 48837



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THE GREEN INFORMANT

TURFGRASS & LANDSCAPE DESIGN
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FALL 2007

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(517) 627-9669 ■ Fax (517) 626-2645 ■ E-mail: dlblawntech@starband.net

LOOK FORWARD TO AUTUMN COLORS

ARE YOU A WINNER?

Lawn Tech is awarding our loyal customers by sponsoring a *tree giveaway*. In each quarterly newsletter, look for your customer number in the prize box. If your customer number is posted you could win a 5' Blue Spruce this fall or a 3' Japanese Maple this winter. If your customer number is listed, call our office to confirm and your name will be entered into the drawing. Each drawing will have a deadline to call by, so be sure to read every issue. In each newsletter, *Curt's Landscaping Corner* will feature the selected tree to be given away, detailing all the features and aesthetics that are native to the species.

Congratulations to Pat Rademacher of Grand Ledge for winning the 2" caliper Red Maple this summer

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

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- Questions & Answers
- Landscaping Corner
- Plant ID

It's time once again to wind down the lawn care season and switch gears to fall service work and preparation for winter service work as well. Pruning of shrubs, raking of leaves and cleaning of eave troughs are just a few tasks many homeowners will be tackling this fall.

Fall is a great time for planting as well. Vibrant mums, colorful spring tulips and a large variety of perennials can be installed now for enjoyment yet this fall and next year.

As we end the season with this fall weed and feed treatment, we would like you to reflect back on the season and take a moment to fill out and return the survey form on your lawn care service this season. This information is used to train technicians and evaluate our quality of service and products. In addition, your feedback enables us to maximize the services we provide to you.

With the severe drought stress this summer there may be thin areas in your lawn that may need some additional attention. The turf in these areas may be dead, strug-

gling or thinned-out. Over seeding is suggested at this time after your fall treatment. Seed to soil contact is the key to getting the grass seed to germinate. Core aeration can be of benefit as well. Seeding now will ensure a thick lawn next spring.

In an effort to simplify doing business with Lawn Tech, I would like to remind all of our clients that your *regular scheduled programs such as weed & feed and tree & shrub, as well as non-selective programs, will automatically renew for the 2008 season*. Prepay renewals will be sent out the first week of January 2008. If there is a change in your service, please call our office as soon as possible to confirm service as well as add services.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call our office. The staff and I would like to extend a huge **Thank You** to all our clients for your patronage in 2007 and we look forward to being on your property in 2008.

Have a colorful fall!

Dan Boak

Dan Boak
President

ATTENTION ALL LAWN TECH CUSTOMERS: YOUR REGULAR SCHEDULED PROGRAMS WILL AUTOMATICALLY RENEW FOR 2008! PLEASE CALL OUR OFFICE FOR ANY CHANGES IN YOUR SERVICE.

PREPAY RENEWALS WILL BE MAILED OUT THE FIRST WEEK OF JANUARY TO PREPAY OR ADD ADDITIONAL SERVICES AT A DISCOUNTED PRICE.

CURT'S LANDSCAPING CORNER

RETAINING WALLS NO ONE REMEMBERS

Everyone remembers who built the retaining walls that failed, but who remembers the beautiful wall that was built 20 plus years ago and is still standing and looking great today? Through our design process, Lawn Tech can build you a retaining wall that will endure time and will stand tall with quality craftsmanship and materials.

The following are some of the many critical steps in building a retaining wall that will last.

1. **BASE:** 50% of your time in a retaining wall project usually is spent on preparing the base. The width of your base is normally 24" wide depending on the size of your block. Just like a concrete footing your base needs to be wider than your block to ensure that the weight of the wall doesn't settle the base on the edge.
2. **COMPACTION:** Using a walk behind plate compactor every 2" is required to ensure a proper compacted base. Applying a little water to the gravel will aid in the compaction and cut down on the dust.
3. **LEVELING THE FIRST COURSE:** After your base is level you are now ready to lay the first

course of block. Take your time because it is much easier to fix uneven block now than later. Level each block side to side and front to back. A laser level will help this process go faster and make your readings more accurate. If you're building a straight wall, run a string line along the back of the blocks to keep them in line.

4. **DRAIN TILE:** Always install a perforated drain tile in sock behind the wall at the first course. This is a very inexpensive material that will aid in controlling water.
5. **BACKFILL:** Always backfill the retaining wall with a clear washed stone or similar product, and put a fabric material behind the wall and behind the washed stone to keep the stone from mixing with other backfill material.

These are some of the few steps involved in a retaining wall project. If you would like to know more about retaining walls or have a need for a retaining wall project, give Lawn Tech a call. We will build you a long lasting and beautiful retaining wall.

Curt Boak, Landscape Designer

PLANT ID

Picea pungens
Colorado Blue Spruce
Height: Mature height 30'-60' with a 10'-20' spread in an average landscape condition. In the wild they can reach heights of 90'-135' and 20'-30' wide

The Colorado Blue Spruce is an excellent plant for screening or wind blocks due to evergreen texture. When planting don't forget the mature width of this plant unless you want them to grow together.

The color of the needles is usually a gray-green to blue-green color. It prefers rich, moist soil in a full sun environment. It can also be a drought tolerant plant. The growth rate of a Colorado Blue Spruce is slow-medium.

Don't forget to see if your customer number is posted in this issue to be eligible for a chance to win 1 5'-6' Colorado Blue Spruce planted by Lawn Tech in your yard.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN FEES:

\$500.00 — Full Landscape Design. Fee includes initial meeting, drawing and follow-up meeting to discuss details of drawing and project or revisions.

Consultation/Estimate Charge — \$45.00 per hour, one hour minimum. No charge for existing clients with a full-service program.

**LANDSCAPE PROJECTS WANTED:
CALL CURT OR SHAY TODAY
AT LAWN TECH TO MAKE YOUR
DREAMS A REALITY.**

FALL CHECKLIST

- Trim shrubs and trees to help alleviate damage from winter weather, this will also help plants to conserve vital water and nutrients during winter.
- Clean all leaves and debris from lawn and beds. This will help keep rodents from nesting in beds and alleviate grass from dying out.
- The last mow of the season should be at a height of 1.5" to 2". This will help prevent snow mold damage in the spring. Be sure to not scalp the lawn.
- Water any new seeding or plantings regularly to help plants store water for the winter season.
- Deep root feeding is also essential to trees and shrubs for winter nutrients and an early start next spring. Be sure lawn is dormant, typically late November or first week of December.
- Wrap any delicate or ornamental plants or trees that may be over exposed to the winter elements to help ensure health and prevent winter kill.
- Clean eaves on house to ensure proper drainage of melting snow during the winter and spring thaws.
- Put up markers along drive and walkways to alleviate any plow or snow removal damage to lawn. This will also help you find the drive during those heavy snowfalls.
- Have your irrigation lines blown out!
- Line up your lawn care needs for the next season. Early planning helps lawn care companies project next years workload and you may be able to take advantage of early discounts.

LAWN TECH PRIZE BOX

If your customer number is posted, call our office by October 19, 2007 to be entered into the drawing for your chance to win one 5' Blue Spruce.
Customer numbers:

1030 1038 1043 1059 1063 1102 1142 1227 1369
1378 1408 1439 1558 1568 1592 1596 1756 1810
1847 1866 1943 2036 2064 2097 2112 2165 2300
2308 2334 2347 2485 2495 2572 2580 2586 2714
2780 2894 2966 2984 3104 3151 3152 3169 3176
3371 3506 3508 3552 3553 3567 3618 3726 3731
3767 3828 3866 3945 3949 3997 4074 4127 4206
4216 4250 4267 4322 4334 4358 4361 4470 4535
4589 4634 4636 4664 4681 4684 4687 4794 5048

QUESTIONS FROM CLIENTS. ANSWERS FROM LAWN TECH

Q What are the black spots on my maple leaves? Will my tree be damaged from this?

A This is known as Maple Tar Spot. Symptoms of tar spot are now becoming more evident on maple foliage. We have received numerous phone calls from our customers showing concern about this disease. You will be relieved to know that tar spot generally does not cause significant harm to well established trees although it does effect the aesthetics.

Tar spot gets its name from the shiny black, tar-looking lesions it creates on the leaves of several species of maple. Tissue is infected in the late spring and early summer after the leaves are fully expanded. Initially the infected tissue turns light green or yellow-green. At this stage it is not easily diagnosed. The development of the "tar-spots" is when it is generally noticed and by then, too late to treat.

The recommended fungicide applications for tar-spot are at bud break and twice thereafter at 7-14 day intervals. Once the tree has leafed out, applications are ineffective.

Q I have huge wasps digging holes in my yard. What are they?

These are Cicada Killers. Cicada killers are among the largest of the wasp family. They are yellow and black striped and grow to be over two inches long. Cicada killers will dig their nests throughout the yard, mulch and sand areas and will generally frighten anyone who sees them. Like most wasps, they can sting. Cicada killers will hunt cicadas during the summer months when populations are active. They will find a cicada, sting it and bring it back to its nest to feed the young.

Old folklore states that cicadas are active every 7 or 12 years, but in fact, some will emerge every year depending on the region. Cicada killer populations will vary depending on the hatch or release of cicadas. In general, the more cicadas, the more cicada killers. They are a nuisance around the home because they dig large nests which are unsightly, but they are generally not aggressive unless irritated. Stay clear of their nests and be sure to keep children away from them as well. Each nest is a one time affair, but some properties meet the needs of the cicada wasp, so it appears that they have the same nest year after year.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, SERVICE CONTINUES FROM SEASON TO SEASON. FOR A CHANGE IN SERVICE, PLEASE CALL OUR OFFICE.