

## THINKING IRRIGATION?

**Question:** What are the pros of automatic irrigation systems? Aren't they wasteful?

**Answer:** Automatic irrigation systems are convenient, especially for those who travel. If installed and programmed properly, automatic irrigation systems can even save you money and help in water conservation. Dead lawn grass and plants need to be replaced, and that can be expensive. But the savings from automatic irrigation systems can go beyond that.

Watering with a hose or with an oscillator wastes water. Neither method targets plant roots with any significant degree of precision. Automatic irrigation systems can be programmed to discharge more precise amounts of water in a targeted area, which promotes water conservation.

**Question:** What are drip irrigation systems and how do they promote water conservation?

**Answer:** Drip irrigation systems, at the most basic level, are constituted by a series of tubes that have holes opened along them at intervals. For a further description of drip irrigation systems, please continue reading...

The location of the open holes is tailored so as to irrigate most efficiently the specific garden beds in which drip irrigation systems will be buried, promoting water conservation. If you have a bed in which perennials are spaced at two-foot intervals, then there will be corresponding holes in the tubing at two-foot intervals, through which water will be discharged. You don't waste any water with drip irrigation systems, because you're not watering the intervening area between plants. The dripping occurs only where the plants are stationed.

Lawn Tech can provide you with a custom quote for your lawn or landscape. Spring start-ups and fall shutdowns also can be scheduled.



**Specialists in Turfgrass  
and Landscape Design  
Since 1971**

Specializing in the following services:

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### Contact us!

#### Lawn Tech

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Fall 2008

# THE GREEN INFORMANT

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

## COLORED LEAVES...FALL IS HERE

### ARE YOU A WINNER?

Lawn Tech is awarding our loyal customers by offering a **Landscape Improvement Package**. In each quarterly newsletter, look for your customer number in the prize box. If your customer number is posted you could win 5 Green Mountain Boxwood planted by Lawn Tech.

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 Landscape Improvement Package to be given away, detailing all the features and aesthetics of the selected prize.

*Congratulations to Phillip Baker of Grand Ledge for winning the summer promotion of 50 tulips planted by Lawn Tech.*

#### IN THIS ISSUE . . .

- Rust in the Yard
- "Dollar Spots"
- Landscaping Corner
- Plant ID

**T**he season is now on a downswing as we finish our fall scheduled services.

As the seasons change, so do the services we offer. If you are in need of a fall leaf clean-up, snow removal service, tree or shrub feeding or a landscape project, please give us a call to provide you with a quote for services or any information you need.

It's hard to believe we must already begin thinking about 2009, but such is the case. Before we know it, winter will be upon us, as well as our renewal campaign to lineup services for the 2009 Lawn Care Season.

Lawn Tech appreciates all the clients that have voluntarily contributed to our fuel surcharge option. As we have certainly experienced increases in the commodities we buy personally, the required commodities Lawn Tech purchases to provide our services have also seen significant price increases. As a result, as we enter in 2009, there will be a price increase for many of the services we offer. Please review your renewal form carefully and call us with any questions you may have. There will still be pre-pay incentives as in past years, in addition to an aggressive referral program to help offset the price increases we will be implementing.

Be sure to review the contract renewal form you typically receive the first week of January. If you have any questions on your program, please call. Don't forget that we have many options available to customize a program to fit your needs and budget. We encourage you to call us to review your lawn program.

Lawn Tech will again automatically renew your service for 2009 for all weed and feed, tree care or non-selective programs. Special services like mowing, aeration or lawn rolling will be on a contract basis. We will make one courteous call before the season starts to remind you as well. If there are any changes to your program when you receive your renewal letter in January, please call us as soon as possible to make changes.

The Staff and I greatly appreciate our clients for choosing Lawn Tech for your turf grass and landscape needs in 2008 and we look forward to being on your property in 2009!

Thanks again for your patronage!

*Dan Boak*

Dan Boak  
President

#### PREPAY RENEWALS ~

**THEY WILL BE SENT THE FIRST WEEK OF JANUARY 2009 FOR WEED AND FEED SERVICES. PLEASE WATCH FOR IT IN YOUR MAIL!**



P.O. Box 190  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

# CURT'S LANDSCAPING CORNER

## FALL CHECKLIST?

- Did you get your landscape beds mulched? (Mulch around the base of the plant provides a blanket over the root zone of the plant for the cold winter months)
- Do you have your fall leaf clean up tools ready to go?
- Do you have any plants that need to be replaced?
- Do you need any bulbs replaced in your outdoor lighting system?
- Do you need a fall pruning and trimming?
- Need any areas in your lawn seeded?
- Do you have any landscape projects to complete?

If you need help with any of your landscape projects don't hesitate to call!

*Curt Boak, Landscape Designer*

### LAWN TECH PRIZE BOX

If your customer number is posted, call our office by November 30, 2008 to be entered into the drawing for 5 Green Mountain Boxwood planted by Lawn Tech this fall. Customer numbers:

3763	3722	4103	4524	6312	5102	4764	1760	5323
5506	1294	1850	2081	1088	6142	4216	1227	2509
4047	4470	4322	6270	2894	4847	4698	4250	4067
5065	4358	5426	5561	3169	4206	3866	4852	5058
6292	3506	1408	3767	1866	1439	1030	5154	1596
2112	2984	2966	5269	3495	5063	2797	3726	3828
1071	5196	2347	2485	4074	2036	3567	3553	4127
4334	2780	3945	4681	1061	1063	2580	1038	1043

**STILL HAVE A LANDSCAPE PROJECT ON YOUR "TO DO" LIST? CALL LAWN TECH TO GET IT DONE FOR YOU. FALL IS A GREAT TIME TO GET A HEAD START ON SPRING 2009!**

*Do you want an early spring splash of color? Tulips are the answer. Call Curt today at Lawn Tech to get your bulbs in the ground this fall for spring enjoyment.*

### PLANT ID

*Green Mountain Boxwood  
Buxus x 'Green Mountain'*

*Height: 4'-5'*

*Width: 2'-3'*

Can be planted to form a hedge or by itself. Great plant for foundation plantings to hide the foundation of you home. Leaves are dark green with an oval or pyramidal shape. Great plant for summer and winter interest.

Make sure to plant in well drained soil with full sun to partial shade exposure.

Don't forget to see if your customer number is posted in this issue to be eligible for a chance to win 5 Green Mountain Boxwood installed by Lawn Tech.

**LAWN TECH CAN CUSTOMIZE A LAWN CARE PROGRAM TO FIT YOUR NEEDS AND BUDGET! CALL TODAY TO REVIEW YOUR OPTIONS.**

### CLARIFICATION ON DOLLAR SPOT IN HOME LAWNS

*Kevin Frank  
Crop and Soil Sciences*

In our last Landscape Alert issue, I wrote about some of the turfgrass diseases we've been observing on turfgrass sites. With respect to dollar spot I wrote, "Dollar spot is also a disease that occurs on turfgrass that might be under fertilized. This is especially true on home lawn situations and just like red thread a light fertilizer application will help the turf recover from the symptoms." Apparently some have construed these comments to mean that dollar spot is only a problem on under fertilized lawns. That is certainly not the case, I was trying to make a point that in some situations we do see dollar spot on lawns that might be a little lean and a fertilizer application may help the turf out-grow or creep back over the damaged areas.

Dollar spot could be argued as our most prevalent disease on turfgrass in Michigan. Dollar spot occurs when temperatures are between 60°F and 90°F which cover pretty much all of summer. In Dr. Vargas' book, Management of Turfgrass Diseases, the cultural management practices he recommends for dollar spot infestations include keeping nitrogen fertilization levels and soil moisture adequate to facilitate turfgrass growth. However, in some cases the cultural management practices will not be enough to suppress or mask the symptoms of dollar spot, and a fungicide program may be necessary. Don't make the simple assumption that the only reason you have dollar spot is because you haven't fertilized, if it was that easy golf courses would not have nearly the challenges with managing dollar spot that they do.

### PERIMETER PEST CONTROL

Perimeter Pest Control is still available to prevent over wintering insects from entering your home. Call today to receive 20% off a fall application!

### RUST IN YOUR LAWN

During cool nights, heavy dews and spiking warm degree days can cause a fungus known as Rust to occur in your turf. This bronze powdery dust will accumulate on grass blades and in turn stick to your shoes, mower wheels or anything that it comes in contact with. This fungus is purely cosmetic in nature. It will discolor the turf from a lime green to yellow color until it grows out with new leaf growth. Watering will also help wash off the dust and allow the plant to continue the photosynthesis process. Some thinning of the turf may occur depending on the weather we have during the fall season. Rust tends to thrive in shady areas, low air flow areas and low lying areas in your lawn. If you have any concerns regarding Rust, please ask your technician or call the office.

### GRUB UPDATE!

Japanese Beetles love moist turf to lay their eggs and European Chafer love the dry, arid lawn types. With that in mind, there is potential for grub damage this fall by adult grubs preparing for winter hibernation. Be sure to check your turf by pulling on it to see if the roots are intact. If you find grubs a fall application of grub control can be applied to prevent further damage and big brown dead areas of turf next spring. Your Lawn Tech Technician will check your lawn on the last fall treatment, but always be aware and call us if anything looks suspicious!

\$20

**LAWN TECH  
REFERRAL COUPON**

\$20

Keep this coupon in your possession. When someone asks about your lawn service, complete this coupon and return to us by mail or give it to your service technician. We'll follow up on your lead. For every new customer sold by **LAWN TECH**, we'll send you \$20.

YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Acct. No. \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PROSPECT'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_