



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

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

WINTER 2008

GOODBYE 2007!

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 3' Japanese Maple. 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 the Rodriguez's of Lansing for winning the 5' Blue Spruce in Fall of 2007.

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

- Bats in Michigan
- Homeshow Season
- Landscaping Corner
- Plant ID

What a year we had in the state of Michigan! A wet spring provided us with plenty of moisture to start the growing season, late summer brought us near-drought conditions, our state government worked to balance the budget, fuel prices continued to soar, the fall season arrived and we are now planning for a new year and a new spring start in 2008.

This mailing kicks off our spring renewal campaign in which Lawn Tech customers can receive discounts for prepaying for their weed and feed services and take advantage of savings on extra services that will help enhance their lawn.

Please return the renewal remittance whether you choose to prepay or not. This will allow us to be sure to schedule your service for 2008, removing any doubts. You may also call the office to renew your service or to schedule add-on services. If you have any questions at all regarding your service for 2008, please do not hesitate to call

our office and we will be happy to assist you in any way possible.

Last year Lawn Tech ran a tree giveaway program to showcase our landscape services. We had an overwhelming response and 3 happy tree winners so far! Not only are we giving away a Japanese Maple in this issue, but will be repeating this program again in 2008! So, continue to look for your customer number in each issue!

Every year brings new challenges to our business and our industry. Lawn Tech is committed to you, our valued client, to deliver quality services, communication and products. We truly *appreciate your past patronage* with us and the staff and I look forward to being on your property again this upcoming season.

Thank you for doing business with Lawn Tech!

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.

**FEBRUARY 29, 2008 IS THE PREPAY DEADLINE —
MAIL YOUR RENEWAL TODAY!**

CURT'S LANDSCAPING CORNER

Do you need help maintaining your garden?

Do you need a part-time gardner, but can't afford one?

Do you want one company to take care of all your property maintenance?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, you need to call Lawn Tech and check into a landscape maintenance program. We can customize a program specific to your property to handle all your landscape maintenance needs. The following is a list of services we can do:

- Pruning and Trimming of Trees, Shrubs, & Perennials
- Mulching of Landscape Beds
- Weed Control in Landscape Beds
- Fertilizer and Spraying of Trees and Shrubs
- Watering of Plant Material
- Edging Bed Lines
- General Check of Plant Material
- Hand Weeding
- Planting of Annual Flowers
- Watering and Fertilizing Annual Flowers
- Drainage Problems
- Pond Maintenance
- Irrigation Turn-on and Shutdown
- Irrigation Repair
- Outdoor Lighting Maintenance

We can customize a program to your needs and your property's needs. The program can be a daily, weekly, monthly, or whatever meets your needs. Give me a call today to start planning for next season.

Curt Boak, Landscape Designer

PLANT ID

Laceleaf Japanese Maple
Acer palmatum dissectum 'Crimson Queen'
Height: Mature Height 4'-6'

The Laceleaf Japanese Maple is a weeping maple that has a brilliant red color which holds from spring to fall. Branches form a cascading mound.

The Laceleaf makes a great focal point in the landscape and with the proper outdoor lighting, it can also be a focal point at night.

When planting a Laceleaf Japanese Maple you should pick a site that is protected from the harsh winter winds as they can cause some damage to the plant. Protecting all four sides with a burlap wind break is commonly done with this plant in the winter.

Don't forget to see if your customer number is posted in this issue to be eligible for a chance to win 1 Laceleaf Japanese Maple planted by Lawn Tech.

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.

Don't wait until it warms up to start thinking about your landscape. Winter is the perfect time to contact us for a landscape design. Beat the spring rush and have your design started now to be one of the first to have your new landscape installed for the 2008 season. Not only will you have a shorter wait time, but you'll get a longer season to enjoy your new landscape.

Call Curt today to get started!

BATS IN MICHIGAN

BATS comprise 20% of all mammals in the United States, second only to the common rodents. Bats are NOT rodents, but have a classification all their own in the order of "Chiroptera". Michigan harbors 9 species of bats with the most common being the BIG BROWN BAT and the LITTLE BROWN BAT. All bats in Michigan are protected with the Indiana Bat being federally protected and on the endangered species list.

Bats are beneficial to our ecosystem by eating their body weight daily in insects. Contrary to popular belief, bats in Michigan eat primarily flying moths and June bugs rather than mosquitoes. With very few predators, bats enjoy a long life between 10-30 years even in the wild and give birth to normally 1 offspring per year in June or July. Within 3 weeks the young normally can fly and accompany mother in the daily night hunt for tasty insect morsels.

On the flip side, Bats are currently the number one carrier of Rabies in Michigan with 2007 being one the worst years with over 160 confirmed positive bats with rabies. Rabies is 100% fatal if symptoms appear, but if inoculations are administered after confirmed exposure to rabies, it is 100% preventable. It is imperative that anyone exposed to a bat in a house while sleeping call the local County Health Department and consult with a health care professional. Normally, you will be advised to go through the rabies serum series for your protection and your family.

Bats living in the voids of your attic or walls also defecate and urinate and like bird fecal matter, is very high in nitrogen, which is valuable for fertilizer, but very vulnerable to the fungus "Histoplasmosis". This fungus grows in the right conditions and when it releases its spores humans can inhale the spores and our lungs and eyes can be the next growing medium. This can potentially be fatal and at the minimum produce severe flu like conditions that eventu-

ally turn into an asthma like condition. Bat feces (guano) is considered "hazardous" and any attic or home with feces is considered "contaminated" and should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

Bats also carry many ectoparasites like bat bugs (a species of bed bugs), fleas, and other insects that feed on bat fecal matter. Attic cleanouts are generally recommended, but can be rather expensive. Please consult your insurance company for possible coverage.

Removing bats humanely and effectively can be a very demanding and trying experience. Hiring a professional is almost always recommended, not only because of the knowledge needed, but also for the expertise in knowing where the bats can re-enter. Bats can enter a dime size hole (1/2 inch) and will tenaciously try to re-enter a place they call home and possibly were born in. Most bats hibernate in the winter and need a nice cozy attic or wall to keep the temperature optimal for extended (4-5 months) hibernation or torpor.

Follow the insects, when the insects are gone the bats enter hibernation and when they hatch in the spring, the bats come out and feed. Bats are ravenous after having nothing to eat all winter and become very active trying to replace all the lost body weight.

The most common and humane method of bat exclusion is with a "bat valve" which can be 1/6 inch netting, a cone shaped excluder, or even a modified caulk tube to allow the bats out of their entrances, but not allow them back in. It is imperative that all other possible entrances be sealed around the perimeter of the home prior to the valves being installed. If this is not done correctly the bats will find a new way in and your work begins all over again. Hire a professional and make sure the job is done right.

Article courtesy MoleMen, Inc.

FEBRUARY 29, 2008 IS THE PREPAY DEADLINE —
MAIL YOUR RENEWAL TODAY!

LAWN TECH PRIZE BOX

If your customer number is posted, call our office by February 29, 2008 to be entered into the drawing for your chance to win one 3' Japanese Maple.
Customer numbers:

1243 1679 1696 2063 2309 2448 2510 2526 2646
2738 2743 2885 2899 2920 3074 3259 3287 3382
3403 3594 3790 3820 3894 3943 4019 4070 4072
4173 4187 4273 4286 4315 4343 4344 4437 4476
4532 4558 4611 4324 4702 4881 4882 4953 5026
5070 5080 5110 5134 5157 5203 5219 5300 5389
5447 5470 5487 5493 5494 5563 5658 5674 4567
1176 5133 5206 5264 2489 2651 2852 4057 4368

HOME SHOW SEASON 2008

Has cabin fever set in yet? Escape those four walls and come see us at the Greater Lansing Homebuilders Association Home Show and the Lansing Home and Garden Show. Lawn Tech will have a booth at both shows again this year. Come meet our technicians and sales staff who are eagerly waiting to answer your questions and assist you. We will be raffling off a full-five visit weed and feed program again this year. So come to our booth to sign up. Mark your calendars and we will see you this spring.

- Greater Lansing Homebuilders Association Home Show — Booth #79
February 29 - March 2, 2008
Summit of Lansing
- Lansing Home & Garden Show — Booth #1217
March 13- 16, 2008
MSU Pavilion