



March 2018 Landscape Reporting

What's Happening this Month on your Property?

- **Ornamental Trees/Shrubs/Groundcover Fertilizations:** This is the optimum time for us to apply a slow-release, organic based, granular fertilizer (8-10-10) to all landscape plants. Doing this now enables the plant to absorb the nutrients and take advantage of full benefit during spring growth and flowering.
- **Completed Turfgrass Weed Pre-Emergent Applications:** Beginning mid-February, all turfgrass receives this chemical application (0-0-7 or 25-0-7 with Barricade). The pre-emergent chemical will limit or prevent the germination of most weed seeds that usually come up in the spring. A proper application now will create a barrier of protection that will last until the next pre-emergent is done in April. Fescue lawns also receive a Nitrogen fertilization now to feed promote spring green-up.
- **Corrective Pruning and Trimming of Overgrown Plant Material:** This month is a great time to actively prune and thin out large, overgrown shrubs in order to promote fresh new growth in the coming season. This type of drastic, yet horticultural recommended pruning also allows more air flow and sunlight filtration into previously overcrowded shrubs. **This is typically an additional fee.*
- **Mulching/Pine Strawing of Plant Beds:** We have found that March is often the ideal time for mulching of all tree/shrub/groundcover beds. Once fertilization and pruning are completed, we eliminate any existing weeds and then recommend applying a good 2" layer of fresh mulch. The benefits of organic mulch are many, such as: provides water retention in the summer, adds organic soil amendments into the soil, prohibits many weeds and grasses from germinating, helps maintain healthy root zones of plants, and general aesthetics and curb-appeal are improved upon.
- **Irrigation System Start Ups and Inspections:** It is best to perform a thorough inspection of the irrigation system long before it is actually needed in the late spring/summer. We turn meters and backflows back on and activate controllers. Then, our technicians will go through every programmed zone and visually check each spray head or line for

needed repairs. That way once we get into dry, hot conditions, your system is ready to be switched into AUTO and totally functional.

- **Continued Weed Treatments:** Round-up product is used for liquid treatment of those pesky weeds that show up in the landscape beds as well as cracks of concrete surfaces.
- **Landscape Debris:** With all the rains and windy weather, limbs and other landscape debris have been falling and are picked up weekly.
- **Completed Trimming of Liriope (“monkey grass”) and other Groundcover:** this trimming is done to remove old, discolored, or dead growth and prepare for the new sprouts coming in early spring. It also allows more air flow and direct sunlight to reach normally covered areas of the plants. Also, browned limbs of Junipers and other evergreens are trimmed out to prevent any risk of associated disease or insect damages.
- **Completed Crape Myrtle and Ornamental Tree Pruning:** As with the other ornamental winter trimming, this is done to encourage fresh new growth as well as provide improved clearance from buildings, overheads, etc.
- **Other Maintenance Items:** mowing where needed, edging of borders and beds, etc.

***April Preview:** Spring Scalping of Turfgrass, Annual Flower Beds Preparation, and Irrigation Repairs, Mowing Schedule, etc.*