

Soils, “the dirt of life”
Soil pH is a crucial part to the overall health of your lawn. A soil pH above 6.5 is where necessary elements begin to be less available and thus begins the decline of your plants. Most plant material needs a soil pH between 5.5 and 6.5 to be able to absorb all of the 17 necessary elements to be able to produce the proper amounts of chlorophyll in photosynthesis. The major elements are N, P and K. But when Fe, Mn, Mg, Zn, B, S, Cu, Cl, Mo, Ni, C, H, O and Ca become less available due to a high soil pH. The results are a sick and unhealthy plant with poor color, poor growth, poor resistance to diseases and insects, poor recovery from environmental stress like heat and drought all resulting in a shortened life. The average residential soil pH in Oklahoma County is about 7.2. The soil profile also plays a part in soil pH. Our soils are generally rocky, sandy, clay with very little loam or organic material. This means most properties need Sulfur and more organic material to help lower the pH to a level that allows more elements to be absorbed naturally for better health and color. Call if you want these applications.

Tree Fertilization is best done while trees are going dormant....

The Oklahoma environment is perfect for killing trees, and all trees need an extra boost of nutrition to live because they are not in a forest setting. Trees don't get enough nutrition from lawn fertilizer.

After having your trees fertilized, you will notice better color, better shoot and root growth, and easier recovery from stress, ie. drought, construction damage, disease and insect damage. Please call today to schedule.

Payments.....”late payers receive late service”

We appreciate very much all of you who pay on time and are so thankful to have you as our customers. Please remember that it is best for everyone if payment takes place on time. It is good for you because the applications are done at the optimum time and it is good for us because cash flow is important for running a business.

Thank you all for trusting us with your properties needs. Have a wonderful year. Remember, call with any questions.

Mowing Tips, “if you're not putting on it -- mow it Tall”

Most bermuda lawns will need to be scalped the first time to get rid of the dead winter debris. Scalping fescue needs to be determined according to the overall health. Most won't need it because those areas are in the shade and usually thinner. Mulching the grass through the season is best to recycle water, nutrition and weed control products. The more often you mulch, the longer the products will work. Bermuda will need to be bagged occasionally, but should not be bagged all the time. Through the season the mowing heights for fescue and bermuda should increase. The best height for fescue is 4” to 6”. The best height for bermuda is 3” to 5”. Cutting residential bermuda too short causes it to become stressed, weedy, and in need of more fertilizers, water and weed control. Exposing the soil to the sun is also harmful. It kills roots and attracts weeds and insects. Taller lawns help retain soil moisture, help control soil temperature which keeps the roots cooler and less stressed. If it's not a golf course, best to mow it taller. You'll save on water and your lawn will look better. Turf Type Tall Fescue, “a Full Sun grass that Tolerates shade”

Spring is not the best time of year to seed. Germination rates decline because of the colder night and day temps. This also lengthens the number of days it takes to germinate up to 3 to 4 times normal. Lastly, the new grass may not get enough rooting done before the summer heat and it's more prone to disease. Late summer to fall is best for seeding Turf Type tall Fescues.

If you seeded in the Fall of 2020, you need to keep watering. We don't receive adequate rain or snow to provide good soil moisture to roots and shoots that are still growing. If your new grass is looking light green, grayish or tanish, you definitely need to water before the grass goes into a hard wilt leading to death. Remember that new grass takes 3 years to mature and those new roots are only about an inch in the soil, so keep watering because the soil surface dries out fast in our dry, warm and windy winters. Seedlings beneath any trees need even greater watering due to the tree stealing most all the moisture first.

Mulching Trees and Shrubs, “sunscreen for the soil”

Mulching is a great way to protect your tender trees and shrubs over the harsh winter months. It is especially helpful with plants that like warmer weather. You can put a heavy layer of mulch around your Cannas, Roses, Hydrangeas, Azaleas and any other plants that require a little more “tlc”. At our house we use cypress mulch. I find that if I put a nice thick 6” layer down at the base of the plant, before the first frost, my plants are much happier. In the spring, all you have to do is uncover them when the temperatures raise.

Watering.....

The goal of watering is to supplement the rain fall, Oklahoma's avg. is 20" or less. To achieve a beautiful, vibrant lawn and trees, watering is a necessity, at least 50" per year. Sprinkler system clocks need to be adjusted throughout the season to apply the needed amount of water. Plants need water in the winter also.

Temps / Inches per week

below 45	.....	1/4"	
45-55	.....	1/2"	
55-75	.....	1"	*
75-95	.....	1" to 2"	*
95+	.....	1" to 2"	*

Duration of zones depends on soil profile, wind, slope, exposure, vegetation, tree cover, etc. Use tuna cans to measure zone output. Watering in short increments results in shallow roots that are stressed out, dry out fast and always need watering. Infrequent and long watering results in deep roots that are healthy and can survive easier through heat and drought. Rain sensors attached to the clock help to control overwatering, but also have to be monitored. Sprinkler systems need to be checked 2 to 4 times per season for function and accuracy.

*When temps are over 55.

Watering in afternoon or night creates the perfect environment to allow disease to attack and kill grasses.

The Fenix Flyer

2020 Spring Newsletter

Moles, Gophers, Skunks, Armadillos, Moles Crickets, Grubs

Due to the past few warm winters, surface and subsurface critters like earthworms, ants, grubs, and mole crickets, etc. are in larger populations. These insects damage grass during the growing season and attract burrowing rodents that also damage your lawn. I have products that will help control these pests. These products are applied between March and July depending on the pest and usually only takes one application. Reducing the insect population will also help reduce rodent damage, unfortunately it won't eliminate it totally because earthworms can't be controlled with insecticides. Let me know if you're interested. The sooner the better, so that I can have the appropriate products available in a timely manor.

Spring Dead Spot....Every Bermudagrass Lawn will get some...

This is caused by a fungus that is active in the fall when bermuda is slowing down and going dormant. This fungus can be mostly control with two (2) fungicide applications in the fall. The first fungicide needs to be applied when the bermuda is beginning to do dormant and the second about 4 weeks later. This will help the bermuda roots fight off any attacks of the fungus. If you notice spots in the spring, don't worry, water those areas extra and they will usually fill in by June.

Tree Issues (ie Borers, Scale, Twig girdler, Tip Moth, etc)....

Tree Borers and Scale will become more active as the temps. warm up. Usually, it is wise to do a preventative soil drench of systemic insecticide in Jan/Feb to get ahead of any serious insect issues. Unfortunately, borers and scale come in so many variety that only one application of insecticide is not enough in most cases. A second and or a third application can sometimes be needed to control certain populations or variety.

Most disease issues like Rust, Scab, blight, leaf spot, powdery mildew, etc need to be dealt with in the spring with preventative applications of fungicide. Call if you have questions.

Crepe Myrtles turning black with white spots on them....

This is caused by a scale insect sucking the chlorophyll (juices) out the the plant. After the insect passes the sugary water through its body, it deposits it excrement (poop) on the bark. This allows a sooty mold to form on the excrement turing the bark blackish in color. The control options are to "power wash" with high pressure water or apply a systemic insecticide at the base of the trunks or to use a systemic insecticide spray all over or all of the above if the case is severe.

Seeding Ryegrass, Bluegrass or Shade Blends... **DON'T, UNLESS YOU WANT WEEDS.** Seeding Rye, Blue and or Fescue Shade Blends, K-31 purchased at Big Box Stores introduces Orchard, Quack, Timothy, Poa annua and Poa trivialis grasses (Annual and Perennial Bluegrass are WEEDS). Look for and read the manufactures label first. It needs to have 100% Fescue and 0% other grasses and 0% weed seed. If you want to buy top tier tested Fescue with 0% weed seed in the bag, we sell 50# bags for \$120 per bag including delivery.

New Associate...Payton Denton...

Some of you may have noticed a new face around your property. Payton has been with us for almost 8 months now. He enjoys the great outdoors, sports and muscle cars. He is learning the business fast and we are looking forward to seeing him continue to blossom by gaining industry knowledge and wisdom. Payton's already great at customer service and attentiveness. Payton grew up in Arkansas and Kingfisher, OK. He has been married for almost a year now.

Dead Pines...If it's Brown, Cut It Down! Dead Pines continue to allow the insects that killed them to hatch and spread to other live Pine trees. The same is true for dead American Elms and Oaks.

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