

A Word From Blake

The past month has been hot and dry. While that type of weather is great for trips to the pool or beach, it really takes a toll on your lawn. After a brutal winter, the hot and dry summer has left many plants and non-irrigated lawns looking less than their best - even some Bermuda lawns seem to be struggling under the conditions. While it can be frustrating and discouraging to walk out in your yard and hear the grass crunching under your feet, there isn't much we can do to add life and vitality back to dehydrated turf. Keeping your lawn well watered will certainly help; however, it can be expensive and time-consuming if you do not have a timed irrigation system currently installed. I've included a few articles in this newsletter that address distressed turf and warm season turf care tips - check out page 2 for more information. Right now, one of the best recommendations for everyone would be to do a little rain dance and hope for some natural irrigation!



Blake's Rain Dance

Blake Murray, Owner

What We'll Be Working On Over The Next Few Weeks

(or what you can be doing, if you don't currently have landscape services with Murray's)

- Applying Post-Emergent Weed Control
- Controlling Crab Grass
- Fertilizing Warm Season Turf
- Liming
- Preparing for Aeration
- Scouting for Turf Disease
- Lifting Tree Canopies
- Mowing Turf

Landscape Enhancement - Plant Installation: Files Residence

Purpose: Mr. Files was interested in further beautifying his property prior to hosting a wedding for his daughter.

Project Scope: We took a blank canvas and added a ton of color and depth with ornamental plants. The addition of detail rocks created a natural look. To ensure year-round beauty, we made sure to include diverse plant material that will allow for blooming plants year-round. An area that previously a dead foundation bed was transformed into a multi-seasonal oasis.

Customer Testimonial: "I really appreciate the hard work you guys put into the plant install project. I know it was a lot of plant material but it turned out just the way I hoped it would!" - Jeff Files



Southern Service, Professional Results!

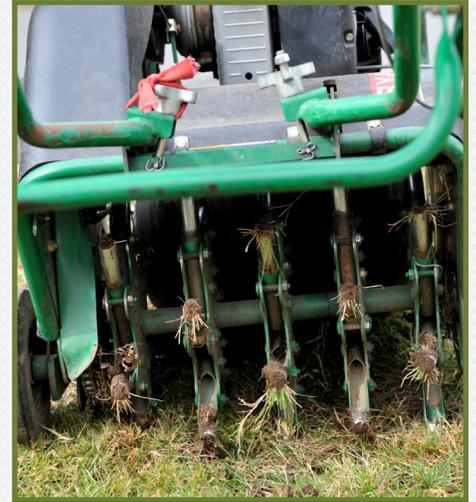
Aeration Preparation: Set the Groundwork Now, See Results Later.

It is the middle of July, which means we are about 6-8 weeks from aeration and seeding for cool season (Fescue) lawns. In order to get the most out of fall aeration, it is important to adequately prepare your lawn for the aeration and seeding process. Here are a few steps to take prior to performing fall aeration and seeding:

Liming: It is important to ensure your soil pH is correct before seeding. The optimal pH for fescue turf grass is between 6.0-7.0. This range allows for all essential nutrients to be available and absorbed into the turf root system. Low pH can limit or stop root development which prevents turf from properly absorbing water and nutrients. If your soil pH is low, a lime application is necessary and should be done a few weeks prior to seeding.

Turf Fertilization: Fertilization prior to seeding is essential to ensure proper growth. Choosing the right fertilizer is the first step in the process. Fertilizer applied a few weeks before seeding should contain a slow release nitrogen and an equal (or almost equal) ratio of phosphorus to potassium. The nitrogen helps aid growth above ground and the phosphorus and potassium help new seedlings develop their root system.

Weed Control: Eliminating weeds before planting new seed will help ensure faster and healthier lawn establishment. Weeds compete with new seedlings for nutrients and water; by eliminating this competition, you give your new seed a better chance to thrive.



As always, Murray's is more than happy to take care of your aeration preparation as well as fall aeration and seeding. **Give us a call today to reserve your spot on our Fall aeration schedule! 919-795-9885**

Landscape Tip: Warm Season Turf Care

Warm season turf (like Bermuda) thrives during the hot summer months; however, it still has needs that should be addressed. First, weed control is very important in keeping warm season turf healthy. Spraying chemical weed control in temperatures over 90 degrees can damage the turf, so make sure you are not applying chemical treatments during the heat of the day. Secondly, fertilizing warm season turf during the growing season (now) is important to aid growth and bolster the root system. If you are interested in a full-service turf treatment program for your warm season lawn, give us a call today - 919-795-9885!

Is Your Fescue Lawn Distressed?



Cool season fescue is a great turf grass for home lawns in this area; however, unusually dry summer months will cause it to struggle. While many fescue lawns were strong, healthy, and growing rapidly during the Spring, some have reverted to a dormant state in response to the low rainfall we have received over the past 4-6 weeks. Fescue turf only needs about 1 inch of water per week to survive, but this summer hasn't produced nearly that amount. In these dry conditions, you may notice your fescue lawn browning out. One thing you can do to help rejuvenate your fescue lawn, is to water your turf using a sprinkler system or hose. Make sure you water early in the morning so the heat of the day will dry out your lawn and prevent various turf diseases.

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