



Lupfer Landscaping's

Monthly Newsletter July, 2011



A MESSAGE FROM TOM

The end of July is always a nice time for a landscaper. It's the eye of the landscaping season storm. The spring rush hits you like a hurricane and the fall hits you when you're down but the middle of summer: wonderful.

The newest, and only, trend in the landscaping world is 'Staycations'. People are opting to use the money they would spend on a big vacation on their back yards instead. It is seen as a good investment because you can use it all year and it adds value to the property. The style has changed as well. Instead of phallic-like fireplaces with massive grills; people are going with more subtle but intricate ideas. Chief among them is capturing rain-water and re-using it in the landscape. The coolest thing I've seen is a misting system for the patio area to cool it down; like Vegas or the grocery store.

Think: rip off the wood deck, install a patio at ground level, plant for privacy, include the sight and sound of water, and add some lighting and music. You can be sipping cocktails under the moonlight with some reggae in the background anytime you like. Budget: \$5,000 to \$20,000 on up.

We are currently doing site inspection reports so look for the form on your door. Some general themes are emerging. First is the astonishing lack of perennial plantings. They provide summer color and need less maintenance than turf. The next issue is overgrown shrubs and cramped beds. Some plants only have an effective lifespan of 10 to 15 years. The Burning Bush is

a great example: how many do you see that are overgrowing the walkway up to the front door? Large shrubs either need to be renovated by pruning or removed and replaced altogether. Finally, bedlines are all over the place. We should come out and redo them; take out the little curves and pull it back to where the good grass is growing. The nice thing about removing the overgrown shrubs and re-doing the bedlines is it frees up space to install those perennials I was talking about.

TOM

MOSQUITES

The mosquitoes are really bad this year but luckily we can treat for them. It's the same chemical that's in Frontline for your pets and costs between \$75 and \$150 per application and we should do it twice. Believe me, it's worth it.

GAS SURCHARGE

The price is still sixty cents over the contract amount so I have to apply it, but I'll cut it in half. Next year I'll have to factor into my prices permanently higher fuel costs. Ugh.

THE FUNGUS AMONG US

With all of this heat, the fungus problem this year is going to be horrible. We treat for it by applying a compost tea mixture that contains the natural predators of the bad fungus. There are other things we can do as well. Most importantly, only water when the temperature is below 70 degrees and reduce the frequency. Next; core aerate and dethatch to increase air circulation. And finally, you can over-seed with a disease resistant mix. It usually takes two treatments with the tea so call now to start the process.

GOLD AWARD FOR SUSTAINABLE MAINTENANCE

Our Award-winning project was recently featured in the leading trade magazine for landscapers in the mid-west.