



Lupfer Landscaping's

Monthly Newsletter October, 2011



A MESSAGE FROM TOM

The end of October means the end of the landscaping season is near. We still have plenty to do but only so much time to do it in; six weeks to be exact. That brings us to the beginning of December. Holy Cow, we'll be putting up Christmas decorations by then. If you still want a landscaping project done this year, now is the time to decide. I recommend: trees and shrubs, sod, and taking care of water issues. Of course it goes without saying I urge you to plant bulbs. This is the *ONLY* time of year we can plant then.

The end of October also means it's questionnaire time. These are an invaluable tool for us so please take the time and fill it out. It helps us gauge how we are doing and also helps us customize your service by putting the comments in the route lists for the foremen to read; i.e. "Keep an eye on the weeds in the back yard".

We have changed over to the fall leaf removal schedule so we will be coming around less often. The last time will be the week *after* Thanksgiving. We will also be slowly cutting down the plants in the gardens over the next several visits. The annuals and succulents are the first to go and the woodies are last. The rule of thumb is if it will stand up over winter, leave it up.

Finally, I've included another article about sustainable landscaping. It highlights how homeowner associations are really catching on because the larger the property, the larger the savings.

-Tom

THE NEWEST TREND: BIO-CHAR

Bio-char is an idea based on an ancient Amazonian technique to improve their poor soils: clear the jungle and burn everything into charcoal (not ash), then smash it up and spread it on the new field. It worked then and it works now. The lawn renovations with this stuff added into the mix have been incredible. It also recycles agricultural waste (rice husks and corn cobs) and produces energy when burned. The sustainability trifecta: economic advantage, environmentally friendly, and appealing to the public.

FALL/WINTER SERVICES

Snow Plowing- The contracts went out last week so if you want one, call the office. We charge a \$60 minimum or \$175 per crew hour, whichever is greater. This usually covers a normal house for the first five inches or business for the first twenty minutes. This method is fair to both the customer and the company. You only pay for what you get and I get paid for what I do. Lets hope for a white Christmas.

Holiday Decorating- We have space on the list so if you ever wanted to do it; now is the time. We come out with the materials, design what you want, and install it on the spot.

Gutter Cleaning- Gutter cleaning is done the week of Thanksgiving. It's \$50 a man hour with a \$100 minimum.

Bulbs- This is the only time of year we can plant them and time is running out. *Please, please* order them; they are so nice in the spring after a long, cold winter.

Planting- Now is the perfect time to plant trees, shrubs and sod. Drainage work is also recommended. You don't want those water problems showing up in the spring when it's too wet to do anything about it, do you?