



Lupfer Landscaping's

Monthly Newsletter September, 2011



A MESSAGE FROM TOM

The Autumnal Equinox is here and I always feel a sense of foreboding on this day. We are now passing into the dark times with the days getting shorter with metronomic regularity. The equinoxes and solstices are magical days to me. The best day of the year is the Vernal Equinox (think vermin eating your new plants in the spring). After a cold winter, the days are finally longer than the nights. The worst day is today, the Autumnal Equinox. The forces of darkness are winning and the light starts to retreat. The Summer Solstice inspires languid indolence; time to chill out. The Winter Solstice is a dark time when the ancients must have trembled. All-in-all; four days a year to stop and take some time to reflect and ponder. We don't do that enough anymore and these are good signposts to use as a reminder.

The transition to a sustainable maintenance program is continuing. The most notable of which is the turf. While we might have a few more weeds the overall health of the grass has been greatly improved. Look at it closely and you will see that it has a vibrancy that your neighbors' doesn't (unless you have new construction). Another improvement you might notice is our new 'Dutch Hoe'. It is a tool for weeding the beds that will reduce our herbicide use by 33%. Small things add up.

And please, order some mums and bulbs!

-Tom

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS IN THE FALL

'What's wrong with my bush/tree?' This is a good time of the year to tell if a plant is healthy or not. If it drops its leaves early without changing color it means it's not happy and just gave up. Keep an eye on it next year and replace it at the first signs of trouble.

'Can you trim my (fill in the blank) bush?' The rule of thumb in our area is: If the plant is spring flowering, prune right after it flowers. If it's summer flowering, wait for the next growing season. Evergreens get one last haircut before the winter. Of course, dormant pruning in February is recommended for all trees and shrubs over five years old.

'Is it too late to plant Mums or bulbs?' Not at all. This is the perfect time to do so. You want your Mums to bloom in October and the bulbs should get planted at the same time. The squirrels normally find bulbs because they are attracted to the freshly dug soil but the Mums masks the smell. This means you minimize the damage done by the squirrels.

PLANT UPDATE

The beautifully cool and wet summer was great for the plants, but now this extended dry spell is hitting them hard. Fall is the time of year when plants are storing energy but there's no moisture for them to work with. That means good, long soakings are the order of the day; start now.

SNOW REMOVAL- GUTTERS- LIGHTS

During the fall we, in chronological order: core, seed, mums, perennials, shrubs, trees, sod, leaves, hardscapes, gutters, lights, and then snow. Merry Christmas! Time to dormant prune. Order any or all of these services now before the route lists fill up. **Keep your eyes out for Snow Removal Contracts, they'll be going out in the next few weeks.**