

Greenleaf Gazette

SUMMER
VOLUME 5, ISSUE 3

JUNE 2011



GREENLEAF LANDSCAPING
NEWSLETTER

SERVING SPOKANE SINCE 1980

Calendar of Services

June:

- Summer Pruning
- Summer Cleanup
- Lawn Fertilizer
- Shrub Bed Care
- Summer Foundation Spray
- Annual Flower Maintenance
- Irrigation Monitor

July:

- Summer Pruning
- Summer Cleanup
- Shrub Bed Care
- Annual Flower Maintenance
- Lawn Fertilizer
- Tree and Shrub Insect Spray
- Irrigation Monitor

August:

- Lawn Fertilizer
- Shrub Bed Care
- Annual Flower Maintenance
- Shrub Fertilizer
- Lawn Weed Spray
- Late Summer Insect Spray
- Spider Spray
- Irrigation Monitor

Seasonal Specials!

- ♦ **15% off Moss Control Sprays!**
- ♦ **15% off Lawn Aerations!**
- ♦ **15% off Foundation Sprays for Ants & Spiders!**

Aeration vs. Power-Raking: The Showdown

There have been many arguments as to whether aeration or power-raking is the best method to disperse of winter thatch; at Greenleaf Landscaping, we always recommend aeration. Our horticulture and plant specialist, Chris Heitner, breaks down the process and the effects of both approaches so that you can make an educated decision next time you intend to schedule one or the other.

First, we need to understand exactly what thatch is. Thatch is the build-up caused at the level of the soil by grass rhizomes and stolons, not by dead grass blades. Stolons are shoots that bend to the ground or that grow horizontally above the ground and produce roots and shoots at the nodes. Rhizomes are the root-like

underground horizontal stem of plants that produces shoots above and roots below.

The process of a lawn aeration cuts down into the sod, cutting the thatch and helping it decompose faster without doing much damage to the crowns of the grass themselves. Aeration does leave much of the thatch at first but it decomposes fairly fast and actually adds healthy organic matter to the soil (it is significant to note that dead grass and thatch are two different things). Those somewhat unsightly grass plugs will break down and add nutritional organic matter too!

On the other hand, power-raking won't cut through a thatch layer; instead it will pick up the decomposing grass and will also

cut the crowns of the grass. In this process, you lose a lot of nutritional organic matter for your lawn with the actual dead grass removal; and by cutting the crowns of the grass, you are actually damaging it. While initially your lawn looks slightly more attractive, you will lose the long term organic benefits of the decomposing thatch which will make your lawn healthier.



*Information contributed by :
Chris Heitner & Anna Twhogig*

Tree of the Season: Tri-Color Beech

It's time we brought back an old feature favorite of ours, the "Tree of the Season." This season's top tree pick comes from our Arborist, Martin Bixby. Martin loves this tree not only because it is a great specimen tree and is beautiful; but also like any tree, it has wonderful Green benefits. It is one of nature's purifiers in that it reduces carbon, it can reduce



electrical costs if planted to shade your home, and it's seasonal loss of leaves allow for solar heating in the winter!

The average height of the Tri-Color Beech tree (*Fagus Sivatia*) is 40' tall and its average spread is 20' wide. Its fall color is usually a bronze but the true color to appreciate is all season long. Leaves begin either green or purple, switching to a more purple background and are variegated with whites and pinks.

Information contributed by : Martin Bixby

Did you know...?

- ♦ Spring is the only time of year that the roots of plants and grass grow downwards.
- ♦ Once you start watering a plant the roots no longer grow down to seek water.
- ♦ You should leave your irrigation clock off until your lawn is completely dry.
- ♦ Overwatering is the #1 cause of most lawn diseases.

Employee Spotlight



Heidi Evans

Service Coordinator

Heidi was nominated for the employee spotlight this month by her fellow employees in the field and in the office. They say that they appreciate her sunny disposition and her "get it done" attitude!

Job Description: *Scheduling services, contract renewals, loading services and contracts, and customer service.*

Education: *Currently obtaining her Accounting B.A. through EWU with a minor in Psychology.*

Time with Greenleaf: *2 years*

Hometown: *Moscow, ID*

Hobbies: *Trap shooting, gardening, playing the piano, singing, fishing, reading, and playing with her dog, Blazer.*

EDUCATION:

Beyond the preconceived notions of landscape technicians

When you schedule landscape work these days, you are hiring a professional landscape company complete with an experienced and typically, a highly educated staff. These are knowledgeable individuals that transcend the blue collar stereotype, with their wealth of hands-on experience, formal education, certifications and ongoing education. This enables them to give you the higher level of quality work that you've come to expect at Greenleaf Landscaping.

We currently have certified ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) Arborists and more in training. We also have an ISA Certified Tree Worker (certified for climbing) in training.

We also have a licensed CLT (Certified Landscape Technician) and others in training, as well as three employees on staff who have been judges of CLT test components. CLT's must have in-depth knowledge and education about work safety, priority, equipment function, and irrigation.

Our spray technicians are very skilled individuals with Washington State Pesticide Licenses who are required to be extremely knowledgeable in proper and safe product application, the correct use of the product for the job, correct quantity, rate, location, and timing of application.

Also, our irrigation technicians are highly experienced and educated in irrigation installation, general maintenance, repairs, and water conservation practices; they also receive ongoing training throughout the year.

We require a high level of industry knowledge and work performance from our employees, without whom we would not be so successful or be consistent winners of the W.A.L.P. awards (Washington Association of Landscape Professionals), of which we are active members.

Information contributed by: Martin Bixby & Anna Twohig

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