



Lawn, Tree & Pest Management Professionals

Make Your Lawn An AgriLawn Today!

Volume 1, Issue 4 August, 2008

# THE GREEN SCENE

Monthly Newsletter From Your Friends at AgriLawn

## Creating The Perfect Landscape

We'd all like to have the best yard on the block, wouldn't we? Well, now you can! Here's ten tips for creating the perfect landscape, regardless of what you're starting with.

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### Thought for the Month...

To exist is to change, to change is to mature, to mature is to go on creating oneself endlessly. ~Henn Bergson



"No, it's not water. You seem to be retaining food."

**1. Think Simple.** Before you embark on a big backyard project, decide what will actually work best in your yard. You may just not have the space for a big gazebo or you might have just the spot but its much farther from the rest of the house than you'd like. Keep things simple and map out a landscape that's both functional as well as aesthetically pleasing.

**2. And speaking of "mapping"...** Make a plan. One of the biggest landscaping mistakes people make is to start digging before they have a blueprint to work from. Give some thought to your particular landscape. What are its strong points? What would you like to de-emphasize? And what would you like your landscape to do? Planning your landscape before you start to plant can keep you from having to change course when you're half way through.

**3. Be creative.** Your landscape isn't limited to grass and a few flower beds. Fountains, ponds, sculptures and other landscaping accessories can make an ordinary space become extraordinary. Try stepping-stone walkways, arbors, gates and other structural pieces to give your landscape direction and depth.

**4. Be Realistic.** Shade plants only work if you have shade. Likewise, a sun-loving plant won't do well if you don't have a sunny spot to place it in. Before you invest in a multitude of plants, do your research. Talk to a landscape professional about your area and what type of plants might work best. You'll get much more enjoyment out of your landscape and enjoy minimal upkeep.

**5. Know Your Plants.** There are plants that are safe to eat and plants that are not. If you have children or pets, you may want to do some research to be sure what you're planting is safe.

**6. Irrigate.** While you want an attractive landscape, you don't want to spend all your time watering it. Talk to a professional about proper irrigation so that you won't have to worry about getting enough water to your plants.

**7. Mulch.** Different mulches provide different benefits. Bark and woodchips for example, are good for providing insulation and drainage while stones and rocks are more suited around trees, hedges and cacti. Some mulches also add to the nutrient value of your soil, giving your plants an added boost of vitamins throughout the year.

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### Flea & Tick Season Is Upon Us!

We have the right products to control fleas & ticks in your lawn, gardens & home. AgriLawn's qualified technicians can apply our product to help minimize the population of these worrisome pests.

**Let Us Help!  
Call us at 680-0077  
today!**

## ***We'd Love To Hear From You!!***

Whether you'd like to discuss your property or additional services or just want to drop us a note and say "Hi," we'd love to hear from you...

AgriLawn, Inc.  
P.O. Box 271792  
Oklahoma City, OK 73137-1792  
Phone: 405-680-0077  
Fax: 405-680-0082  
Email: [info@agrilawn.com](mailto:info@agrilawn.com)  
[www.AgriLawn.com](http://www.AgriLawn.com)

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## ***Bonds: Municipal or Treasury?***

If the stock market and the economy have you wondering where to invest, remember that cash is king in such times. Investment strategists at Merrill Lynch say, while there's nothing wrong with stashing cash in CDs and money market funds, the yield will be low in most cases. They recommend only a six-month investment.

One option is Treasury bonds, which on a total-return basis have outperformed stocks in five of the past eight years. Municipal bonds are another attractive investment right now. Munis almost never beat Treasury yields, but the income is tax exempt.

## ***A Bit of Laughter...***

An engineer was crossing a road when a frog called out to him, "If you kiss me, I'll turn into a beautiful princess." He put the frog in his pocket. The frog said, "If you kiss me and turn me back into a beautiful princess, I will stay with you for one week." Then the frog asked, "What is the matter? I've told you I'm a beautiful princess. Why won't you kiss me?" He said, "Look I'm an engineer. I don't have time for a girlfriend, but a talking frog, now that's cool."

*(continued from Page 1)*

**8. Light It Up.** Lighting not only improves your ability to see where you're walking, it also adds an elegant touch to any landscaping style and allows you and your guests to enjoy the outdoors no matter what time it might be.

**9. Think long-term.** While your space might stay the same, your landscape won't. Trees and bushes grow and even your needs can change over time so keep that in mind when mapping your layout.

**10. Make It Yours.** Forget what the Jones' might be doing - your landscape should work for you. Try different themes - country or Mediterranean for example - and experiment with benches, steps and swings. Factor in your normal outdoor activities and you'll end up with an outdoors that suites you perfectly.

## ***Do You Want To Win A Mystery Prize?***

**Take our trivia challenge and you could win!**

Each month we will give you a new trivia question. The first 3 people to call our office with the correct answer will win a mystery prize. Take your best guess, then call us at 405-680-0077 or email [alally@agrilawn.com](mailto:alally@agrilawn.com).

**Q: What was the first National TV show that Elvis Presley appeared on?**

***Congratulations to last month's winners!***

Casey C. of Moore, Jason C. of OKC, & Sandra R. of Edmond won a Get-a-Way for 2.

Muhammad Ali

## ***AgriLawn's Mid Season Lawn Enhancer***

AgriLawn is applying a high nitrogen fertilizer. Fescue lawns receive a low nitrogen, organic fertilizer. This promotes healthy turf growth and development. Summer weeds such as crabgrass, foxtail and goosegrass are also spot treated. You might notice a temporary (10-14 days) discoloration in spots where weeds are treated. Rest assured, these areas will green up again after watering and mowing a couple of times.

At this time of year your lawn needs to receive approximately 1-1.25 inches of water per week. Water early in the mornings so leaf blades will have time to dry reducing the risk of turf diseases. To help you gauge the proper amount of watering for your situation, place empty containers in the sprinkler zone and clock the time it takes for you to reach 1-1.25 inches of water in the container. This process will help you know exactly how much to water as recommended.

Fescue lawns will require 1.5 - 2 inches per week when temps stay above 80°. Fescue will also need to be watered more frequently during high temps.

Proper mowing is very important to maintain the beauty of your lawn. Make sure mower blades are properly sharpened. Dull blades will rip the grass blades instead of providing a clean, efficient cut. A lawn mowed with a dull mower is not only less attractive but the ripping effect causes excessive moisture loss and may allow diseases easier access into the turf plant.

Try to mow often enough so that no more than 1/3 of the leaf blades are removed during the cutting process and let the clippings fall. Mulching your clippings allows them to fall back to the soil where the nutrients are recycled. Common Bermuda should be maintained at 1.5 to 2 inches, hybrid Bermuda at .75 to 1.25 inches and fescue at 3 to 4 inches.

## ***Thanks For The Kind Words***

"We have used your company for a number of years and you have always been there to help us. The lawn looks great and our neighbors are envious!"

*Olive S. from Midwest City*

## ***Simplify Your Surroundings***

Tired of maintaining a big house and yard? Got empty bedrooms, a huge family room and utility bills that make you feel like you're being robbed?

You're not alone. Today, mid-life couples and individuals of all ages are scaling back to more convenient living arrangements. That can mean fewer square feet, but an exciting new home design.

In order to visualize your "rightsized" life, visit some of the popular-sized homes designed for people with small families or homes and condos designed for people looking forward to retirement.

When you understand the square footage involved and the room arrangements, you will have a better idea of how much you could keep and what you would get rid of.

Sometimes you have to sell the program to yourself, especially if you and your spouse have spent decades making your present home beautiful. A person's identity, however, should not be tied to an oversized home that is difficult to maintain.

Rightsizing doesn't always mean going to a smaller place. It could mean going from two homes to one, which creates a big need to cull possessions. Or it can mean adding to a home in order to make room for parents or grandchildren. The important trend today is a shift to well-planned living quarters that suit a person's age, stage of life and situation.

Discussing your wish to rightsize will help others accept it. Talk about it with your spouse, your grown children, and your parents, recommends Ciji Ware in her book *Rightsizing Your Life*.

Paring down a lifetime of possessions, and furnishing a new home with things that have meaning, will not be easy.

Depending on the size of your home, the process could take from a few weeks to a couple of years. If rightsizing is in your future, better start now. Whether you ultimately move or not, your home will be better organized and have less clutter.

## ***Congratulations To Our Client Of The Month!***

Every month, we choose a very special Client of the Month. It's our way of acknowledging good friends and saying "thanks" to those who support AgriLawn with referrals, word of mouth and repeat business. Watch for your name here in an upcoming month - you might be the next Client of the Month!

This month's Client of the Month is

**Andrew W. of Edmond, OK**

## ***Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!***

Thanks to YOU our business is growing! There's no better compliment we can receive than a positive referral from a valued client. We are truly grateful for the trust and confidence that so many of you have expressed.

If you know a friend, neighbor, or family member who may be considering the services we offer - it would be the highest compliment to refer them to us. We'll make sure they get extra special attention and care. Or, if there are any additional services that we may provide for you, please let us know. Instead of growing our business from the outside, we prefer to pay closer attention to our existing clients and their referrals.

## ***A Great Low-Calorie Treat***

Freeze fresh fruit, berries and cubes of melon with a little sugar and water. They are a great substitute for ice cream.

## ***Landscaping Question Corner...***

**Q. My landscape is very uneven, with hills and low spots. How can I landscape around them?**

**A.** The key is working with your landscape, not against it. Areas that are hilly or have a steep incline pose an interesting landscaping challenge. The incline allows for severe soil erosion, making it almost impossible to plant anything that will last. But all is not lost.

For starters, you can build a retaining wall to even up the land and create a level surface to work with. This would also help prevent the soil erosion from constant run-off.

Another option is to build above-ground planting areas that climb the incline. While the beds themselves would be level on top, they would gradually stagger in depth as they go up the hill. This creates an interesting "staggered" look that gives real definition to your yard.

And last but not least, try using the incline to your advantage by installing rock or wooden steps into the ground. This makes a beautiful pathway and also makes it easier to walk across your landscape.

## ***Do You Have A Question You Want Answered?***

We love hearing from all our good friends and clients who enjoy reading our monthly letter. And we're always looking to answer pressing questions you might have about anything relating to landscaping. If you have a question, please give us a call at 405-680-0077. Perhaps we'll feature you in a future issue!



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<< Stamp Here >>

P.O. Box 271792  
Oklahoma City, OK 73137-1792

Phone: 405-680-0077  
Fax: 405-680-0082  
Email: info@agrilawn.com

**We're On the Web!**  
**www.AgriLawn.com**

### ***Famous Birthdays in August***

Does your birthday fall in August? Did you know you share it with some pretty famous people? Here's a few names you might know with August birthdays:

- Wes Craven, 1939
- Martin Sheen, 1940
- Billy Bob Thornton, 1955
- Sam Elliott, 1944
- Hulk Hogan, 1953
- Catherine Bell, 1968
- Lesley Ann Warren, 1946
- Belinda Carlisle, 1958
- Patrick Swayze, 1954
- John Stamos, 1963
- Isaac Hayes, 1942
- Marlee Matlin, 1965
- Shania Twain, 1965

***Happy Birthday!***

### ***What's Inside...***

- Create the Perfect Landscape
- Bonds: Municipals vs. Treasuries
- Uneven landscape? Find out how to accommodate hills and low-spots in our Landscaping Question Corner!
- Take the trivia challenge and you could win a mystery prize!
- Are YOU our client of the month???
- And More!!

## **Soil Testing**

**A beautiful, healthy lawn can only be achieved when the soil is in proper condition.**

One of the most often overlooked factors influencing plant growth is the chemical property of the soil referred to as soil pH.

We take samples from several different areas of your lawn and combine them to arrive at a general measure of soil pH and available nutrients. We will provide you with these exact finding along with recommendations of soil admendments with any are needed.

**Call us at 680-0077 and schedule your test today!**