



Timely Tree Tips



Spring 1999

Moisture: Feast or Famine

You would think that we could get used to the bizarre weather that we have in Colorado. Dry as a bone all winter and then when you count on a nice spring it snows and rains continually.

As far as landscape plants are concerned they are probably as confused as I am! Most gardeners do not realize the importance and necessity of winter watering. As soon as the sprinkler system is shut down that's it for the yard!

Trees and lawns suffer and in some cases die when sufficient moisture is not maintained during the winter months. Winter drought stress also invites certain insect pests and diseases to perpetuate. Banks grass mites in turf and cytospora canker in deciduous trees most



There are about 1 1/2 million earthworms in an acre, capable of moving 20 tons of earth a year! In spite of the lumps they're great for the soil!

Winter Water For Survival

notably. Some winter drought injury is easy to notice. Pine trees and junipers turn brown mostly in the south and west sides. Lawns with south and west exposer get dry and crispy and in some cases fail to green up in the spring. As the season progresses, some trees and shrubs will leaf out and suddenly die for no apparent reason. This is usually caused by root injury and death due to drought or from

canker diseases that got started in the winter because of stress. The plant leafs out from stored energy and when the demand for water occurs the system has been damaged and can't deliver.

Bottom line: Get the hose out and water in the winter time! At least once a month November through March and beyond. Give it a good soaking. Water the lawn and bed areas is usually sufficient to take care of the trees as well.

What's in a Name?

We have been in business since 1988. Many things have changed over the past 11 years. During that time our focus of services offered has changed as well. When we first started our company we would do about anything to survive; tree care, fertilize lawns, power rake, bits of landscaping, mow grass etc..

As the years ticked by we have been evolving and have zeroed in on what we do best. That is to provide tree and lawn care service. Our company name, Jones' Landscape Care Company, seemed to identify us as a landscaping business as opposed to providers of tree

Keep a Green tree in your heart and perhaps the singing bird will come.

Chinese Proverb

and lawn care as we intended it to.

As such we are changing the name of our business to **Jones Tree & Lawn**. We think it identifies us with what we do best.

Jones' Landscape Care Co., Inc. dba

Jones Tree & Lawn

303-431-8132

“My Lawn is full of Crabgrass”

The term “crabgrass” seems to be a garbage can for any type of grass that is not supposed to be in a lawn. There is a species of grass that is true crabgrass. It is an annual grass that starts by seed every spring. It is lime green in color during the season, kind of short and radiates outward kind of like a crab. In the fall it turns purple and dies. Most crabgrass is found along side walks and concrete because of heat stress and drought to regular turf. Very few of our lawn care clients have true crabgrass. Pre-emergent herbicides applied in the spring help control crabgrass. There is also a post-emergent herbicide that helps control crabgrass during the season.

What most folks call crabgrass in reality turns out to be either **Johnsons grass** or **Tall fescue**. Tall fescue is a coarse, wide blade grass that grows in clumps. Usu-

ally, it grows about twice as fast as regular lawn grass. Johnsons grass grows wild in pastures and fields. Some how it can get into established lawns. Johnsons grass is wide bladed and bluish green in color. It spreads around by underground stolens that stretch out for great distances.

If you see “alien grass” in your yard at this time, more than likely it’s not crabgrass! The only effective way to control Tall fescue and Johnsons is to kill them off with Roundup and re-sod. This of course will kill blue grass as well. But if you don’t kill the root system then they will grow right back. Unfortunately, there are no products available that will kill these weedy grasses and not harm the turf grass.

As with any type of diagnosis you must first accurately identify the problem before possible solutions can be prescribed. If you have questions



Lawn Care: Water is a Key Ingredient for Success

We take care of a lot of lawns throughout the metro area. Occasionally, we get a complaint call usually stating “my lawns looks terrible”. When we come out to investigate more often than not the lawn looks bad because of a water related issue. Most frequently the problem stems from inadequate or uneven coverage from the sprinkler system. Strange patterns of green and brown areas develop.

I use a soil probe to check for soil moisture. Green areas, the probe pushes right into the ground. Ample moisture. In stressed areas, getting the probe into the ground is like trying to push it though the side walk! Hard as a rock and the grass looks bad.

If you see strange patterns develop in the lawn check the water first. Probe the soil with a screw driver or trowel as described above. Next, set out coffee cans or any type container throughout the lawn. Run the sprinkler system as normal and when it’s done see how much water has landed in the containers. If the depth of water is the same throughout then the system is working well. If not the system may have to be modified to provide uniform coverage.

As a lawn service provider we have little control over the lawn as a whole. We fertilize and keep the weeds down. It’s up to you to do the bulk of its care. Water and mow!

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Natures Aerators!

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