Get Your Yards Ready for Spring!

Just when everyone is sure winter is going last forever, spring creeps around the corner, jumps out, and surprises us. Lawns turn green and tulips line flower beds and side walks. Indulge your longing to spend your time outside and get your yard ready for days of sunshine and summer.

Get Out Your Rake

It's important rake any grass, weeds, or leavings remaining from last fall. Be sure to clean our gutters, curbs, and any other solid surfaces. Organic material like leaves and grass clippings are easily washed into streams and lakes when they land on concrete, asphalt, or other solid surfaces. For every five bags of leaves and organic matter collected, one pound of phosphorus is prevented from entering a local water body. Each pound of phosphorous can cause up to 1,000 pounds of algae growth in our waterbodies.

Remove Weeds

Weeding is high on most people's 'least favorite jobs' list. But delaying will only make the job more difficult. By weeding your lawn in the spring, you're preventing thousands of seeds from taking root later. Using corn gluten meal early in the spring to cut back on lawn weeds is a safe alternative to chemical weed killers. Another option is to get a little exercise and time in the sun and pull broad leaf weeds like dandelions and plantain by hand. Don't forget a little clover in your lawn is good. Clover converts nitrogen from the air and puts it back into the soil.

Deal with the Soil

Winter and compacted snow are extremely hard on soil. Farmers have the luxury of being able to till their ground to loosen it and prepare it for the next season's crop. For lawn care, aerate your lawn to loosen soil and allow greater movement of water, fertilizer, and air. Test your soil before adding fertilizer. Minnesota soils are naturally high in phosphorus and it is illegal to use fertilizer with phosphorus unless the soil has been tested.

Trim Trees and Shrubs

Take advantage of the warmer weather and give your trees and shrubs a good grooming. Scale back trees limbs that have been damaged from storms or snow. Damaged branches should be trimmed fairly close to the base of the tree. Also, trim the shrubs or bushes so they look neatly groomed and manicured.

Lawn Care

Lawns are a valuable part of any property and are an extension of your home. The best lawn care approach is focused on problem prevention by planning ahead and addressing problems before they become difficult to manage. A healthy lawn can out-compete most weeds, survive most insect attacks, and fend off most diseases.

It is best to water only when your lawn really needs it and then to water slowly and deeply early in the morning. Watering slowly will develop deep roots that make your lawn stronger and healthier. Frequent and shallow watering encourages roots to stay close to the surface and decreases drought resistance. Even in very dry areas, no established lawn should require daily watering. Use trickle irrigation or soaker hoses to imitate a slow, soaking rain.

Springtime is the land awakening. The March winds are the morning yawn. ~ Lewis Grizzard

Everything is blooming most recklessly; if it were voices instead of colors, there would be an unbelievable shrieking into the heart of the night. ~ Rainer Maria Rilke
Map of the Heron Lake Watershed District

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