

# SPRING IS UPON US!!!!



## APEX LANDSCAPING

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### EIGHTEEN YEARS IN THE MAKING

By Bob Atwater



Glencoe Residence

Happy Spring to all. We are very excited to see our past years' projects bloom and flourish. Some projects had been installed as late as fall to several years prior. It is exciting to revisit the sites to see how landscapes have matured and our clients still enjoying the seasonal change, color and textures. We are continuing to grow; some of our clients have been with us since our beginning in spring of 1991. We have grown to the size we are

today by listening to our clients and providing excellent services at fair prices. From the smallest request to the largest, we never forget about those who have supported us from the beginning. Our philosophy will never change. We have grown to 60 seasonal and 6 full time employees. We are continuing to grow.... From the days of working daily in the field to now, overseeing projects over \$250 thousand, to maintaining full multi-family communities from Lake to DuPage Counties. Last spring we brought Jack Sheehan on board to head our Maintenance Division. Most of our customers have met or talked with Jack. He has grown quickly learning the ropes. Any concerns about maintenance

or other needs, contact Jack at the office or email him at [jacks@apexlandscapinginc.com](mailto:jacks@apexlandscapinginc.com). We have furnished our supervisors with Blackberry's in order to respond to today's technology advances. The Blackberry will allow us to respond to your emails quicker when we are in the field. Last year we moved to a great facility in Northbrook which has allowed us to be more efficient and productive. The facility is complete with on-site fuel, garages, several offices, shop offices, holding space for annuals and other plant material. In 2007 we had six Maintenance Crews and six Construction Crews and should see those increase 25%. We are looking forward to a great 2008 with you.

### SPRING PREPARATIONS

As everybody spring cleans the inside of the house, the outside is just as important. The Spring Clean Up entails removing all debris that may have accumulated over the winter. We had a late fall, therefore, some sites may still have leaves. We will bring that spring cleaning

feeling to your location. All beds will show a neat, fresh appearance. Fertilization with pre-emergent fertilizer should be applied immediately after the clean up to speed up that lush green look to the turf, not to mention a healthier lawn. Aeration is beneficial to the lawn

below the surface, which allows the root system to expand easier. Trees and shrubs should not be overlooked. Fertilizing is as important to these as the lawn. Pansies are a great jump start to adding color to your garden and they will survive the cooler temperatures.

#### Highlights

- DEEP ROOT FERTILIZATION AND HORTICULTURE OIL
- MULCHING AND THE BENEFITS OF MULCH
- PANSIES FOR SPRING AND SEASONAL PLANTINGS
- OUTDOOR LIGHTING MAINTENANCE

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## Fertilizing Confusion?



Crabgrass in turf during the growing season.

There has been confusion in the past about the first application of fertilizer. The pre-emergence is applied to attack crabgrass and minimize broadleaf weeds. The fertilizer is applied early spring because crabgrass is tough to fight later in the season. The crabgrass is a tropical native which will emerge when the weather is hot and humid. Crabgrass from a distance blends with the desired turf grass. Once the crabgrass has a foothold

there are two ways to treat. These options are an all kill such as roundup or with a selective herbicide. A selective herbicide is meant to kill only what is on the label, leaving the desirable turf grass unscathed. The result of both of these applications will turn the crabgrass brown and unsightly for weeks. This is why we recommend a spring application. Along areas that we manually or mechanically edge, crabgrass may grow. The reason

being is we turn or disturb the soil and bring new seeds to the surface. A healthy lawn will fight and compete with other weeds, especially crabgrass. For commercial sites or parkways along heavy salted areas, GYPSUM can be applied to counter the salt and prevent burning to the turf.

“PLANTERS  
BRING COLOR  
TO THE PATIO  
AND THE  
OUTSIDE OF  
YOUR HOME.”

## Kick start the spring with colorful Pansies

Pansies are one great way to add color to the garden early in the spring. Some may have planted their fall bulbs and may not need additional color. Those who are looking for a colorful palette should plant pansies near their entry area, designated annual bed or in planters/pots.

Preparing your beds/

planters is easy. Remove any plant material that is left over from the previous season or winter arrangements. The beds should be well cultivated or turned. We recommend adding a straight fertilizer, such as 10-10-10 and have some potting soil on hand. Mix all together well and install the plants. We can install pansies at \$39.00 per

flat. There is a 2 flat minimum. Another option is to install forced tulips, daffodils or hyacinths. Call for pricing. Planters bring color to the patio and the outside of your home. If you do not have planters or pots, now would be a great time to order them. May 15th is the planting date for summer annuals, which is just around the cor-



An Aerator removing cores from a lawn

## Aeration, what's the story?

Aeration, or core cultivation, is standard lawn care. Aerating a lawn means supplying the soil with air, usually by poling holes in the ground throughout the lawn using an aerator. It reduces soil compaction and helps control thatch in lawns while helping water and fertilizer move into the root zone.

A lawn can be aerated at any time the ground is not frozen, but should not be done when it is extremely hot and dry. Heavy traffic areas will require aeration more frequently. Aeration is most effective when actual cores or plugs of soil are pulled from the lawn. It is important to leave the cores on the

lawn, allowing them to work back into the grass. The cores will gradually deteriorate and serve as topdressing assisting in the reduction of thatch. Lawns may be fertilized and seeded immediately after aeration. There is no need to top dress lawns following aeration.

## Lighting Maintenance

By Al Thomas

With spring right around the corner, it is recommended to replace all of your light bulbs, clean fixture lenses, check fixture wiring for any defects and last but not least, check your time clock for settings, such as the correct time of day and setting the ON/OFF control.

### CLEANING:

Cleaning the lens will give the maximum amount of illumina-

tion. Cleaning the area around the fixture will enhance the highlighting of the intended area.

### LAMP REPLACEMENT:

Lamps have different life expectancies. If a lamp burns out after normal usage, it is recommended to replace every one of the same type, which is known as group re-lamping. This will prevent replacing the same type of

lamp every few days or weeks. When replacing lamps, it is recommended spraying the lamp socket with a contact cleaner, such as silicone. This will help stop any corrosion and extend the life of the fixture and lamp.

### CHECKING FOR DEFECTIVE FIXTURES:

If a fixture is not working, first replace the lamp (be sure the  
Continued on page 4



Landscape lighting of a residence

## SPRING SPECIALS 2008

### CRABAPPLE TREE DISEASE

Do your CRABAPPLE TREES lose their leaves in the middle of the season? This may mean your trees have *SCAB* or *RUST DISEASE*. Have us treat them this year. Call us for an estimate. This application has a timing issue.....so the sooner the better. (Best if received before 4/1/08.)

AERATION-10% Discount

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LIVING SPACE  
WITH  
LANDSCAPE  
LIGHTING”



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E-mail:  
apex@apexlandscaping.com

## MOLE & RABBIT WINTER DAMAGE

This year has been one of the top five snowiest winters in Chicago's history. Animals, such as rabbits and moles, have been consuming your landscaping because of the snow cover. Typical damage (pictured on the left) from these animals is cut stems at 45 degrees and bark eaten from trees. On occasion we have been accused of destroying or pruning certain plants when, in fact, this was done by critters prior to servicing the property. If you inspect your plants and have concerns give us a call. We will, as we do every year, inspect the property during the initial clean up. The snow cover has allowed animals to gain higher elevations to the plants for food. However, the heavy snow accumulation has acted as an insulator for what's underground. This should lead the garden to a better head start with less plant loss.



## Lighting Maintenance Continued

Continued from page 3  
lamp is not defective). Next, check the wiring at the socket to see that the wires are connected to the socket. Next, check to see if the wire insulation is broken down, exposing bare copper wire. If so, the fixture will need to be replaced.

We are available to service any of your Landscape Lighting needs. If you have any questions or need our assistance, please contact Al in our office.

### CHECKING THE TIME CLOCK:

In the event of a power outage, the time clock will need to be re-set for the correct time of day and the ON/OFF settings.

