



Prime's Clippings

Prime Landscape Services, Inc.

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No Lions Yet!

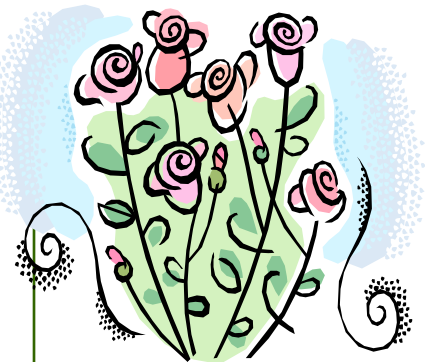
Funny how I penned the last newsletter at the end of a warm dry January noting the lack of winter weather, and then we were immediately hit with two solid weeks of the coldest, iciest weather we have had in decades. It really concerns me to note that March is not entering like a lion as in the

old English proverb. There was a bit of wind and a short line of thunderstorms that rolled through on the last days of February, but nothing significant. And the first week of March is forecast similar to the last two weeks of February, with mild conditions and a warming trend. If our luck holds, maybe March will continue its lamb-like behavior and usher in an early spring.

But we all know this is Texas, and I would suspect that we see some big swings in the weather before March exits, including possibly another light freeze or two. If you are thinking it's time to set out your tomato plants, just keep some frost blanket handy until we know the lamb has arrived.



"meow"



Our goal is to fulfill the needs of the customer by providing timely, quality services and products.

Thanks for your business!

Pond Clean Outs in Full Swing

The next 6-8 weeks are traditionally the most difficult time in a water garden. Since aquatic plants have not come out of dormancy and cool water temperatures

reduce the bacteria colonies in your filters and gravel, conditions are optimal for the growth of string algae. Algae is a natural, healthy organism in any natural wa-

ter feature, but it can bloom suddenly in a matter of days and become unsightly. Give us a call if you are not already on the schedule for your spring clean out.

Starting your services—let us know! If you are not a 12 month contract and want your yard services started on a specific date, please call and let us know!

No Fire Ants For a Year—Guaranteed!

Fire ants are not only painful, they are destructive. Fire ants love electrical motors, especially in cold weather. They will build colonies in outdoor electrical boxes, landscape lighting, swimming pool pumps, air conditioners, and even sprinkler control valves. They chew through insulation on the wires and cause electrical shorts or damage to other

components. They pose a health hazard to small children, pets, and anyone allergic. Ants will begin migrating once soil temperatures hit 60 degrees. You *will* see mounds popping up in your yard soon.

Baits and products for controlling individual mounds, called the "Texas Two Step" by the TDA, is the standard approach and is effective if

applied several times each year. Bait products have the least environmental impact due to the minute amounts required, yet can have the most long-term affect on ant populations. However, there is also a product that can control fire ants for up to 12 months with just one application, and *this is the optimum time to apply. 12 months of guaranteed control starting at just \$120.00!* Call today!

March Chores:

- Trim groundcover
- Apply pre-emergent and broad-leaf herbicides
- Prune overgrown shrubs back
- Prune low limbs on trees
- Prune dormant perennials & fountain grasses
- Plant and transplant trees & shrubs
- Till vegetable gardens and plant cool weather crops

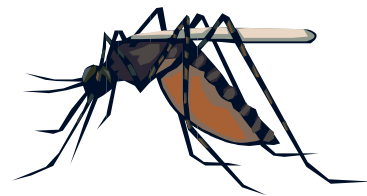
Mosquito Season is Just Around the Corner

Last year we tested a mosquito product at my own residence along with a few of our customers. Having kids and pets myself I researched many products and it was important to me to find an effective solution with minimal toxicity. I was also concerned after seeing the many mosquito products on the market with finding one that was reasonably priced. What we are using is one of the least toxic insecticides on the market, yet it also has a 3 to 4 week residual. This means that you can spray once a

month in the mosquito season and keep things pretty well under control.

On my personal yard we would go out side and basically as the sun set be driven back into the house by the mosquitos. It pretty well made my backyard unusable after the sun set. After the first spray there was a noticeable difference and then after the second we would see one or two mosquitoes all night if any at all. Just remember to follow common sense guidelines and check your property for any standing water in gutters, drains, or buckets.

With treatments starting at just \$99.00, you can't afford not to treat your yard!



That's one Texas sized mosquito!

Winter Damage?

In spite of the two weeks of ice and severe temperatures last month, it has indeed been warm all winter and lots of plants are coming out of dormancy a little early. At the same time, there were some plants that were damaged by the extended spell of below twenty degree temperatures. Look for damage on Confederate Star jasmine, pittosporum, ligustrum, some palm trees, and possibly some of our borderline perennials like esperanza and less hardy types of lantana. Pansies were severely burned, but at least 50% or more of them are recovering nicely at this point, aided by the warm weather and not too much rain. Most daffodils and other narcissus are starting to bloom but some really early varieties did have their foliage burnt and will probably not put on a really good show. Aspidistra, holly fern, and autumn fern are burnt, but they are already putting up new foliage. Most everything that we have observed so far looks like it will rebound with a good hard pruning, but I'm sure there will be a few plants that give it up. Just part of the price we pay for being right on the edge of two cold hardiness zones.

St. Augustine lawns may not have taken the same hit they did last year but it is too early to tell. Last year's biggest problem was being too wet all winter coupled with sitting under twelve inches of snow. Take All Root Rot was probably the biggest culprit in yards that were thin and patchy. Some St. Augustine lawns are already coming out of dormancy, but there are some patches that still look dead at this point. We should know the full extent of any damage by April. Remember, do not fertilize St. Augustine yet unless you are using all organic forms of nitrogen that break down very slowly. Traditional fertilizers for St. Augustine do not need to go down until about April 10th. Right now you will only be fertilizing winter weeds which will exacerbate any weakness in your lawn. Also, look at my article in last month's issue! A top dressing of peat moss would be beneficial to every St. Augustine lawn.

Thanks For Your Patience

Spring is upon us in full force. We want to especially thank all our clients who started on their spring projects with us a month or two ago when we had a little more free time, and we appreciate the patience of all of you who are now calling in for landscape projects and having to wait a few days for your estimates. We will do our best to get to whatever you need as quickly as we can. We look forward to working with you in the coming season.

And remember—email is another great way to communicate with us!

For general communication: contactus@primelandscapeservices.com

To direct your correspondence to a specific individual, CC to that person's first name @primelandscapeservices.com example: Petra@primelandscapeservices.com



What can we do for you?

Don't forget—Prime Landscape offers a full array of landscape services. If you are considering any outdoor improvements, call us first and compare our quality and prices.

- Landscape design
- Retaining Walls
- Mowing
- Sprinkler Systems
- Patios
- Fertilizing
- Water Gardens, Waterfalls
- Outdoor lighting
- Weed control
- Concrete
- Insect and Disease control
- Swimming Pools
- Seasonal color planting
- Shrub and tree trimming
- Stone Masonry
- Sprinkler Repair
- And more!