

PRIME'S CLIPPINGS



**We will be closed for
Memorial Day, May 31st**

**Thank you for
your business.**

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

Some lawns off to a slow start

We have received a lot of calls this spring about St. Augustine looking very poor and slow to come out of dormancy. Our sunny Bermuda properties are in great shape, but many St. Augustine lawns are not. This phenomena is not restricted to properties we maintain – it is common throughout the metroplex.

Yes, we do have winter damage on St Augustine this year. There were a few dips into the teens and it also sat under 12 inches of snow for several days,

something it has never experienced. We also had an extremely wet fall and winter which seems to have increased the incidence of Take All Patch. Unlike Brown Patch, this disease is not controlled effectively by fungicides, and may be part of the problem if you are seeing yellow stunted growth. Take All Patch or TARR (Take All Root Rot) is actually treated by top-dressing the lawn with peat moss. Labor intensive, but effective for up to 3 years. In fact, our local gardening expert Neil Sperry had the

same problem in his yard a few years ago and has a great link to it on his website. You can also find info on the A&M website:

<http://aggieturf.tamu.edu/file2006/CEA%20Turf%20News%20-%20Spring06.pdf>

In short, we are recommending patience. Give your lawn some warm weather, sunshine, and May rains. If you do have the symptoms of TARR call us to discuss a peat moss application. Areas of the lawn that have not grown out by mid May should be sodded.

Save a Tree—Go Paperless!

Did you know you can receive your invoice via e-mail *and* pay your bill on-line? We are signing up more folks for these services than ever before. We now have over 200 clients that have opted to go paperless! It's easy. Just call Sally or Petra with your e-mail information, and they will set everything up. Your monthly statement and our award winning newsletter* will appear in your e-mail box around the first of each month. You can also pay your bill on-line, or earn points on your favorite credit card by having your Prime Landscape account auto-bill each month. Your credit card information is encrypted and secure, and paperless transactions are the green way to.

When you transact electronically, you are reducing the consumption of trees used to make paper, the fuels, chemicals, water, and energy consumed to manufacture that paper, and the fuel used to deliver mail. The amount of electrical energy consumed in a few minutes of on-line bill management is miniscule in comparison. So make a positive impact today! (* voted Best Newsletter by any landscape company located at this address.)

Remember—you can always contact us via e-mail!

Contact Information

Owner: Greg@Primelandscapeservices.com
A/R: Sally@Primelandscapeservices.com

General questions or requests about your services:
Petra@Primelandscapeservices.com
Kent@Primelandscapeservices.com
Design/Sales: Mark@Primelandscapeservices.com
John@Primelandscapeservices.com
Ernest@Primelandscapeservices.com
Mel@Primelandscapeservices.com



Lawn Care in May

St. Augustine lawns have been slow to come out this year with all the cool weather and rough winter, but everything that survived should be greening up nicely in the next few weeks. Everyone should be on a weekly mowing schedule by now, and shrubs will need attention regularly. Pansies should be replaced now with warm season color. Spring blooming shrubs such as azaleas and spiraeas can be pruned back now after they finish blooming.

We only recommend pruning azaleas if they are getting too large for their area. In fact, many of our shrubs look their best when left in a more natural shape. The acorn crop was fairly heavy this year, and we have tons of little oak trees sprouting in beds and lawns. In the lawn repeated mowing will eliminate them, or they can be treated with a broadleaf spray. In beds however, they must be pulled up unless they are in an open area that can be sprayed.

Lawns are being fertilized now and if we get a few rains and some sun they should perk up. Winter weeds will also start to burn out, so greener times are just around the bend!



Problem Areas

Many yards have at least one problem area, a place where nothing seems to grow. The source of the problem is usually a combination of factors, the most important being soil composition, light exposure, and moisture or drainage. If you have been struggling for years to keep grass under a tree, change the area over to a groundcover that can tolerate the competition for water and lack of light. There are endless choices - lirioppe, variegated lirioppe, mondo grass, dwarf mondo, Asian jasmine, glechoma, English ivy, and others. If you have a lawn area that seems to get adequate light and water but still won't grow grass it may be compacted.

You can aerate regularly and even rake organic compost or sand into the holes each time to better condition the soil. If it's a constantly traveled path, perhaps you could set in a step stone path and let the grass fill in between the stones.

Another problem we encounter is boggy areas that tend to stay wet. Constant wetness is a death sentence for many plants, but if the area lends itself to landscaping, there are several interesting plants that tolerate wet feet. Now very few will tolerate an actual bog, but there are several choices for moderately wet locations.

The miscanthus family of fountain grasses tolerate fairly wet soils, as do certain muhly grasses and ornamental sedges.

Daylilies, Louisiana iris, loosestrife, cannas, obedient plant, and ruellias are great flowering perennials for moderate to extremely wet areas, even bogs. Elephant ears, umbrella grass, wood fern, and horsetail (equisetum hyemale) are excellent foliage plants.

It is difficult to find shrubs for wet soils, but dwarf and standard wax myrtles perform well wet, as well as hardy pink or red oleanders. There are some really attractive dwarf oleanders, but they are only marginally cold hardy here. Yaupon and Chinese holly, ligustrum, euonymus, and fatsia are also somewhat tolerant of moist conditions.

If turf just doesn't want to grow, be creative and find an alternative!

May Chores

- Mow weekly
- Finish planting spring flowers
- Mulch beds
- Treat for fire ants

Thanks for your patience!

We're not sure if Prime is a barometer of the economic rebound, but this is perhaps the busiest Spring we have ever had. We were one of two companies invited to submit designs for a prestigious commercial project during the winter and were honored to be selected. Unfortunately, the bulk of the project was not ready for us until April and of course that is also the height of the spring season. We have been hiring, working weekends, and working late to try to keep up. We sincerely appreciate you and will do our best to get to any extra work you request, and we especially want to thank all of you that started scheduling your Spring projects with us during the winter when we had a little more time to plan.

To Contact Us:

(817) 461-4000

Primelandscapeser-
vices.com

