



November 1, 2011

Prime's Clippings

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Our offices will be closed Nov. 24-25 for Thanksgiving. Have a great Holiday!



Happy

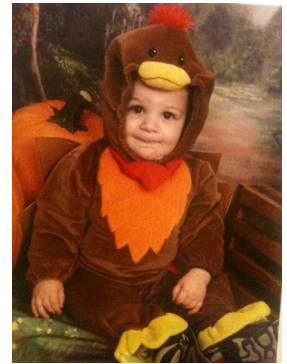
Thanksgiving !

The Pleasant Days of Fall

With Thanksgiving approaching, hectic holidays are not far away. We have finally had some rain and cool weather, so get outside, relax, and enjoy these pleasant days while you can! Gardeners look to the change of seasons as a chance to plant pansies, kale, and other cool season plants that we can't use during our hot summers. There are still lots of



chores to do — replacing plants, prepping veggie gardens, mulching beds, trimming trees, and raking leaves. And we have splendid weather for doing our outdoor chores. But if you aren't big on chores, remember that's what we are here for! So dig this fall weather and leave the real diggin' to us.



Griffin, John's grandson

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

Thanks for your business!

In Your Garden

Our average annual date for the first frost is around November 17th, so although some summer annuals still look good it is time to put in pansies. You may want to wait until more leaves are down if you are going to plant pansies in shaded areas, but get them planted soon so they will establish before winter.

Also, remember as temperatures cool decrease your watering to conserve and discourage fungal problems. Set your sprinklers to come on just before dawn so that the

grass doesn't stay wet all night. The sun is coming up later and grass does best if it dries within a few hours of being watered. With regular rain, once every 10-14 days is all you need now.

Another valuable tip is to replace the batteries in your smoke detectors and your sprinkler controller on the weekend that we roll our clocks back for daylight savings time. It is an easy way to remember this simple chore.

Time to order bulbs !!

Remember, if you want a beautiful show of annual tulips or naturalizing perennial daffodils, paper whites or jonquils, now is the time to order them! Bulb prices start as low as \$.75 each installed with a minimum of 100 bulbs. We will be picking up our bulb orders this month and start planting after Thanksgiving. Call to place your order today!

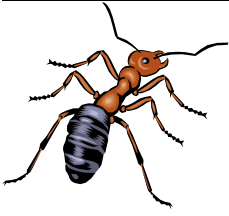
Not sure what to plant? Email john@primelandscapeservices.com for a list of the best bulbs.



November Chores:

- Mow regularly and keep leaves mulched up.
- Prune dead limbs before all leaves are down.
- Plant new shrubs, perennials, and trees.
- Transplant shrubs and trees.
- Apply fire ant bait
- Change batteries in smoke detectors *and* your sprinkler controller
- Don't forget to feed the birds!

Fire ants are on the prowl! And you thought Halloween was scary!



The heat and drought kept fire ants fairly inactive all summer, but they have come to the surface with a vengeance after our first few fall rains. There is one good aspect of this though, and that is the potential for some serious long-term control.

Although there are several products for controlling individual mounds, most of these products are highly toxic and only kill the ants that come in contact with the poison. The queens are not usually affected and simply move the colony. The two best approaches for fire ant control are baits and fipronil.

This is a great time to apply bait-type controls. The ants will be very active through the remainder of Nov– Dec foraging for winter, and will carry baits to the queens. Baits have a very minimal environmental impact and offer long term control.

The Texas Department of Agriculture's "Texas Two Step" recommends treating individual mounds that are in problem areas with a mound treatment but also broadcast a bait product.

The other proven method is to broadcast fipronil across the entire property to create a chemical barrier effective for up to 8 months. Ants die as they tunnel or cross through the barrier.

Fire ants are not just annoying, they are destructive *and* dangerous. They can inflict serious and painful injury to young children and adults who may be allergic, and are renown for colonizing outdoor electrical equipment and shorting it out. *A Texas Dept of Agriculture study from 2000 estimated annual damages from fire ants at over 1.2 Billion!* Don't risk damage to your air conditioners, lighting and sprinkler systems, or injury to you and your family.

Call to schedule a treatment today while conditions are still optimal!

Residential Mowing Clients — Please Read This!

With lawns growing slowly now and leaves just starting to fall, *please call to make changes to your schedule!*

If you do not want your yard mowed, let us know. We maintain several hundred homes, and many of our customers want us there weekly whether it really needs it or not.

Therefore, we do not let our crews decide which yards can be skipped on their list — all their work orders must come through our office.

Crews are paid for every minute of the day, and gas is expensive. **If you do not call in to cancel by 5:00 PM the day before and our crew comes to your house on your regularly scheduled day, you will be charged—no exceptions.**

And If You Have Trees, Please Read This!

Every year we like to remind our clients about how we han-

dle leaf clean ups. Leaves are falling fairly evenly now, and mulch mowing them into the lawn is the most cost effective way of dealing with them as long as it is done regularly. Soon there will be some really heavy leaf drops and we may need to spend extra time to clean them up if you have a lot of trees. We appreciate your business, and we will always try to work as quickly as we can to keep the cost reasonable, but please note:

When the crews have to spend more time on the yard than they usually do, we will charge extra for leaf clean ups. Our hourly rate is \$30.00 per man hour.

If you do not want your leaves cleaned up, please call us.

Of course, no extra charges will apply to our commercial and residential customers that are set up on a prorated full maintenance contract.

Want to make budgeting for your lawn care simple and save money in the summer? Call for a quote on a 12 month contract.

Pool Services Now

Available!

We now offer monthly pool service at competitive prices! Call Greg or Spencer for details and prices — we keep it clean, not green!



Spencer Young, our pond and waterfall specialist, recently completed the Texas Nursery and Landscape Association's certification process and achieved a passing grade on the Certified Landscape Professional test.

Congratulations to Spencer, CLP #712