



PRIME'S CLIPPINGS

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July 1, 2011



**We will be closed
Monday, July 4th.**

**Have a great
holiday!!**



***Thank you for
your business!***

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

Singin' the Blue Sky Blues

No rain in sight as the first month of summer draws to a close, and all those windy days in June added to the overall dry conditions we are experiencing. May, normally our wettest month, had some fair rains but still below average. Result? We are off to a tough summer season and having to depend exclusively on our sprinklers to keep our lawns and landscapes going. Temperatures haven't done us any favors either, with 90—100 degree days consistently. Remember, you can lose new plants after just a few days without water, and it is nearly impossible to deeply soak a big

shrub or tree with sprinkler heads. Repeat after me, the Texas gardener's summer mantra: "The hose is my friend. The hose is my friend..."



Besides, maybe your spouse or kids will make the mistake of walking by while you're watering and give you a chance to hose them down. After all, it's hot out there!

A note about our employees

Did you know Prime Landscape now employs nearly 100 full time personnel? Thanks to you, our loyal clientele, and our hardworking employees Prime is continuing to expand operations and services. To help fill the seasonal need for extra workers in the summer months, we have proudly participated in the U.S. Government's H2B Visa program for several years now, and have about 45 participants this year. This program allows foreign workers to legally work in the U.S. from March through November each year after undergoing background checks and verification. This has proved to be a win-win for us and our clients as well. After filling positions first with U.S. citizens willing to perform the hard seasonal work we do for the prevailing industry wages, we then may use Visa workers for our remaining positions. Our Visa employees must follow all company policies, maintain a clean criminal record with *no* convictions or arrests of any type, and like all employees here, must have all applicable taxes withheld from their checks along with the required employer matching. You are assured that our workers have passed background checks, are here legally, and are happy to have the opportunity to work here.

An Unfortunate Incident

One of our company policies involves moonlighting, which is strictly prohibited. An employee who is found to be soliciting work on the side while on company time is subject to termination. Clients and neighbors often stop and ask our workers for estimates or if they can do extra work on Saturdays. Our crews are required to report this, and we will be happy to provide estimates or schedule extras any time.

Sometimes our crews may forget to report these requests, or may misunderstand and think they are being asked to do the work on the side. We recently had an incident where one of our foremen went in his own vehicle on a Saturday to do some work for a client and then asked to be paid cash on the spot. The client had simply wanted some extra work scheduled, and the misunderstanding jeopardized the foreman's job and created much confusion for the client.

We respectfully request that if you need any extra work or estimates that you contact our offices so that we can better serve you.



What's Buggin' You?



Webworms, tent caterpillars, and bagworms are making their annual appearance. They won't eat every plant, but they are capable of defoliating their favorite hosts in short order. Redbuds, pecans, mulberry, ash, and some elms are their food of choice, but they are also attacking several other varieties of trees to some extent, and even some shrubs and vines. Bagworms attack junipers, arborvitae, cypress, and cedar trees. Although the trees will normally recover and put out new leaves, they expend a lot of energy doing this. In the wet summer of 2007 we had 3 generations of tent caterpillars and the damage they did was tremendous. We won't see anything like that in this dry year, but the dry soil conditions make it harder for trees to rebound after losing significant foliage. Weak and stressed trees are more susceptible to other insect infestations and diseases, so the webworms may set the stage for the decline and death of a tree. Smaller infestations may be pruned out, but if you have entire trees covered you need to spray with a chemical insecticide or an all natural bacterial product called *Bacillus thuringiensis* or BT. BT coats the leaves and interrupts the digestive system when eaten. Worms stop eating within a day and die within a few days. Whether you use the organic or chemical approach a high pressure sprayer is needed to break through the protective webs of tent caterpillars. It may

also be impractical to spray very large trees due to the type of equipment needed to reach the higher areas and the corresponding cost.

Fireants will migrate and build new mounds after every rain. That means areas that have been free of fire ants during the dry conditions we have had may become reinfested after a good rain. Even if you have treated with baits or mound drenches a couple times and seem to have eliminated the ants on your piece of real estate, don't be surprised to see them move in from adjacent properties. Bait treatments offer the best long term control for the price.

Chinch bug damage is likely to occur over the next several weeks in sunny areas of lush St. Augustine. Watch for crisp brown patches in the lawn. Mosquitoes haven't been too bad but will make up for lost time after the next rainy spell, if indeed we get another rainy spell!



Lookin' for lawns in all the right places - "Hernando the chinch bug"

Insect and fungicide applications start at only \$75.00!
Call 817-461-4000 to schedule today!



July is Hardscape Month!

July and August are tough months to get new plants established, but great months for establishing that new patio, sidewalk, retaining wall, or drain system. And if you still don't have a sprinkler system how can you go another summer without



one? Normal people may not relish the thought of pouring concrete, laying patio stone, or digging trenches in this heat, but whoever said landscapers were normal? Get that new patio or sprinkler plan started today and start enjoying it before summer is gone!

July Chores

- Mow regularly & do not catch the clippings
- Deep water during the hot months
- Mulch all bare areas
- Hand water dry spots, annuals, & new plants
- Treat fire ants after rains
- Watch for powdery mildew, chinch bugs, and grubs

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