



!SCALPING SEASON NOTIFICATION!

Is Your Grass Brown?

This morning was the first manifestation of a break in the weather. Some areas were as low as 62 degrees last night!

If you are overseeding, we have been turning your water off and taking your grass height down. Now, for the next couple of weeks, your grass height is coming all the way down as far as possible. This scalping process is necessary to force the Bermuda into a dormant state and allow the Winter Rye the opportunity to germinate when it is seeded.

The first week in October, we will begin the process of overseeding. You will see the water running in short bursts, several times per day. This is necessary to keep the seed wet so it will germinate. If it is allowed to dry out, it will be ruined and we will need to spot seed those areas.

After the seed is spread, if you see running water from leaks or other irrigation problems, please contact your management company or contact us as soon as possible so that we may get this corrected.

All grass seed is not created equal! Ask your landscape company what seed blend they are using. Lower grade seed will contain different kinds of weed seed that will stay with you for years.

In addition to the blend, are you getting Annual Rye or Perennial Rye? Perennial Rye is a dryer grass and is more drought and heat tolerant which helps it stay around longer in the spring. Annual Rye is very wet, creates a lot of green mess on sidewalks and other areas touched by this grass.

No Winter Lawn?

If your community has chosen not to seed for winter grass, you will see very little change for a couple of months. We are applying a special fertilizer (the same one we used in the beginning of the summer) which will encourage root structure growth and allow for deeper healthier roots.

Doing this will help the grass hold on a little longer, use less water doing it, and give us a good start on next years summer lawn.

Another water saving process that should be done early spring is aeration. This will help break up the surface allowing water, fertilizer, and sun to work on the soil. If you have problems with bare spots, brown spots, or thin turf, aeration can be one of the first steps to fixing this problem. We always recommend a soil sample prior to doing this so we can apply the correct soil amendment at the same time. Different amendments are Calcium, Gypsum, and Dispersul. These are the most commonly used. If there are other soil conditions that require some different treatments, the Agronomist that reviews our soil samples will let us know.

Bermuda and Winter Rye

Why change types of grass? Almost all valley summer lawns are some variety or hybrid Bermuda grass, which is green in the summer but goes dormant and turns brown in the winter. To have a green winter lawn it is necessary to "scalp" the Bermuda grass and "over seed" with winter Rye Grass.

Phoenix and Tucson, along with a few Nevada and Texas cities are about the only places in the country where this is done. For this reason, we receive hundreds of calls each year from people that have never experienced this transition complaining about the condition of the turf grass. Each year we attempt to educate as many people as possible about this process.

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