

“Spring” 2016?

Spring has finally arrived in New England (even though January was warmer than now)! However, April’s AccuWeather forecast does not look very nice: cool temperatures and rain. Unlike past years, getting outside to start our landscape projects may be a challenge.

A light raking of your lawn is recommended to prepare for the “grass growing” season. Power raking and de-thatching should be done before applying crab-grass preventative treatments. Normal raking after this application will not alter the treatment’s effectiveness or control; however, any mechanical procedure that disturbs the top half-inch of soil below the grass may increase crabgrass growth. D&D recommends scheduling aeration and de-thatching after the heat of the summer, not in the spring.

A spring clean up should include removing the winter sand from your lawn and planting areas and removing dead and damaged branches from trees and shrubs. Putting a sharp edge on your planting beds will keep grass roots from growing into the them, because the grass roots will not survive when reaching the air of the edged bed. Also, April is a good time to evaluate your landscaping to determine if changes should be made for the upcoming outdoor season. This is a perfect time to plan your implementation of the garden you have been dreaming about.

Spring is a good time to repair damaged areas by spot seeding. However, because crabgrass preventative treatment will prevent all seeds from germinating, it is recommended that any seeding be done by turning over the soil or using new loam, which will allow the new grass roots to grow. Or, if you so please, avoid applications to the seeding areas and do this work as early as possible (during the spring) to give the new grass time to establish before crabgrass germinates in May.

April is also the perfect time to start booking those landscape projects you have always wanted. Most landscapers (yes, including D&D) are very busy this time of year. We are not a society of waiting for homeowners, and our time slots get filled up quickly. So, make sure you book early so you aren’t waiting 4-8 weeks!

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