

Texas Rural Living—Landscape & Irrigation

April Newsletter

A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE...

Hello Friends

This time of year is always exciting and that's just what we are. As with everything, we face challenges each and every day in life and business; whether it be an illness, a rainy day or even a negative comment from a competitor. This time of year always seems to keep a bounce in our step as we look to the future. We are always busy, not just with work, but in training ourselves as the Green Industry changes from day to day. With laws, regulations and new trends coming about each day it seems, it is important for us to keep up with the current standards to be able to educate our customers on what it is you need to know.

I attended the Landscape Irrigation Auditing & Management class through Texas A & M in Houston during March and I am looking forward to sharing this new knowledge and technology with you. I always get a thrill out of learning something new and being able to pass it along to my customers and friends; helping them conserve water...but more important to them...save money!

One last note, thanks so much for the great response to the 2010 Turf Plan...its been great!

From my desk...

Clint

Clint D. Tunnell
President/LI 15510

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN...

We Are A Professional Company...What does that mean?

As an adjective, Mr. Webster defines professional as "engaged in one of the learned professions". As a noun it defines professional as "a person who earns a living in an occupation frequently engaged in by amateurs".

Putting both together, Texas Rural Living dedicates time & effort into training our

professionals to be able to maintain your property, design and install your landscape or irrigation system or provide whatever service it is you might need; being knowledgeable in the Green Industry for you, our customers.

The word 'professional' goes along way at Texas Rural Living and we hope that it goes a long way with you as well.

WE ARE A PROFESSIONAL COMPANY!



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Special points of interest:

- April 4th: Easter Sunday
- April 15th: You know what this is

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LAWN MAINTENANCE NEWS...

2010 TURF PLAN GOING WELL—

The 2010 Turf Plan is now in full swing and is going extremely well. There has been an overwhelming response to the program not only by our regular maintenance customers, but even people who take care of their own lawn. If you have a friend or neighbor who might be interested in a Turf Plan for their property, please pass our name along.

Also, if you have not let the office know about what options you want to take on your Turf Plan, please get that done during the month of April. During April we will apply the 2nd fertilizer & pre-emergent application. The month of May will bring the Bandit application which helps with grub worm control. This is the first option you have to the Turf Plan so be sure you are on the list if you have not already and want this application made to your property.



LANDSCAPE INFORMATION...

BLACKFOOT DAISY-(picture at right)

Blackfoot daisy is a low maintenance, heat tolerant, native perennial with masses of showy yellow & white flowers. It often grows 6"-10" tall and 24" wide and has a dark green, semi-evergreen foliage. Blackfoot daisy will bloom from spring to first frost. It should be trimmed

back to keep a fresh appearance as the plant matures. This perennial is attractive to bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Blackfoot daisy is an excellent plant choice for a low growing fill in. It grows best when planted in full sun.



IRRIGATION CONVERSATION...

RAIN & FREEZE SENSORS—

With water conservation being very important these days, rain & freeze sensors are now required on all new systems or control clocks.

While we all often put up a wall when we are told to do something we don't necessarily agree with, this new requirement by TCEQ is one that makes sense.

Have you ever seen a irrigation system running during the middle of a rain or just after it has rained? Have you ever seen a "winter wonderland" caused by a irriga-

tion system that ran during freezing temperatures? While it is often very pretty to look at, it can be very costly and dangerous to traffic. Many accidents have been caused and even lives lost due to this problem.

The Rain Bird Rain/Freeze sensor is one sensor available to make your new system, or even your existing system more efficient; again conserving water and saving you money. While it is not a requirement for existing irrigation systems to have a rain/freeze sensor, it is recommended to have one installed.

Call of the office TODAY for more information on how a rain/freeze sensor on your irrigation system will benefit you.



HELPFUL HINTS AROUND THE YARD...

LANDSCAPE RENOVATIONS—

Have you ever remodeled the kitchen? How about changing the color of the walls in the living room or bedroom. Are your towels in the bathroom the same color as they've always been or have you changed them to stay with the current trends? Many people love to keep the inside of their homes updated and fresh...but often forget that the outside might need attention as well.

If you watch HGTV...and we are all guilty of it, you have probably heard many times that paint is an inexpensive way to make a great change in the appearance of any home.

There are also inexpensive ways to update your landscape without having to take your existing plant life out and start with a new design. For example, taking out over grown shrubs and replacing them with smaller, fresher looking plants makes a huge difference. Also, blending some of the dated landscape with more of the current trends in landscaping can give your home more curb appeal without draining your bank account.

On one of our properties, we recently took out two over grown shrubs that were around 20 years old. We left the remaining landscape just as it was and

installed a variety of ornamental grasses in place of the shrubs we removed. This drastically changed the appearance of the property, gave it a new look and the homeowner loved the fact that they didn't have to start over; just do some 'landscape renovations'. Give us a call and let TRL 'renovate' your existing landscape this spring!

SERVICES PROVIDED TO OUR CUSTOMERS...

The following is a list of services provided by Texas Rural Living. If you have a project but do not see it on the list, please contact us.

- Lawn Maintenance**
- Landscape Design**
- Landscape Installation**
- Landscape Maintenance**

- Landscape Renovations & Updates**
- Irrigation Design**
- Irrigation Installation**
- Irrigation Repair and Maintenance**
- Irrigation Retrofits for water conservation**
- Ornamental & Turf Plant Pest Control**
- Winter Clean Up and Leaf Removal**
- Holiday Lighting**



IRRIGATION DIAGNOSTICS



Even with above average rainfall this winter, spring is an excellent time to have your irrigation system checked to make sure it is working properly and efficiently. Be sure to get on the irrigation diagnostics test list during the months of March and April so that when it does stop raining...like it always does...we can help maintain that beautiful lawn and landscape. Irrigation Diagnostics Tests are FREE and we will be happy to give you an estimate of any repairs that may need to be done. Help conserve water and save MONEY!





A *professional* lawn, landscape & irrigation company goes beyond taking over a chore that the property owner does not want to perform.

A *professional* company looks forward to a long-term working partnership - with the property owner - to create a property to be proud of and enjoyed, for years to come.

WE ARE A PROFESSIONAL COMPANY.

DID YOU HEAR IT THUNDER IN FEBRUARY...?

According to an old wives tale, if it thunders in February it will freeze in April. Well...I marked it down on my calendar at the office. Monday, February 8, 2010...did you hear it thunder? I did. Can't wait to see if it comes true, I think that it probably will.

Please enjoy some of these other spring time 'old wives tales'. You will be able to tell, some of our forefathers had a sense of humor. If you decide to try any of them...let me know how it works out!

If there is a frost after March 15th, it will not cause damage to your garden.

If there is a frost, when the wind is blowing from the south, it will destroy all of your plants.

The worst day to plant is on the 31st of any month.

You will experience a wonderful crop if you have early thunderstorms.

If a pregnant woman plants any plant it will grow well.

Planting any plant during the sign of Leo will insure that it will rot.

If you have a plant that ripens underground, for it to grow well plant the seeds in the afternoon.

Planting seeds at noon means they will grow.

If someone gives you seeds and you thank them for the seeds, they will not grow.

If you see a frost between the time of new moon and full moon, your plants will not have to worry about frostbite.

To ensure that you will have a good crop, wet a handkerchief with rain on Easter.

Stretch a piece of yarn string over the top of your rows in early spring. The frost will then collect on the yarn and will not do damage to your plants.

If the wind blows from the north and brings in a heavy frost it will not hurt your plants.

Placing rusty nails or old irons around your plants will help them grow.

If you disperse manure on a field during the dark of the moon, it will sink into the ground and help the crop grow.

If you put fertilizer on the ground during the light of the moon, it will not decompose and will do no good

YOU ARE APPRECIATED!