

LATE

*Summer*



All lawns are susceptible to fungus diseases. The fungi that cause them are microscopic, thread-like organisms that move around via air- or water-borne spores. These spores are all around us, and they produce new infections whenever environmental factors such as temperature, moisture, light, nutrients and stress levels favor disease development. Fungal diseases can detract from your lawn's appearance while reducing its overall health.

Unwanted insects can be another summertime hazard. These tiny (but hungry) plant-eaters hit your neighborhood with appetites that don't quit. They damage trees, shrubs, and lawns as they gear up for an expensive summer feeding frenzy. Ants, fleas, ticks, mosquitoes and dozens more also make a sport out of invading your home and irritating your pets.

Oasis Disease and Insect Control Applications can help remedy the effects of fungi as well as ticks, fleas, ants, pill bugs, mosquitoes and many more. Call us today at 573-446-0858 to set up an appointment.

**Be sure to ask about our Disease and Insect Control Discounts!**

*Keith Patterson*

Keith Patterson  
Oasis Landscapes & Irrigation



# OASIS

## Landscapes & Irrigation

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### MIX IT UP

The human eye is attracted to variety. Knowing this, artists and architects incorporate varied patterns and colors into their work. The aesthetic value of variety also applies to landscape design.

#### SHAPE, SIZE, AND TEXTURE

Planting multiple hues of the same flower gives a bed area an infusion of color variety while maintaining a consistent size and shape. Color variety includes different shades of the same color. Green is an extremely common plant color, but not all "greens" are identical. In addition to color, there are several other dimensions to consider. A landscape area with plants of differing sizes and shapes gives a space depth and complexity.

Texture is another element of landscaping that's easy to overlook. Although they're both shrubs, waxy holly leaves are very different from evergreen shrubs such as false cypress or arborvitae. The wispy leaves of a Japanese maple are nothing like the broad, fleshy leaves of a hosta. From round, bushy shrubs to tall stalks of grass and leafy ground cover, incorporating varying sizes, shapes and textures makes a landscape area rich and vibrant. As you choose new plants for your landscape, consider the variety and contrast that each new plant will add to your larger landscape.

#### ANNUAL SWITCH-UP

Another way to introduce variety into your landscape is to switch annual plants from year to year or season to season. By dedicating portions of your landscape to annuals, you can have a rotating lineup of plants that changes each year.

You can mix up the composition of flower beds by using a different layout of flowers such as geraniums and marigolds. The color scheme, as well as the arrangement patterns, can fluctuate with each new season to give your bed a brand-new feel. There are also many types of non-flowering annuals if you want to take your beds in a new direction for a season. Coleus is a leafy annual that comes in a range of colors, from green to deep purple. Annual ornamental grasses such as feather grass can drastically transform the look of a flower bed.

Variety is nearly always preferable to monotony. Living landscaping allows for a huge amount of creative variety within specific areas as well as from year to year. Living landscapes are much more than the sum of their parts. When you think about potential additions, keep in mind how contrasting and complementary elements will contribute to your property's overall look. Let your mind wander. The possibilities are endless!



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# LET CLIPPINGS LIE

Mowing your lawn would essentially be a pleasant walk in the yard if not for the hassle of bagging and hauling grass clippings. It turns out that neglecting to do this annoying task can actually be good for your lawn!

Grass that is cut, mulched, and spread by your mower provides valuable nutrients to your turf once it decomposes. Despite what you may have once heard, accumulated grass clippings do not increase the unwanted layer of thatch. By mulching your clippings, you are feeding your turf.

This practice of "grasscycling" also eliminates the time and effort necessary to bag and transport clippings. Yard waste takes up an inordinate amount of landfill space, and mulching rids your trash cans and compost pile of clippings and puts them to good use.

Don't let annoying piles of grass clippings spoil your leisurely walk. Grasscycling makes mowing easier while reducing waste and feeding your lawn in the process.

75

Green clippings account for 75% of all yard waste.

25

Up to 25% of your lawn's total fertilizer needs are supplied by clippings left on the lawn.

85

Clippings contain 80 to 85% water and decompose quickly.

# SHIPSHAPE STONE

Natural stone or paver patios are useful, attractive hardscape elements built to stand the test of time. Stones and pavers are also porous, which means that they easily collect moisture. Over time, this can lead to discoloration from mold, algae, or moss. Collected moisture, which expands and contracts based on the weather, can eventually loosen stones and destroy connective grout.

Stone and paver restoration can give your patio and walkways a fresh, clean look and fortify them against future weathering. With special cleansing solutions and meticulous pressure washing, masonry can be returned to its original color. Stonework is then treated with a sealant that ensures your patio retains its luster and resistance to moisture for years to come. Sometimes, polymeric sand can be used to fortify the space between stones, strengthening the patio's structural integrity.

Stone and paved hardscaping is a prominent feature that can last for decades if cared for properly. If your stonework has lost some of its shine, consider paver restoration.





## RE-TURFING RECIPES

Chances are that at some point, you'll want to plant new turf in your lawn. You could be installing brand-new turf in an area that is not part of your original lawn or simply repairing damaged parts of your existing grass. When this time comes, there are multiple reseeding methods to choose from.

Sodding and seeding are the most common turf installation methods. When you seed a new area, you are building the turf up from scratch. A newly seeded area begins with a layer of nutrient-rich soil, a layer of seeds, and a barrier of straw or mulch that protects germinating seeds. While seeding results in a fully established lawn, it does take time and care. Vigilant watering is necessary, but extreme rain and heat can prevent new turf seed from taking off.

When your schedule doesn't line up with nature's, sodding is another turf option. Sodding a dirt area creates an "instant lawn," because the newly laid grass is already mature. The drawbacks of sodding include the cost and the risk that the new turf will not be compatible with the area where it's been laid. If the new sod is not properly watered and the soil is infertile, turf roots may not establish themselves.

A third way to install turf is hydroseeding. This process involves spraying a liquid mixture of water, fertilizer, mulch, and seed onto an area of soil. The ability to spray all the necessary ingredients for new turf in one fell swoop makes hydroseeding a great fit for sloped areas with limited access and a popular choice for commercial or municipal projects.

## SMART SPRINKLING



The dry heat of summer can quickly make a green lawn lifeless. While watering your lawn is the obvious remedy, ideal watering methods might not always be so apparent. It's not enough to simply drench your lawn. In fact, too much water can be both wasteful and damaging.

### PACE AND PATIENCE

Running sprinklers at full blast for a short period of time may seem like a way to deliver a lot of water quickly. Hard, dry soil, however, is resistant to water and not able to absorb a sudden deluge. Instead, it will run off to areas where it's not needed, leaving turf areas unwatered.

For the best results, give your lawn extended periods of gentle soaking. Long periods of low water pressure are very effective in allowing the soil to loosen up and absorb the majority of water. Once absorbed, the moisture is easily delivered further down to the turf's roots. Ideal timing varies, depending on soil type as well as current conditions. Once the top 6 inches of soil are soaked, you can assume that the grass has been thoroughly watered. Thorough watering takes time, not a quick "splash and dash."

### TIMING COUNTS

Another key aspect of proper watering is when you do it. As with the length of watering periods, ideal timing may not always be the most convenient. The best time to water your lawn in the summer is between the hours of 4 and 8 AM. This window is perfect because it avoids the scorching heat of mid-day, when large amounts of water can be lost to evaporation. Intense sunlight is also bad for irrigation, because water droplets act as tiny magnifying glasses that can burn blades of turf.

Watering later in the evening is problematic as well. Irrigation late in the day can create an environment in which fungal diseases thrive. Extended periods of warm, wet turf create the perfect setting for fungal growth. Unfortunately, this means that watering for an hour or two after work is not ideal.

Watering your lawn may seem like a basic task, but there's more to it than simply turning on a garden hose. Efficient and effective irrigation practices lead to a lush, healthy lawn that thrives all season long.





# ORGANIC RECHARGE

Soil is not a uniform substance but rather a diverse mixture of many ingredients. Several additives exist that can “charge up” the fertility of your soil with nutrients such as minerals or organic materials, making it a happier home for plants.

One relatively new soil ingredient is a type of charcoal called “biochar.” Biochar is created by heating organic materials in an oxygen-free environment so they char without burning. This process makes biochar specially designed, at the molecular level, for maximum absorption. The structure of biochar includes an extreme amount of surface area, which attracts beneficial nutrients and micro-organisms.

To get the most out of biochar, an ideal practice is to “charge” it up by mixing the biochar with a variety of micro-organisms and nutrients before adding it to the soil. This maximizes the amount of beneficial compounds that are taken up by the biochar to then be released over time into the soil.

Due to its incredible absorption potential, biochar maximizes the effectiveness of fertilizers and other soil additives by housing these nutrients so that they can be released slowly over time. Just like all of our electronic gadgets, soil works best when it is freshly charged. Ask your local lawn professional what biochar and other soil additives can do for your lawn and landscaping.



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