

THE SUNRISE VIEW

Lawn / Landscaping Services, Inc.
Serving Northern Virginians since 1986

From the President



Dear Valued Customers,

Let's talk about "green." I'm often humored by the onslaught of the terms "green" and "eco-friendly," as if these practices have never been done before. Here at Sunrise, we've been practicing "green" since we started in business over 22 years ago. We've always recycled the majority of our refuse. For example, all leaves, grass clippings, wood debris, concrete, soil, paper, etc. is either hauled to the recycler for processing or used in some other way to keep it from going directly to the landfill. Our shop is heated by all of our used oil and transmission fluid in a special heater.

We also follow a few other environmentally friendly practices that you may not be aware of:

- 1.) Rain gardens, where the runoff from your downspouts is piped into a holding area in which plants help to break down contaminants that would normally just run down into the storm sewer or to a nearby stream. We can even build a system that collects rainwater for irrigation.
- 2.) When we're designing a landscape, we always try to use the right plants in the right situation...and use native plants as appropriate. This helps with cooling and heating of structures, helps the plants grow more efficiently by using less water, and helps prevent erosion.
- 3.) We practice "integrated pest management," which means we don't just blanket spray for weeds and insects. We apply pesticides only as they're needed to give the desired results. Whenever there's a more natural or organic choice, that's the way we go.
- 4.) Finally, all of the planting we do for our clients helps to reduce or control heating and cooling, filters runoff, cleans the air, and just makes our planet a better place to live.

To all of you who have hired us to improve your landscape, I commend you for sustaining the "green" effort. Hiring Sunrise to maintain and improve your own "eco-friendly" environment is a great way to stimulate the economy and "go green" all at the same time.

Sincerely,

Joe Markell

Joe Markell

Are Broadleaf Weeds Beating up Your Lawn?

TAKE A STAND AGAINST THESE SPRINGTIME BULLIES

There's nothing dandy about dandelions. The same can be said for any broadleaf weed that invades a lawn, whether it be plantain, clover or spurge. Their seeds are everywhere, finding their way into our lawns by wind, water, on animals and even on the bottoms of our shoes. With more than 2,000 species of weeds in North America, no lawn is immune.

PREVENT AN UPRISING!

Though broadleaf weeds are very aggressive, their numbers can be minimized by keeping your lawn thick and healthy with good maintenance practices. The idea behind this is that a dense stand of turf will leave less room, sun and warmth for weeds to grow in.

Mowing higher (removing no more than 1/3 of the grass blade each time), watering sufficiently in the absence of rainfall (1" to 1 1/2" per week), treating for insects and disease when needed, and regular fertilization will all encourage a thicker lawn with a stronger root system that is less likely to be beaten up (or beaten out) by broadleaf weeds.

Even so, the occasional weed may still make an appearance in your lawn. That's when treatment with an herbicide becomes necessary.

SPOT TREATING WEEDS

In most cases, broadleaf weeds need to be treated with a post-emergent herbicide rather than a pre-emergent herbicide. Unlike pre-emergents, which can prevent grassy weeds like crabgrass from sprouting in the first place, post-emergents must be applied when weeds are actively growing.

Keep in mind that control isn't immediate with post-emergents; it can take up to three weeks for the weeds to completely disappear. Repeat applications may also be required if new broadleaf weed seeds happen to germinate.

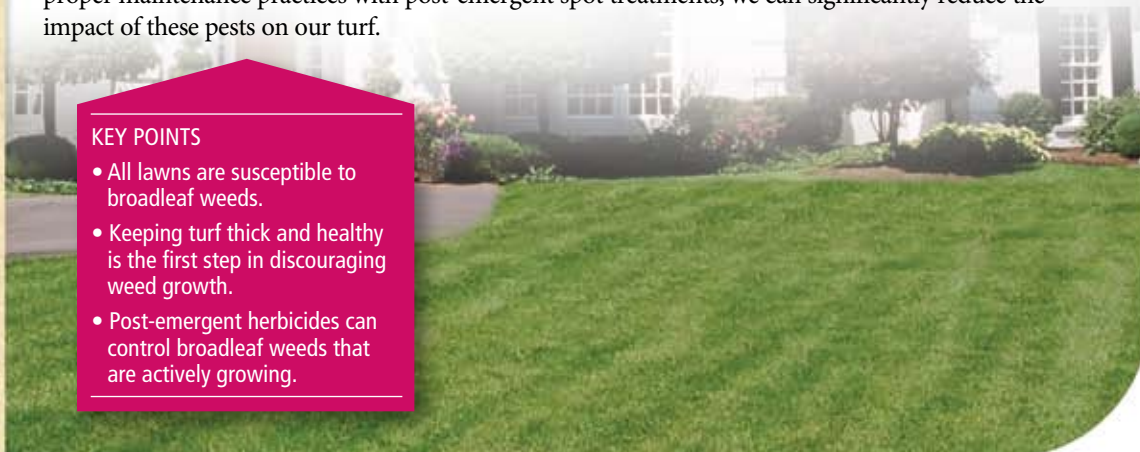
Will our lawns ever be completely free of broadleaf weeds? It's unlikely. However, by combining proper maintenance practices with post-emergent spot treatments, we can significantly reduce the impact of these pests on our turf.



Broadleaf weeds can pop up at any time during the growing season.

KEY POINTS

- All lawns are susceptible to broadleaf weeds.
- Keeping turf thick and healthy is the first step in discouraging weed growth.
- Post-emergent herbicides can control broadleaf weeds that are actively growing.



DID YOU KNOW?

- If you're counting calories, you may want to avoid avocados. They have 167 calories for every 100 grams!
- Oak trees don't produce acorns until they're at least 50 years old.
- Ginger can be used to fight motion sickness.
- Orchid seeds are so tiny that it takes 1.25 million of them to weigh just one gram.
- Wheat is grown on every continent except Antarctica.
- Cucumbers consist of 96% water.
- If a tree has a notch in it, the notch will always stay the same distance from the ground – regardless of how tall the tree grows.
- Americans consume 11 billion bananas per year.
- The average ear of corn contains 800 kernels.



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What's Your Plan?

THINK AHEAD FOR LANDSCAPING SUCCESS

When warm weather returns, property owners everywhere start thinking about making changes to their landscapes. If you're one of them, we can't over-emphasize the importance of developing a careful plan before getting started.

The temptation to rush into new plant installation can be very strong, but if you don't think ahead, you may end up dissatisfied down the road. As you develop your landscaping plan, you should ask yourself the following basic questions:

WHAT ARE MY NEEDS?

Keep in mind that a successful landscape is both practical and beautiful. So, rather than just picking out attractive plants, consider what purposes you want your new landscape to serve. Do you need an outdoor kitchen area? A play space for children? A vegetable garden? A private spot that blocks the neighboring property from view? Consult family members to ensure that everybody's needs are represented in your plan.

WHAT IS MY BUDGET?

If your cash flow is limited, it might make sense to tackle just one area at a time, completing your landscaping project over the space of several years as time and money allow. For example, you may want to focus on public and entrance areas this year, then address your outdoor living or entertainment area next year. Determining your specific needs and priorities upfront will help you decide where to start.

HOW MUCH SPACE DO I HAVE?

Be sure that each area has enough space for its intended purpose, and keep the mature size of a tree or shrub in mind when deciding where you want to plant it. Without enough room to grow, that gorgeous ornamental you have in mind could cause some major maintenance headaches in the future.

KEY POINTS

- Try not to rush into new landscaping projects.
- Remember that good landscapes are both practical and beautiful.

Of course, there's more to consider beyond these basic points, but a little forethought

There's no denying the pleasure and peace that a water feature can bring to your landscape. The sights and sounds of moving water can make any setting more relaxing and enjoyable, and water features look great in almost any setting.

Sometimes, however, property owners are reluctant to add water features out of concern for children or pets falling in. If this has been holding you back, you may want to try a "disappearing" water feature.

With these innovative structures, water is pumped through the interior of the feature, runs down the outside, and disappears into the ground where it goes through a filter and pump system and starts over again. Depending on your specific needs and desires, your disappearing water feature can be as simple as a small urn in gravel or as elaborate as a huge, cascading waterfall.

INNOVATION IN A DISAPPE

in these areas will go a long way toward ensuring that you're happy with the end results. It's also a good idea to meet with one of Sunrise's professional landscape designers who can help you develop a comprehensive plan that meets your specific needs and budget.



Careful planning is essential for the long-term enjoyment of any new landscaping.

Act Now to Stop Insect Damage

DORMANT OIL IS A GREAT DEFENSE

All sorts of harmful insects overwinter in our landscapes, just waiting for warm weather to return so they can get to work damaging our valuable trees and shrubs. Some of the most common include:

Scales – These tiny, sucking insects use their threadlike mouth parts to puncture and suck sap from leaves and bark. Infested plants appear unhealthy, grow poorly, and the foliage may be small and chlorotic.

Aphids – These small, soft-bodied pests suck plant juices from various plant parts. Their feeding activity can lead to off-color foliage, twisted and curled leaves, poor plant growth, branch dieback and more.

Spider mites – These tiny pests may be red, green, orange, brown or black in color, and they suck plant juices from evergreen foliage. Since chlorophyll is destroyed through their feeding activity,

foliage color usually changes to greenish-gray, then yellow, then brown.

Thrips – These small, narrow-bodied, sucking insects cause a distinct splotchy appearance on leaves, and in some cases leaf drop can occur. They're known to feed on woody stems as well as on foliage.

Dormant oils can stop insect pests like these, which may already be in your trees and shrubs in larva, egg or adult form, from causing damage or multiplying. The best time to apply dormant oils is when temperatures are above freezing but plants are still dormant. They work by coating and literally suffocating pests as they block the air holes through which the insects breathe.

Put a stop to insect damage before it starts this year. Consider a dormant oil application in the early spring!



Live up your landscape with a disappearing water feature!

Besides being safe for children and pets, disappearing water features have few maintenance needs, and there aren't any open bodies of water to collect algae and other debris. Consider one as a magical addition to your landscape!

WATER FEATURES RING ACT

Just What is a Pergola, Anyway?

If you'd like to add a great conversation piece to your landscape, a pergola makes a versatile choice. This wooden-framed structure, also known as an architectural arbor, often includes a latticework roof or trellis structure where climbing plants can be trained to grow.

In the backyard, a pergola can be built over a patio or seating area to provide a bit of shade and shelter. When you want to direct traffic from one part of your property to the next, a pergola can turn an otherwise drab walkway into an intriguing passageway. You might even install a pergola over your front sidewalk as a unique way to welcome guests into your home.

As far as climbing plants go, morning glory, grapes, hardy kiwi, rose, clematis and wisteria are all good to work with. Consider using multiple plant types for

variety, along with hanging baskets for added visual interest.

However you choose to use it, a pergola will make a great addition to your property!

KEY POINTS

- Consider using these wooden-framed structures with climbing plants.
- Depending on your needs, pergolas can be used in a variety of locations throughout your yard.





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Quick Tips for Early Spring

- This is a great time for cutting back your ornamental grasses. Old growth can be tied back with twine, and the grass should be cut 4" to 6" from the ground to spur new growth.
- Fruit trees, evergreens and many (but not all) deciduous trees and shrubs will benefit from being trimmed and shaped now, before new growth begins.
- Any perennial plants that were left standing over the winter can be cut back now. This will encourage new growth and blooms.
- Your landscape's appearance can be greatly improved with a thorough edging and weeding of your plant beds.
- Any trees or shrubs that were planted in the fall will benefit from a long, slow watering once new leaves appear.



Trimming and shaping prior to new growth is beneficial.



Spring feeding replenishes your lawn's nutrient reserves for strong spring growth.

Wake Up Your Lawn with a Spring Feeding

After a long winter's rest, your lawn can use some help getting back into the swing of things. One way to do that is to provide your turf with a balanced application of fertilizer. The nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium in the fertilizer will promote strong color and top growth, stimulate root development, and increase disease resistance and water retention.

Applied in the right concentration (no more than one pound of nitrogen should be used per 1,000 square feet), a balanced fertilizer will replenish the nutrient reserves your lawn used up over the winter (or dormant) season. Plus, it will jump-start your lawn's growth phase this spring, helping it to green up and fill out before hot summer weather returns.

By promoting a thicker, healthier lawn with spring fertilization, you'll make your turf better able to fend off weeds, insects and disease throughout the growing season. For more information on spring fertilization, call Sunrise today.