

THE SUNRISE VIEW

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



From the President



This will be our 22nd year in business. Over the years, we've seen incredible changes in our industry, our country and the way we do business. We have really evolved into a true professional service with trained staff members who can help make critical decisions that ultimately impact property values, appearance and how people get the most enjoyment from their outdoor spaces. In this day and age with property values at an all-time high and people's lives busier than ever, it's important that you can trust your landscape company to help preserve the investment you've made in your property.

Here at Sunrise we've been listening to our customers' feedback and have been working diligently to improve our service. Our goal is to be able to provide professional landscape services to our customers in the easiest and most convenient way possible. We want to be the one company you rely on for all of your landscaping needs. Whether it's turf and ornamental care, pruning and tree work, or planting and hardscaping - we can help. We're even working on branding our company a little differently to help people understand what we do.

I appreciate your continued patronage, and I can assure you that we'll continue adapting and improving the way we operate to make your life easier and more enjoyable.

Sincerely,

Joe Markell

Joe Markell

The Best Offense is a Good Defense

CRABGRASS CONTROL IS A MATTER OF PREVENTION

Crabgrass just can't take a hint. No matter how much work we put into keeping it out of our lawns, you can be sure that it will stage a comeback every year. This is a very aggressive annual weed, and just one crabgrass plant can produce thousands of seeds in a season.

The seeds germinate in the late spring and early summer. Once crabgrass plants start growing, they expand outward in circles that can reach 12" in diameter. The plants eventually die off in the fall, leaving behind dead areas in the lawn where new crabgrass seeds are likely to germinate again during the next growing season.



One crabgrass plant can produce thousands of seeds per season.

Crabgrass can make a mess of your lawn as it out-competes the good grass you want to have growing on your property. It is lighter green in color and coarser in texture than desirable lawn grasses, so it can seriously detract from the uniformity of your lawn if it's allowed to gain a foothold.

DEFENDING YOUR LAWN

Crabgrass has a harder time getting established in a thick, healthy lawn. In fact, lawns that are under-watered, under-fertilized and growing thin provide ideal growing conditions for this opportunistic weed. That's why proper lawn care practices are especially important.

Regular fertilization and sufficient watering (1" to 1 1/2" per week) will encourage a denser, more vigorous lawn that is less prone to crabgrass invasion. Mowing the lawn high (removing no more than 1/3 of the grass blade each time) will be helpful too. This works against crabgrass by keeping the soil shaded (crabgrass seeds germinate more successfully in sunny conditions).

For an extra measure of protection, pre-emergent herbicides can be used to hinder crabgrass seed germination. By interfering with a key enzyme during the germination process, pre-emergents make it much more difficult for crabgrass plants to grow. For best results, pre-emergents should be applied in the early spring before crabgrass seeds start sprouting. And if you're planning on seeding your lawn, it's a good idea to wait six to eight weeks after pre-emergents have been applied. Otherwise, they can prevent your new grass seed from sprouting as well.

For more information on crabgrass control, call Sunrise today.



BEAUTIFUL PROPERTIES Take Teamwork

As we start a new growing season, Sunrise would like to take just a moment to remind you that we'll need your help this year. The success of the services we provide depends on having a good working partnership with you, our valued customer.

We'll keep you informed of the basic services we're performing, and we'll let you know what you can do to help (such as mowing your lawn at the right height and watering your landscape plants in the absence of rainfall). Both our work and yours are needed to give you a lawn and landscape you'll love coming home to.

We'll be providing you with this newsletter and other important information all season long to help you get the most from your investment. As always, please feel free to call us anytime with your questions and concerns. Everyone at Sunrise looks forward to working with you, and we appreciate your business!



Working together, we can help your property reach its true potential.

Planning the Perfect Patio

Patios make escaping to the great outdoors easy, since all you have to do is step outside! If you're thinking about installing a new patio, or revamping an existing one, there are many options to choose from in terms of materials and design. There was a time when the word "patio" meant nothing more than a square or rectangular area made of concrete, but that's no longer the case.

MATERIAL SELECTION

The make-up of your patio can best be determined by the look and feel of your existing landscape. In other words, what will go best with your lawn, garden and home? Beyond concrete, you may want to consider bricks, stones, tiles, pavers or even gravel. Each of these materials has its own benefits, and each can fit in with a variety of landscape styles. The important thing is to make sure the materials you choose will complement your property rather than contrast it.

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

Once you've chosen the materials, it's time to think about the design of your patio. Among the many points to consider are:

- **Location** – Do you want your patio to be attached to your house, or would you prefer it to be a stand-alone element in your landscape? How much sun exposure do you want? Is the site you've chosen on even ground?
- **Maintenance** – A low-maintenance design that lends itself to easy cleaning will be ideal.
- **Shape** – Think beyond the square and rectangular designs of yesterday. A curved or geometric shape can add more visual appeal to your property and may lend itself to those tricky spots in your landscape.
- **Shelter** – Do you want to include a patio cover or awning for protection from the rain?

REMEMBER...

- The materials and design you choose should complement your existing landscape.
- Consider interesting shapes and textures for added visual appeal.

Above all else, be sure to take your time and think ahead. By planning carefully, you'll be much happier with the end result!



The design of your patio should be dictated by how you want to use it.

L I G H T E

LANDSCAPE LIGHTING M

Even the most beautifully landscaped property is incomplete without the right lighting installed. Landscape lighting increases nighttime security while extending the enjoyment of your property into the evening hours. Plus, you can use lighting fixtures to accent certain areas of your landscape or enhance your outdoor space with interesting patterns and contrasts.

Used in strategic spots, the right lighting fixtures can make your nighttime landscape come alive. When choosing a lighting plan, you may want to consider some of the following:

- **UPLIGHTING** – a fixture illuminates an object from below.
- **DOWNLIGHTING** – a fixture mounted in a tree or high on a house shines down through the tree or on an object to accentuate its features.
- **PATH LIGHTING** – special fixtures mounted on short stakes shine light downward to illuminate a walkway or planting bed.

Made in the Shade

IS IT TIME TO CONSIDER A TURF ALTERNATIVE?

While trees are a vital component of any landscape, they do compete with our lawns for sunlight. Lawns do best when they get four to six hours of full sunlight per day. If shady conditions under trees presented challenges for parts of your lawn last year, it makes sense to consider some turf alternatives in those areas.

Ground covers or ornamental beds work well under trees when foot traffic isn't a concern. Plus, they look great and are easy to maintain. In cases where foot traffic is heavy, rock beds, stone pavers and even mulch beds can work instead.

Of course, there are still going to be areas on your property where turf is growing in shady conditions, and there are steps that can be taken to help it along.

- As always, a healthy lawn is the best defense against adverse growing conditions. Regular fertilization combined with proper mowing and watering will give your turf a strong foundation for growing under trees.

REMEMBER...

- Trees compete with turf for sunlight.
- If your turf is struggling in shady areas, you may want to try other options.

- Selective pruning and thinning of tree limbs will allow better penetration of sunlight to the turf below.
- Minimizing foot traffic in shady areas of your lawn will make it easier for turf to tolerate decreased sunlight.
- Overseeding of shady areas is a great way to improve turf density.
- You may want to consider reseeding with other turf cultivars that are more tolerant of shady conditions.

These hostas serve as an eye-catching turf alternative.



N U P !

MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE



Why stop enjoying your property just because the sun went down?

- **BACKLIGHTING** – a background area is flooded with light so that objects in front of it appear as silhouettes.
- **SHADOWING** – a light fixture placed in front of an object illuminates it and casts its shadow on the background surface.

Experimentation is the key to finding the lighting plan that works best for you. Before you know it, you'll be looking at your landscape in a whole new light!

Giving Back to Your Lawn

Grasscycling, or returning grass clippings to the lawn, is a great way to provide your turf with valuable nutrients in the form of organic matter. You don't want to go overboard, though. Proper grasscycling requires that you mow often enough so that no more than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the grass blade is removed each time. A sharp mower blade is important too, and you should only mow when the grass is dry. Wet grass clumps up on turf and has a harder time filtering through to the soil to add nutrients to it.

A mulching mower makes grasscycling easy by chopping grass clippings into fine pieces for easier breakdown. However, a standard mower will work just as well if you follow the " $\frac{1}{3}$ rule."

Proper grasscycling will lead to improved soil fertility and water-holding capacity. In the long run, you'll be rewarded with a lawn that requires less time and money spent on fertilizer and water!



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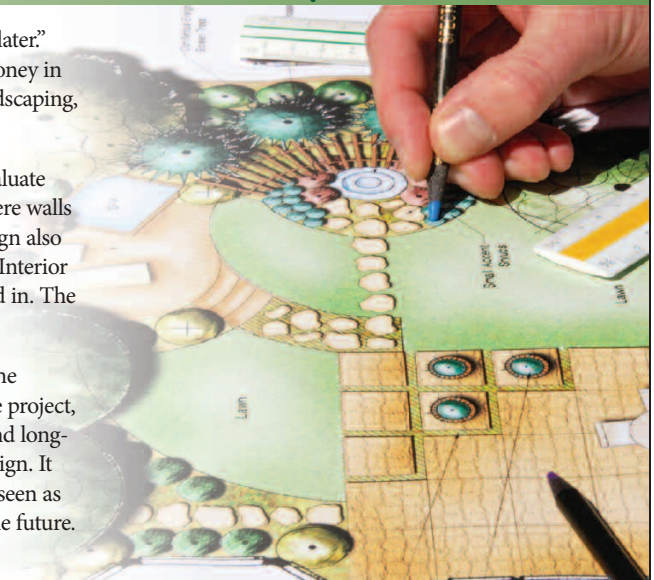


Landscape Design – You Can Pay Me Now or Pay Me Later!

Years ago an automobile product company used the advertising slogan, “Pay me now or pay me later.” The idea was that if you spent a little bit of money now for prevention, you could save a lot of money in the future replacing the whole thing. The “pay me now or pay me later” adage holds true for landscaping, and the “pay me now” process begins with design.

Design provides an analysis of site conditions by professionals. The professional designer can evaluate where sun shines full or where there is shade, how slope might influence the use of the yard, where walls might be needed, or how rainwater flows off the house and across the space. The analysis in design also provides an interpretation of the functional influences of the home on the future outdoor space. Interior spaces and traffic flow in and out of the home help define the connections between outdoors and in. The architectural style of the house may help to define materials that can be used in the landscape.

A professional designer draws on an extensive knowledge of plants and a full understanding of the installation, construction and landscape maintenance process to choose the correct plants for the project, the appropriate hardscape materials, and the best installation techniques to ensure satisfaction and long-term success. When looking to improve your landscape, your first step should be to invest in design. It brings professional analysis, evaluation and creative interpretation to the process. Design can be seen as an investment in prevention that will help you avoid unneeded and unwanted expenditures in the future.



Beat the Disease

The warm, wet conditions of spring make your lawn especially vulnerable to fungus diseases. Some are relatively harmless, while others can destroy an entire lawn in a very short time. Fungus spores spread on lawn mower wheels, on children’s shoes, on droplets of water that bounce from plant to plant during rainfall or watering, or in the wind.

If a fungus disease does appear, treatments can be applied that will suppress its activity. The goal is to keep the disease in check long enough for your grass to recover or for weather conditions to change.

However, it’s best to try and prevent fungus diseases from gaining a foothold in your lawn. You can do this by keeping your turf healthy and growing with the practices shown at right.



Proper mowing, watering, feeding and thatch control measures help to prevent fungus diseases.