



Sarah Reed Photography

GRASS CLIPPINGS



9200 General Drive • Plymouth MI 48170 • (734) 453-1219

Spring 2008



This year marks the celebration of our 35th anniversary. My father, Ernie Perushak, established Mr. Green Lawn care in 1973 when there were only a handful of companies in the lawn care industry.



1973 Ernie with son Todd

In 1973 liquid fertilizer was a revolutionary new way to fertilize your lawn and attracted many homeowners. My father was a pioneer in the industry. As you can see by the photo, the trucks he used held 1600 gallons of product or more. Every application was made in the liquid form. Today only two

applications remain liquid, unless specified by the homeowner, and our trucks are much smaller with 200 gallon tanks.

Ernie started Mr. Green with one truck and one employee, today the company has grown to 10 trucks and 15 employees.



2008 Mr. Green vehicle and product

My brother Todd and I continue to service our customers under the guidelines and care Ernie taught us 35 years ago.



1991 Ernie with daughter Pattie

I wish to thank you, the customer, my employees, and vendors for helping us reach this milestone anniversary.

Sincerely,
Patricia Perushak

A Word about Crabgrass



When does Crabgrass germinate?

Weed seeds, particularly crabgrass seeds, will not begin to germinate until *soil* temperatures get above 55 degrees, at a four inch depth. So crabgrass usually does not make an appearance until very late spring or early summer, hence its classification of a *summer annual* weed.

Two grasses we frequently see, which are commonly confused as crabgrass, are **tall fescue** and quackgrass. These grasses usually begin growing quicker in early spring than the traditional Kentucky bluegrass, and thus, get people thinking it must be crabgrass. Generally after the 3rd or 4th mowing of the season, all grasses are growing at the same rate, which will camouflage the undesirable tall fescue and quackgrass plants.

How does a Pre-emergent work?

Pre-emergent herbicides control weeds by creating a chemical barrier across the top of the soil. Once the weed grows enough to come in contact with the barrier, the product goes to work.

Remember, a pre-emergent herbicide as well as all other weed control products, are for control measures only, and 100% weed control is unlikely.

Sources: Lesco and MSU Turfgrass

Spring Preparation Tips

Whether it arrives in March or not until May, spring is on the way, and we'd like to share some lawn care tips for spring.

Cleaning up from old man winter is the first job. Pick up fallen limbs and other debris; also rake up any remaining leaves.

Regrettably, **weeds** grow as rapidly as your lawn in the spring. A good way to help stop weeds from becoming a problem is to mulch your landscape beds. Most weeds grow from seed and need sunlight for germination. Mulching your beds with a couple inches of mulch in early spring keeps sunlight from reaching the soil where the weed seeds lay. Thus keeping weeds from entering your lawn.

The spring season can also bring **disease**. Because of the amount of snow on the lawns for such a long period this year, our technicians will be watchful for a turf fungus called "snow mold". The easiest way to control this fungus is to rake the matted areas early in discovery. With warm temperatures and sunshine the fungus usually corrects itself. If the problem persists we can assist in recovery with a fungicide.

Keep an eye out for harmful pests such as **moles**. Mole activity is prevalent in the spring, and they can be destructive pests in your lawn! The most dependable way to control moles is by trapping. However, if this is not practical for you, we offer a service to help rid your lawn of moles with a product called *Talpirid*. Please call our office for further details 734-453-1219.



Talpirid Mole Baiting System

You should **begin to mow** the grass when it reaches about 3" to 3-1/2" tall. This usually happens long before most of us start mowing because we see only brown leaf blades, and we don't think the grass is growing. However, grass plants grow from the bottom up where the new green leaf material elongates near the soil, pushing the older brown leaf material up into view. It's better to start mowing your lawn too early than too late. Remember to mow often, and mow high.

Happy Spring!

Salt Damage in the Turf

Michigan spring rains and melting snow are usually enough to wash most salt out of the lawn, but in some cases this just doesn't occur, which could be the result of poor drainage or depressions where high levels of salt accumulate.



Here are the symptoms to look for. A white, dark crust will be present on the surface of the soil, around which the grass will slowly die. The dead grass will form an unattractive strip up to two feet wide along walkways, driveways, or the road. When the water evaporates, the salts that have dissolved in it simply settle on the soil surface, often creating the crust mentioned previously. It's then that the greatest damage occurs.

In most cases you will need to restore the damaged area with seed or sod.

If your lawn drains poorly, you should aerate annually.