

# Definition of Services – What to Expect



## Lawn Treatments

### Most important things you can do to maximize your lawn treatments:

- **DO NOT pull the weeds in the lawn.** When you do this, the root of the weed is not completely removed and the weed will re-emerge later. The leaves and plant above ground are needed for the weed control products to be absorbed into the plant.
- **DO NOT overwater your lawn.** The ideal amount of water for a lawn is equal to 1” of rain per week. When mechanical means of watering is necessary, deep watering is preferred over shallow watering. Watering lightly once a day will encourage the grass plant’s roots to remain near the surface of the soil and create a weak lawn. Instead, promote deep roots by watering infrequently for longer periods of time.
- **DO NOT water the lawn after Broadleaf Weed Control treatments.** Dry conditions are preferred for 24-48 hours following these treatments.
- **DO cut the lawn at a reasonable height.** Ideal height of the lawn is 3.5”-4” high after cutting off approximately ½” of grass. Cutting the lawn shorter than 3.25” and or cutting off greater than 1” of the grass top starts cutting into the portion of the grass plant root that lives above the surface of the soil. This weakens the grass, makes it more susceptible to disease & heat stress, and also removes the most attractive part of the lawn. How can you tell if you are cutting too short? Grass is yellow-green or tan; Or excess clippings are on top of the grass and not fully mulched.
- **DO be patient.** Grass is a living, breathing plant. A treatment program can create dramatic results over the course of the season. But don’t expect one treatment to solve all problems. It may take time for the grass plant to improve its health, just like it takes other living beings time to recover from unhealthy situations.

**Spring Fertilizer w/Pre-Emergent-** This is a granular application that provides nutrients for a healthy grass plant as the turf emerges out of winter dormancy. In addition to the fertilizer, a pre-emergent helps suppress the germination of new voluntary weeds and weedy grasses. This application will not eradicate existing broadleaf weeds such as clover, dandelion, etc. as those broadleaf weeds blooming in early spring actually germinated in the previous fall. For both Pkg A & Pkg B products, it is safe to be on the lawn immediately following the treatment according to the product manufacturers. The State of Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship recommends keeping off the lawn for 24 hours following any treatment.

**Broadleaf Weed Control –** This is a liquid application that eradicates broadleaf weeds such as wild violet, clover, dandelions:



Violet / Creeping Charlie



White Clover



Mouse-ear



Ground Ivy



Plantain



Dandelion

Once applied, the lawn should not be used or entered until the product has dried on the grass, 24 hours is again recommended for safety. Over the next 6-10 days, the broadleaf weeds will begin to curl and shrivel up. Two treatments are applied during the growing season, one in early Summer and one in early Fall. The early Fall treatment will eradicate the broadleaf weeds that germinate before winter and are the first to emerge in the spring.

One misconception about Broadleaf Weed Control is that it will eradicate all of the undesired voluntary plants in your lawn. Some types of plants commonly referred to as “weeds” are not broadleaf weeds, but are actually different types of grass. There are other specialty treatments we can offer to control these undesireables, but **the following are not** eradicated by Broadleaf weed control:



Sedge Grass



Goose Grass



Quackgrass



Nimblewill



Fescue Grass

If you have any questions about the types of weeds in your lawn, please don’t hesitate to call. We would be happy to identify them and clarify what treatments are appropriate for eradicating them from your lawn.

**Broadleaf Weed Control + Organics –** This application provides the same weed control as described above PLUS additional organic granular fertilizer for improved soil & root zone health. The additional nutrients provide an extra boost of nitrogen for a deep green lawn and the organic nutrients help condition the soil for added lawn health.

**Summer & Fall Fertilizers with Spot Spray -** The summer and fall fertilizer treatments are also granular application to provide nutrients to the lawn. Summer fertilizer is typically applied in July and Fall fertilizer in October for adequate nutrient coverage following the spring fertilizer. Spot treatment of broadleaf weed control will be applied at each of these services for



## Lawn Treatments continued...

any break through broadleaf weeds. Because we may have applied a liquid product for the spot treatment of weeds, you should stay off the lawn until it is dry after this treatment as well.

**Grub Preventative** - Granular application in late June to diminish the number of grubs in the turf. Grubs are a naturally occurring creature within the balance of soil. However, an infestation of grubs can lead to turf stress as the larvae begin to feed on the grass roots in late summer. The biggest potential for damage occurs when predators such as raccoons and geese begin digging in the lawn to feed on the larvae.

## Mow, Trim, & Blow

**Weekly Lawn Mowing Service** This service includes mowing weekly at approximately 3.5 inches, trimming all vertical objects, and blowing all clippings from concrete areas. If additional cutting of the lawn is required due to conditions outside of our control – high growth rate, excessive rain or irrigation, etc. – additional charges may apply based on the additional time required to provide a clean cut and mulched clippings. A double cut does not equal 2x the price because double trimming and blow off is not required. In all cases of double cutting, we look at the extra time spent to determine the additional cost. The need for extra cutting is determined by the trained crew leader and only performed when necessary to avoid excess clippings on top of the lawn. When possible, the cutting height is adjusted to avoid extra cuttings to be most efficient with your lawn care budget.

**Rough Cut Mowing** Rough cut mowing is intended for grassy areas that do not need maintained weekly as “lawn” but do need to be maintained on a different level/frequency of service. Such areas might include an outlot on your property, native prairie areas or walking paths, pond banks, construction sites, retention areas, etc. Rough cut mowing is performed on a regular basis either bi-weekly, monthly, or 2 cuts per growing season, depending on the needs of the area and/or city requirements. A rough cut mow includes trimming all vertical objects, and blowing all clippings from concrete areas.

### Special Request Mowing

One time mow requests are charged at 1.5 times regular rate with a minimum 7 days’ notice of date service is needed.

## Irrigation Service

**Irrigation Basics:** Startup service includes charging the irrigation lines, turning on all zones to check for necessary head adjustments, and programming the irrigation controller with a general watering program. Any repairs needed to heads or lines is a separate service charge based on time and material utilized for the repair. As required, any backflow devices are tested & documented at the time of the startup service. Backflow tests are required to be performed by a certified tester with yearly calibrated equipment to meet all city and state requirements for protecting our drinking water sources. In addition, some cities require the test to be filed online through a program that charges a fee. All filing fees are actual surcharges incurred and set by the city in which the irrigation system is located. In the fall, irrigation systems must be winterized to properly prepare for freezing temperatures and frost in the ground. We utilize a mobile high-capacity compressor for this service and prepare the backflow & shut off valves for winter.

Irrigation Startup and Shutdown typically require entry into the interior of your home or business for access to the controller, backflow device, and shut off valves. A notice will be emailed to you a few weeks prior to the start of each service. The notice will provide a link to our online schedule which takes less than 90 seconds to select your city, an available date & time slot, then fill in your name and phone number. You do not have to create a login with username/password. You can also call our office and we can book the appointment for you if preferred. We do our best to accommodate the schedules of all customers and will have several options to choose from based on the days we will be in your neighborhood.

### Irrigation Pkg A

- System Startup & Shutdown as detailed above.
- Monthly mid-season checks of the system to adjust programming and inspect entire system for proper & efficient operation. After initial check of system and repair, package includes repair or replacement of any heads during inspections. Any other repairs will be quoted during inspections.
- One FREE Service Call outside of inspections if needed due to system malfunction. A service call includes 1 hr of labor, but does not include materials other than head repairs.

### Irrigation Pkg B

- System Startup & Shutdown as detailed above.
- Two mid-season checks of the system to adjust programming and inspect entire system for proper and efficient operation. After initial check of system and repair, package includes repair or replacement of up to 5 heads per year. All other repairs will be quoted during inspections.

### Irrigation Pkg C

- System Startup & Shutdown as detailed above.
- One mid-season check of the system to adjust programming and inspect entire system for proper and efficient operation.



## Landscape Maintenance

**Spring Cleanup** - A cleanup in the spring can be customized to your property's needs and desires. Typically, this service includes: General cleanup of trash, leaves & debris from property; Cut back ornamental grass and perennial plants; Trim shrubs as appropriate to plant type (no spring blooming shrubs trimmed during spring cleanup); Check trees for any broken branches for removal. Additionally, you may elect to have your mulch beds refreshed by our crews. The price per bag of mulch noted on the proposal includes the labor to install it and is for natural Hardwood Bark mulch. Other mulch options are available upon request and price may vary.

**Trimming** – Additional trimming may be scheduled throughout the growing season for trees, shrubs, and perennials. If you have spring blooming plants such as lilacs or spirea, it is best to trim in early summer just after the blooms are spent. Roses and other shrubs may also benefit from shaping, deadheading, and general maintenance throughout the growing season to maintain desired appearance.

**Weeding** – If weeds in your landscape beds are a problem, we can propose mechanical or chemical means of maintaining a weed-free landscape. Applying pre-emergent 2-3 times per season can help suppress germination of new weeds. Existing weeds can be eradicated by mechanically pulling them when too close to other plants or chemically treated to kill them.

**Annual Color Installation & Maintenance** – Annual plantings can be designed, installed, and/or maintained for you in ground level beds and/or planters. Maintenance typically includes watering, fertilizing, weeding, deadheading, and pest management. Annuals can be selected for all season long or designed for 2-3 changes per growing season.

**Fall Cleanup** - A cleanup in the fall can be customized to your needs and desires to prepare the property for winter. Typically, this service includes: General cleanup of trash, leaves & debris from property; LEAVE ornamental grass for winter interest (if desired to cut in the fall, please indicate this preference), cut back remaining perennial plants; Trim shrubs as appropriate to plant type (no spring blooming shrubs trimmed during fall cleanup); Check trees for any broken branches for removal.

Landscape bed maintenance services can be billed on a time and material basis. The labor rate per manhour includes basic equipment required to complete the work such as trimmers, blowers, etc. A manhour is calculated as 1 person for 1 hr of work. Example: 3 people working for 2 hours = 6 manhours. Disposal of debris is charged at \$100/load for bulk material (trimmings, weeds, trash, etc.). For larger jobs requiring a chipper to break down larger limbs and branches, debris disposal is \$500/load and includes the use of a mobile chipper.

## Fall Core Aeration

Fall core aeration is an important part of maintaining a healthy lawn. It involves using a core aeration machine to punch and pull out 2" core plugs from the lawn. This service helps break up compaction of the soil and loosen it so the roots of the grass can more easily navigate the soil. It also allows for more air flow to the grass plant's roots to assist in strengthening overall health. If you sign up for this service, you will be asked about any underground hazards you may have of which we need to be aware. Typically, service lines such as cable and phone are not necessary to note, but uncommon ones such as Invisible Pet Fencing are very important for us to know. Invisible Fencing must be located prior to the service and avoided by our crews. If you have an irrigation system, we will also note this for core aeration. It is not necessary, however, to mark the individual irrigation heads prior to our work. We will avoid the near edge of the property line, near the concrete surfaces, etc. where the vast majority of the irrigation heads will be located. For the irrigation heads that exist in the middle of the lawn, it is very rare for our equipment to damage a head. If this happens, however, we will replace the head free of charge so long as we are notified of the issue and perform the repair ourselves.

**Have a Question ? Not sure what your lawn or landscape needs? We are here to help! (515) 987-4394**

