



## THINK SPRING!

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With the recent warm up the snow that was hiding the soon to be paradise in green will begin to take form as spring has begun its journey!

Many of the maintenance tasks that come along with the spring green up can be very time consuming. Rental of specialized aerating and slit seeding equipment can turn a carefree weekend into a labor intensive grind.

Creative Landscapes Inc. specializes in many facets of landscape maintenance. We have a full array of maintenance equipment manufactured by industry leaders. Top of the line equipment coupled with experienced and knowledgeable staff makes CLI the perfect fit for your spring maintenance.

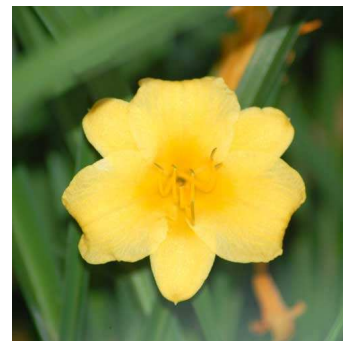
The purpose of this newsletter is to let you, our valued customers, see the benefits of the different areas of spring maintenance.

Look inside to see information on...

- Lawn Aeration
- Thatch Control
- Lawn Over seeding
- Lawn Fertilizing
- Facts about Preen

### See our next issue for...

- Outdoor Living Spaces
- Water Gardens
- Much more!



Perennials such as the beautiful Stella D'oro Daylily benefit greatly from having spoils and debris cleaned from their bases.

Spring is here! Be ready by...

- Trimming shrubs and trees.
- Acidifying acid loving plants.
- Freeing beds of dead leaves and perennials.
- Preening flower beds.
- Refreshing mulch.
- Fertilizing shrubs and trees.

## Lawn Aeration: Deep Core Aeration

Deep core aeration is the best way to get oxygen, water and nutrients into the soil, improving your turfs roots and health.

Deep core aeration requires specialized equipment which removes plugs of turf from your yard. This equipment is

both bulky and expensive to own for most homeowners. This can make regular aeration a time consuming, back breaking chore. You may see advertisements for "aerating shoes" in your bulb and flower catalogs. These products are actually counterproductive as they

don't remove material and only add in compaction of your turf.

Deep Core Aeration will add new life and luster to your turf!

Deep Core Aeration is also the best long term solution to thatch management.



*Thatch build up can suffocate roots and harbor pests.*

## ***Thatch Control: Out with the old!***

When you see a thick, lush lawn it often triggers a feeling of envy. Often its assumed that these types of results are obtained from being a slave to your lawn. With the proper suite of maintenance this is not so. Along with aerating, and slit seeding, a thorough lawn thatching can be just the thing to make your grass color and thicken up.

Thatch is an accumulation of layers of grass roots and stems

which builds up over time. Lawn thatch becomes problematic when the thatch layer exceeds one half inch. At this point the new forming grass plants may root into the thatch instead of the soil. This makes the turf susceptible to damage by cold temperatures and drought as the thatch layer does not hold moisture well.

While scheduled aerating is the best answer to prevent thatch build up, a thatching machine

is required to solve the problem after the damage is done. The machine has tines which penetrate the thatch and free it from the turf. It can then be removed from the yard by hand raking.. Slit seeding is often accompanied with thatching to reseed areas that were damaged by excessive thatch build up.

Regular core aerating will greatly reduce thatch suffocation of turf grasses.

**"Die off from exposure and thatch build up can leave our lawns with bare spots. The answer to this is Slit Seeding!"**

## ***Slit Seeding: What is it?***

In Wisconsin our lawns are under constant battle from the elements. Frigid temperatures, ice and snow build up and chilling winds punish our lawn in winter. Summer can bring both excessive heat and drought.

Through these hardships our lawns endure, but sometimes

the grass plants pay the ultimate price. Die off from exposure and thatch build up can leave our lawns with bare spots. The answer to this is **Slit Seeding!**

A slit seeder creates narrow slits in the yard and implants seeds to germinate. The existing grass is left rooted in place and new seed is inserted over and all around it.

Early spring and fall are good times for slit seeding. Combined with aerating and thatching, slit seeding will help give you the lawn your neighbors will envy!

Preen is a pre emergent herbicide that prevents seeds from germinating. It has no affect on germinated plants. Most weeds spread by transportation and are already infecting your beds. They wait for the right conditions to germinate. A pre emergent like preen stops the germination.

Following proper application guidelines, Preen can go a long way in keeping your beds weed free. A Preen application is a great way to start weed prevention in spring! Make it a part of your spring cleanup and reap the benefits in the weeks to follow!

## ***Lawn Fertilizer: A little more info...***

Fertilizer comes in many forms and is simply a way to add nutrients to a soil bed to optimize the growth potential for the desired plant; be it turf, trees, shrubs, flowers vegetables, etc... The soil itself is the media or "canvas" *if you will*. Fertilizers are like the vitamins in the plant world. Fertilizer has three primary components; Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Pot Ash. Depending on the soil deficiencies, it may need more of one than another. A sure way is to do a soil test first. There are also fertilizers that will slowly release nutrients over a specific period of time. Call CLI for more info!

**For estimates or more info:**

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**Creative Landscapes Inc.**  
*"Let us bring a little nature to your yard."*



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