

Spring Greetings



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Where Quality is Always Growing

This is going to be a good year...



So, did winter ever really happen? The strange weather over the past few months has really begged some serious questions about what is in store for the 2012 growing season. Will we see all the precipitation in the summer months? Will we have a May like in 2011? Hard to say of course but one

thing that sustains us during questionable times is amazing customers like you! Every Spring we like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who helped us have a successful season the year before. We also want to share what is changing and what we are keeping the same. For starters, this year we will be adding raised bed vegetable gardens to our lineup of products and services. The more and more we explore food the more and more we believe we need to be helping folks connect to something that is so valuable. It also will allow families the opportunity to teach their young children about what is healthy and what is not. A lesson that will pay dividends throughout that child's life. We hope folks will put aside old notions of "too much work" or "I don't have time for that" and embrace the motto "garbage in garbage out". The antithesis of garbage could be growing in your own backyard. Beyond this addi-

tion we will be harvesting a newer variety of bluegrass one which is dwarfer, darker and denser—a 3D blend. This simply means that it needs less water and less fertilizer which translates into less green from you and more green from us! Also, we installed around 75 lawns last year and hope this year to double that number. With of course the help of word of mouth advertising. We are also hoping to grow our maintenance contracts. We will boldly say No One knows more about growing a great lawn than we do. This is our 48th season in business and we have learned that every lawn is different and every approach must be different as well. Discover why our mowing and fertilization programs save you money and time!

Fuel/Carburetor issues most prevalent in Springtime

How to Minimize Fuel System Problems

Purchase only the amount of fuel that will be used within 30 days

– Fuel deteriorates over time. Deterioration begins with the most volatile compounds evaporating. Once evaporation reaches a certain point it will be hard/impossible to start the machine. As more compounds evaporate, the fuel will form brown gummy deposits in the system. Given enough time the gummy deposits will become a hard varnish. Gummy deposits and varnish can plug passages in the carburetor preventing the engine from running or caus-

ing the engine to run poorly (surging, lack of power, stalls, etc.). Deposits can also cause the carburetor to leak fuel if they prevent the float needle from sealing properly.

Add fuel stabilizer to the fuel the day you buy it

– Most fuel stabilizers form a layer over the top of the gasoline and greatly reduce the rate the fuel's volatile compounds evaporate. They also prevent the absorption of moisture by the fuel. If fuel stabilizer is added to gasoline the day the gasoline is purchased, the fuel will stay fresh longer (up to 90 days).

Purchase a name brand fuel –

Name brand fuel producers and their stations are more likely to follow a rigid quality control program to ensure their fuel is clean, fresh and has the correct additive package. They also tend to be busy, further ensuring customers receive only the freshest fuel.

Purchase "Regular" grade gasoline –

Unleaded regular gasoline with an octane rating of at least 87 ((R+M)/2 rating method) is the recommended fuel grade for all gasoline engines in Toro products.

Gasoline with up to 10% ethanol (E10) or 15% MTBE by volume is acceptable

– BUT, keep in mind that ethanol fuel blends will absorb water from the atmosphere and can cause corrosion of fuel system components. Since most carburetors and the gas tank are vented to the atmosphere in some manner there is nothing to prevent fuel from absorbing moisture over time. Using fresh fuel (less than 30 days old) will help prevent water absorption from becoming a problem.

This article was sent from Jim at NAPA auto parts in Romulus, MI. This unique branch is an authorized TORO dealer and offers \$20.00 off new stock with this article. Jim and his staff also offer repair on any small engine/mower. 734.941.1483

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Benefits of the lawn are overlooked

According to the Lawn Institute the environmental benefits of healthy lawns are often overlooked and taken for granted. Perhaps it's time to take another look and what lawns mean to our environment and the world around us. Across America, nearly 30 million acres of lawns have sprung back to life, providing a soft landing for kids at play, a blanket for families to picnic and a cushion for bare feet to roam.

Yet the greatest benefit of healthy grass -- what it means to the environment -- is one that is nearly always overlooked. Indeed, turf is about much more than aesthetics. For most of suburban America, it's the foundation of the neighborhood's ecosystem. "As a society we tend to take the benefits of grass for granted," says Jim Beard Ph.D., one of America's leading turf experts and the chief scientist at the International Sports Turf Institute. "Because it's around us every day, people don't think about the fact that a healthy turf generates oxygen for improved air quality and controls runoff and erosion. Most homeowners don't realize noise and air pollution are reduced in most suburban areas because the grass ecosystem serves as a natural filter for the environment. The scientific evidence clearly shows that a healthy suburban lawn is good for the environment." Specifically, Beard and other scientists say a healthy lawn provides the following environmental benefits: Cooling: Lawns have substantial cooling effect via evaporation., Clean air: Grass not only creates oxygen but improves the quality of the environment by removing pollutants and other particles from the atmosphere., Decomposes organic pollutants: Turf organisms are active in the decomposition of organic waste and hydrocarbons, which leads to soil improvement. Lessens global warming: Grass can absorb and sequester carbon dioxide gases., Noise filter: Grass and other ornamentals help absorb sound, potentially reducing noise pollution in some areas by 20 to 30 percent. *This article comes to us from Ed Lee of Summit Seed company. Summit Seed sells a variety of seed to homeowners, sports fields and sod farms. Contact Summit at 1 800.457.6748*

Finally, a bit of our philosophy

With the mounting criticism of fertilizers and chemical use in the lawn care industry and beyond, it makes sense to step back and analyze just how we are achieving the perfect lawn. Coming from an agricultural standpoint I can speak of the many benefits both seed and chemical technology has had on our success in farming over the past decades. I also realize just how important a green healthy lawn is to neighborhoods, to children and to the value of our homes. But, as with so many things, sometimes a bit of bal-

ance needs to be injected. I often remind folks that perfect lines in the grass are merely a cultural practice born out of the 1950's. Fertilizing 4 times a year is something large corporations have convinced us of for years. That little yellow flower must die, and not another should stand in it's place. Well we believe a lot of that too, sorta. We try to adopt the philosophy when it comes to inputs, or how much of your Saturday you want to exhaust on maintenance, of "less is more". We know and practice that you can fertilize once or twice a year and spot spray for weeds. We know especially during

hot periods mowing can be forgone for weeks. We also know that proper watering, timely applications of proper nutrients and an acceptance of the lawn as a space rather than a masterpiece is how a lawn ought to be viewed.

You folks are the best customers in the world and we work everyday to make sure that your needs are met and that you are seeing value in what we deliver. Thanks - Mike