Mountain Park Ranch
October 2020

PRO QUAL LANDSCAPING

Accomplishments:

- Completed # 6 work orders (WO are way down from earlier on the year)
- No washes this month, we will resume cleaning and checking the washes after overseeding.

Spray Division:

- Pre-emergent Was completed the week of August 24th and was completed on August 28th, 2020

Water Management:

- All water was turned off October 1st in preparation for overseeding
- Drip irrigation will be changed to 2 days per week starting this week, the temperatures are finally getting inline with this time of year .

Maintenance Crew:

- Currently The crew has been focusing on Rec centers and also scalping all of the turf for next weeks seed applications.
- The Saguaro loss has all but stopped, we did loose one more over this past weekend. I had our Cactus Expert tour the property and look them over and he is somewhat confident that the worse is over for this cycle of rotting cactus. It is my recommendation we do not replace them and look to plant more trees.
- We have loss 27 different trees through all this heat stress. (6) Olive Trees and (21) African Sumacs. They will be removed in November and replaced with new trees.

Turf Management:

- Scalping will be finished this week and we will be applying seed the week of October 26th, 2020

Tree Management:

- See included maps and pictures for update on trimming progress.
- Tree trimming was paused during October.
- Arbor Department will be on property all of November and December to finish out this years trimming.

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- Tree trimming September 15, 2020
- Highlighted area in “Yellow”

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Trees trimmed on September 24th, 2020

Mountain Park Ranch

Mountain Park Ranch – Trimming 9/16 – 9/24

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Mountain Park Ranch – Trimming 9/16 – 9/24

Sampling of lost African Sumacs and Olive Trees

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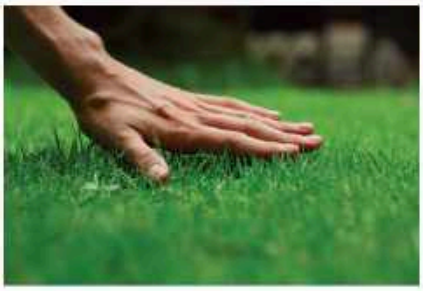
Overseeding For Winter Lawn

What is Overseeding, and why do it?

There are several regions throughout the United States that experience an extreme difference in temperatures, where the same type of grass doesn't survive year-round. With extreme highs of 110+ in the summer, and lows below freezing in the winter, Phoenix is located in one of those regions. Parks and lawns in Phoenix are planted with a very durable/heat tolerant Bermuda grass base. This type of grass survives our hot Arizona summer months, but once the nighttime temperatures get into the low 70's, Bermuda grass begins to go dormant.With that being the case… we must "overseed" this Bermuda grass base with a grass seed that will thrive during our cooler winter months.



When to Overseed

The best time to overseed is during the month of October, or when the nighttime temperatures drop into the low 70's.

Steps for the Overseeding process

- Step 1—Scalping
  - To insure a good overseed for the winter, you need to eliminate the competition of your summer lawn and reduce the thatch that has accumulated over the summer. This is done to ensure the seed gets down to the soil.
  - Process is accomplished by mowing the grass to 1" or less in height. You may have to mow your lawn 2 or 3 times to accomplish this. You are now ready to seed.
- Step 2—Seeding
  - The better quality your grass seed, the better quality your lawn will be. We recommend perennial ryegrass grasses that are suited for Arizona's desert climate, spread at a rate of 12-15 pounds per 1,000 square feet.
  - Spread your seed in two directions, half in one direction and the other half in a direction perpendicular to the first. This will minimize overlaps and skips. It is important to spread your seed as evenly as possible for the best results.

- Step 3—Water
  - Water is critical! You want to maintain a moist seedbed for a period of seven to ten days to allow the seed to germinate. You will want to water 4 to 5 times per day for very short cycles that leave no puddles and no dry spots. After the seed has germinated and grown to a height of 3/4" to 1", you may reduce watering to 2-3 times per day. After ten to fourteen days, you can reduce watering to once per day. Once your winter lawn is established, you will be able to lessen the watering further.
- Step 4—Mowing
  - The first mowing should occur 14-21 days after germination. Follow the 30% rule for mowing—never remove more than 30% of the leaf at one time. This will keep you from pulling out your new young seedlings. Once your ryegrass is established, you can resume to your regular mow schedule.
- Step 5—Turf Nutrition
  - Your winter lawn will require a solid Turf Nutrient plan. For the best results, feed your ryegrass every 4-6 weeks with a balanced fertilizer. For an additional "kick of green", use a fertilizer that contains iron.

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LANDSCAPING TIPS brought to you by the Arizona Landscape Contractors' Association, the Sustainable Landscape Management (SLM) & the Arizona Certified Landscape Professional (ACLP) programs. www.ALCA.org.

Plants Feel the Heat!

With over 50 days of 110-degree weather in the valley, the extreme heat is taking a toll on many species of trees and shrubs. What happens to our plants in these conditions?

According to Jeff Iles with the Department of Horticulture, high temperatures are unfavorable for the growth of many plant species because the rate of *photosynthesis* (the process by which plants convert the energy of the sun into chemical energy – complex sugars) begins to decline rapidly after a critical high temperature is reached, resulting in the breakdown of tissue. Photosynthesis occurs during the day and at considerably higher rates than *respiration (*the process by which plants convert the stored chemical energy into energy to fuel growth) which continues day and night. If photosynthesis is unable to replenish the stored chemical reserves used overnight by respiration, the plant will start to decline, exhibiting death of leaf tips and margins, branches and roots, eventually resulting in death of the plant. If extreme heat continues for weeks at a time, more plants may die.

It is difficult to define one critical high temperature for landscape plants because it varies with species, however, temperatures in the 90's and 100's undoubtedly slow this important light-energy to chemical-energy conversion for many plants.

Finally, high temperatures may cause severe water loss (desiccation) when *transpiration* (the process by which leaves release water vapor to the atmosphere) exceeds moisture absorption by the roots. As the water content in leaves decreases, leaves wilt slowing the rate of water loss, but this causes leaf temperatures to increase because of reduced evaporative cooling. Again, if unfavorably high temperatures persist, this cycle can worsen so that a portion, or all of the leaf will die.

How should we care for plants in hot weather?

- It is recommended to water plants deeply, ideally first thing in the morning while temperatures and transpiration rates are lower.
- Mulch or apply granite to help keep soil temperatures lower, retain moisture, suppress weeds and improves soil health.
- Move potted plants to a shaded area. Beware of potted plants close to a wall that might receive radiant and or reflective heat during the day.
- Set up shade cloth for young tender plants.
- Watch the leaves on your plants. Leaves wilt during extremely hot and sunny days as a defense mechanism. If water regimens are sufficient but the plant does not perk up in the evening or after watering in the morning then it might be a sign that soil water is not the problem.
- Practice sustainable landscape management. The best defense for extreme weather is having healthy plants. Caring for them year-round with the right fertilizers and amendments, seasonal pruning, and good watering practices are the best way to help your plants make it through extreme weather.