

garden



By Roger Myers

Roger Myers is the President and Founder of American Beauty Landscaping. Established in 1979, ABL is the Valley's industry leader with more than 100 national, state and local awards to its landscape design and build credit.

PLANNED PLANTING...

Spring has finally arrived in the Mahoning Valley!

I am sure you are more than happy to exchange that snow shovel for the garden shovel! It's time to think spring with all the sights, smells and sounds of the earth awakening from its winter dormancy.

Is your yard in need of some seasonal repair to look its best? What should you do now to get your property looking beautiful once again? Here are a few early spring tips to help your yard look its best.

THE LAWN

Clear your lawn of winter debris. Fertilize with a granular product, and treat now for crab-grass. The best time to apply pre-emergent crab-grass control is before the Forsythia bloom. Treat broadleaf weeds once they begin to grow and soil temps are above 50 degrees. If you are an avid lawn addict, you might cut your grass early to approximately 1-1/2" to 2" to allow more sunlight to get to the roots. That will stimulate early growth and an early green lawn, and yes, the need to cut it again!

Look for grub damage. If you see many furrows and burrowing in your yard, it's a sign of moles going after a lot of grubs. You need a grub treatment.

THE SHRUBS

- Early spring is a good time to divide and move established perennials, and plant new ones.
- Remove mulch away from the crowns of your roses.
- Do resist the temptation to mulch your beds too early. This keeps the cold much longer and slows the growth process of your ornamentals. The soil will also be cold to plant annuals in later.
- Fertilize your Daffodils, Tulips and other spring bulbs. Use a fertilizer rich in organics and high in potassium.
- Check garden beds for plants with exposed root systems due to heaving. Cover exposed sections with soil.
- Apply dormant oil to Euonymous to prevent scale.



Remember your home's appeal is all about "Curb-Appeal". When someone views your property the landscape is the first thing they see! Statistics show that landscaping improvements increase your property value more than any other improvement or addition. Realtors estimate that 95% of home shoppers won't even get out of their car if the house lacks "Curb-Appeal" (SmartMoney 3/03).

The staff here at American Beauty Landscaping has been sharpening their skills and knowledge of plants all winter by attending training seminars and trade shows. That means you get a well-trained professional who can handle most of all your garden needs. Call us when you need help to get the most out of your real estate investment. We will gladly work with you to keep your landscape in top condition. American Beauty Landscaping has been making our community beautiful for 28 years...1979-2007 and still growing.