

Quinn Nursery End-of-Summer Sale!

Shade Trees

- * Autumn Purple Ash
- * Canada Red Maple
- * Greenspire Linden
- * Red Sunset Maple
- * River Birch
- * Skyline Locust
- * Whitespire Birch
- * Swamp White Oak

All shade trees \$150 off!

Ornamental Trees

- * Miss Kim Lilac
~~\$375~~ **\$250!**
- * Pagoda Dogwood
~~\$325~~ **\$225!**
- * Pee Gee Hydrangea
~~\$250~~ **\$150!**

OFFER ONLY GOOD FOR CURRENT STOCK

3860 W. 127th St. Alsip, IL 60803 Phone: 708-389-8119 www.williamquinnandsons.com

Alsip, IL 60803
3860 W. 127th Street

WILLIAM QUINN & SONS



William Quinn & Sons Newsletter

Summer 2008

A DISEASE NOT SUITABLE FOR MODERN MEDICINE

Doctor, doctor, give me the news; I have erratic yellow/brownish patches in my lawn! These unsightly patches are a result of the historic weather we've experienced in the Chicagoland area this summer. Hot and humid weather causes a variety of problems for turf: drought stress, crab grass, weed breakthrough, and patch disease. This summer has been no exception – August 2008 has been the driest August in 45 years. Combined with the unseasonably cool nights we've had, Chicago has been hit with a "perfect storm" for turf disease development.



Patch disease on lawn

Lawns with biological stress problems including poor soil conditions (i.e. heavy clay soil), excessive thatch, and irregular or excessive watering practices are more susceptible to developing a patch disease. A very common instance has been newly sodded lawns and clay soils. With home developers leaving less beneficial topsoil on recently developed properties, sodded lawns on top of heavy clay soil are not able to properly establish root systems. The lawns typically begin to show disease symptoms 2 to 5 years after the sod was installed.

Chemical Control

Currently available fungicides that are sold to manage turf disease are too expensive to consider as a "preventative" opportunity applied to entire properties. They are also dangerous to children and pets. Once a disease is visible, it's typically already too late to treat because most fungicides are significantly less effective as a curative treatment.

But you have options!

We recommend considering a fall core aeration along with our custom upgraded fertilizer packages. A second spring aeration is necessary if your property's soil is heavy clay. The aeration relieves compression in the ground and allows the turf room to further establish its root system. A sound fertilizer program ensures that proper nutrients are available to the turf throughout the year to combat possible disease infections. We began offering upgraded fertilizer packages this year, and will continue to do so on an "early order" basis in an effort to combat rising material costs.



Classen Aerator

And what if there's already signs of patch disease or dollar spot?

The best recommendation is to immediately change your watering schedule to light, frequent watering in the morning hours. This allows the turf to receive enough water to maintain appearance, but also dissipate any excess water so that it does not sit overnight. Allowing turf to stay damp for over 8 hours, as happens with overnight watering, considerably increases your property's risk for developing turf disease.

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Cathy's Corner



This season has been a trying one for everyone in the landscape industry. We started the season extremely cold and wet, then had the driest August in over forty years. The weather has confused plants and trees, lawns have gone dormant, and insects have reaked havoc on shrubs. Many trees are showing signs of fall and dropping their leaves. If you remember last year we predicted these unexpected weather patterns. Unfortunately, our predictions have been right, and according to the farmers almanac this winter will be very active with more than average snow fall. So if you don't like the white stuff, now is the time to make your Florida reservations.

Some have questioned where we come up with the price per gallon for gasoline. Unfortunately, IL has one of the highest gas prices in the United States (thanks to taxes). We take the gas surcharges seriously. I would like nothing better than to do away with this extra expense, but our gasoline costs have almost tripled since this time last year. And as you know every piece of equipment we use runs on gas.

I know it sounds like I am preaching again, but maintaining your property with enough water is essential for the long term health of your trees, shrubs and turf. Some owners work very hard and take pride in their properties appearance, while others refuse to turn on a hose. Green lawns during a drought truly stand out. Your landscaping is the biggest asset on your property. We can't stress the importance of the overall appearance of your property. While property values continue to decline, a well maintained property significantly adds to curb appeal for prospective buyers.

Now is the time to start thinking about your landscaping plans for next year. I will be happy to meet with the landscape comities and complete a fall walk-thru. Because our weather has been so unpredictable, I am recommending trees and shrubs that can handle adverse weather conditions with little or no care. There is no such thing as a tree or shrub that doesn't need any water unless you count cacti and thistle.

Take advantage of our great fall specials that are available. Please feel free to contact me regarding availability. As always, the Quinn family appreciates your business and we look forward to working with you for all your landscaping needs.

— Cathy

The Spray Front

A proper fertilization program is the key to maintaining a thick, green, healthy lawn. But, were you aware that the most critical fertilizer application is applied the year before?

Winterizer fertilizers, as they're known, do not provide immediate results but are vital for healthy turf the following year. During winter months, if a winterizer is applied, the turf is able to absorb and store proper nutrients for the following spring. When the temperature warms up, typically around mid-March, the nutrients are available for immediate uptake and the result is a beautiful thick, green turf.

Unfortunately, all fertilizer prices have nearly doubled

since last year (what hasn't?). Winterizer fertilizers are not included in our contracts, but should be seriously considered if you desire a beautiful green lawn next year on your property. Early commitment discounts will be valid only until September 30th so that we are able to provide you with the best pricing possible. You will receive a custom proposal for your property in the mail.

If you are concerned about an existing turf problem, or have questions about preventing turf problems for next season, please call me at our office for a free property analysis: (708) 389-8119.

Brian Hornung, Lawn Tech Manager

JUST ANNOUNCED: BAGWORMS TO TOUR THE MIDWEST

Bagworms are destructive insects that attach themselves to evergreens and trees. They then use the plant's leaves or needles to build a bag-like cocoon. Typically found on Spruce, Arborvitae, Locusts and Junipers, bagworms are usually uncommon in the Midwest areas north of Interstate 80. This year, however, we are seeing abnormal numbers of colonies snacking on Blue Spruce.



Bagworm on a Spruce

Female bagworms produce anywhere from 500 to 1,000 eggs per bag. Young bagworms leave the comforts of home the following spring by "ballooning" – that is by creating a 2 to 3 foot long silk streamer – and allowing the wind to carry them significant distances. Talk about frequent flyer miles!



Bagworm damage to Arborvitae

But why are the bagworms exceptionally hostile this year?

The answer, my friend, is blowing in the wind. Earlier in the year, we experienced many aggressive storms in concert with abnormally high winds. This allowed the bagworm larvae to travel further, and why their "stage presence" on larger trees that border our properties (i.e. big targets) is greater than usual.

Ask William Quinn and Sons

Q: What is the status on the grub control & fertilizer upgrade I purchased for my property?

A: At the time of print, it has been more successful than we could have asked for. No properties that purchased the preventative grub control upgrade have shown any signs of grub breakthrough, and the added fertilizer application (where properly irrigated) has truly kept lawns looking better than ever throughout the summer! The grub season, however, is not over. Last year experts found new invasive grub species with longer feeding periods in our area. While we don't expect this to be a problem where preventative control was applied, we are all on the lookout for any grub activity. Remember, there will be no fee for any post-grub-damage chemical control for any property that purchased the upgrade.

Q: Why do my shoes turn orange/yellowish after walking through the lawn?

A: The powder on your shoes is a fungal spore commonly called rust. It is generally not considered a threat to lawns in the Midwest because the grass grows faster than the fungus. Fertilization and mowing of the lawn are enough to remove the fungus before turf dormancy in the winter, when rust could cause harm to your grass. Heavy rains earlier in the year, unseasonably cool nights with hot, humid days and the lack of recent rainfall have all contributed to the heavy concentration of rust in lawns this season.

Q: My mature oak tree's leaves are yellow, what's wrong, and can anything be done?

A: Pale green or yellow leaves on a mature oak tree are the sign of Iron Chlorosis. This occurs when the micronutrients manganese and iron are unavailable to the tree, resulting in the lack of green pigmentation in the tree. If left uncorrected for several seasons, twig dieback is certain and death of the tree is possible. Tree injections to correct the lack of iron are the ideal method for treating Chlorosis. The best time for the injection is early summer.

