



Turf Times

Fall 2006

President's Message



For those of you who were expecting to see Bob in this usual spot, rest assured he is still here and very much involved. He did turn over the duties of President to me on January 1 of this year.

It has been a privilege to work here for the last 25 years and one I hope to enjoy for many years to come. I would be remiss if I did not publicly thank Bob for his confidence and continued support.

Bob gave me one charge, which was without question his number one priority. I was to make sure that regardless of the situation to "always treat each customer as an individual and each lawn and landscape as if they were my own."

There is no better testament to the success of Bob's philosophy than those of you who are reading this. Many have been loyal One Step customers since the beginning.

WOW!! Customers for 30 years. I would like to think that this has not been by accident.

As I position One Step for the next 30 years of success, I have no doubt that there will be changes. The people, products and method of delivery will most likely be quite different 30 years from now.

However, we will always value our green spaces, whether it is our parks, playgrounds, athletic fields or our own little "paradises" we call home. Please know that my commitment to you, our customers and friends, remains what it has always been. That is, you will be treated as an individual and your lawn and landscape will be treated as if they were my own.

Thank you for your continued confidence and trust in One Step. It is truly appreciated.

Greg Adams
President

Aeration...

Holes for a Healthy Lawn



The exceptionally hot summer weather has placed a lot of stress on lawns this year. It couldn't be a better time to give your lawn the extra boost that fall aeration provides.

When we aerate your lawn, you get a lot of bang for your buck. Simply said, core aeration helps your lawn get extra mileage out of all the other materials we apply during the growing season. It also helps your lawn make the most of the natural nutrients in the soil and environment.

Water reaches the roots of the plants more easily after core aeration. Fertilizer penetrates the soil with ease, boosting the health of your root system.

Here's What Happens

Over time, thatch can build up on the surface of your lawn. These dead roots and stems can accumulate into a thick layer that prevents the nutrients from reaching the roots of the grass. Thatch can also inhibit the effectiveness of fertilizers and pest controls, especially if it exceeds about half an inch.

In addition to thatch, soil can become compacted from heavy traffic. Even moderate rain or watering can cause the soil to pack tightly around grass roots. Soil with substantial clay content also tends to become easily compacted.

The lawns of new homes can be affected too. It doesn't take more than a couple of years under the right conditions for thatch to build up and compaction to be well on its way. New homes are often built on land where top soil has been removed and the soil underneath is compacted during lot clearing.

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Aeration...

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A Simple Remedy

Aeration is the process of removing thousands of soil cores from your lawn and depositing them above the thatch layer. The cores are about a half-inch in diameter and two—to three inches long. It's a simple procedure, but as soon as it's performed, a lot of good things begin happening to your lawn.

The holes created by aeration trap water and fertilizer. This encourages the grass roots to grow toward the holes. Meanwhile, the soil cores begin to dissolve during watering and mowing. This soil mixes with the thatch and helps it to decompose, preventing excessive thatch build up.

The compacted soil also loosens up, allowing more oxygen to reach the grass roots. The roots grow deeper without hitting hard soil, so they're sturdier.

In addition to these short-term results, the benefits over the long haul are significant if you regularly aerate. You'll notice the improved resistance to stress next summer. You'll also enjoy a more resilient, cushioned lawn that's ideal for playing, walking and relaxing.

Give us a call today. We'll schedule an aeration visit. We know you'll be pleased with the results.

A Glimpse Inside...

Scott Mead Was Ready For a Change

Scott Mead did something that a lot of people think about, but never quite get the courage to do. He changed careers after 22 years.



It wasn't that Scott hated his job. He liked working with people in retail, but being indoors eight or nine hours a day was suffocating.

It just so happened that Scott lived around the corner from One Step. On his way to work one morning, Scott made the decision to inquire about a job at One Step. That was three years ago and Scott is still happy he chose to change careers.

"Being outside is a huge relief for me," explains Scott. "Retail was okay, but now I've got the best of both worlds."

Before Scott could actually start working on lawns, he went through a training and licensing program. He now is the special services leader.

Scott works on lots of different properties helping customers control or repair damage from pests such as grubs. He also specializes in weed control and lawn repair.

A lifelong resident of upstate New York, Scott enjoys the simpler things in life when he isn't working. He mostly likes spending time with his 18-year-old son and 21-year-old daughter.

Fall Preparation Protects Your Landscape

Late Season Seeding

This is the best time of year to seed the bare or thin spots in your lawn. Take a few minutes to walk around your yard, paying careful attention to high traffic areas. If you find some thin spots, add grass seed to the area. If the areas that need seeding are large or completely bare, it's a good idea to loosen the soil with a rake and then add the seed.



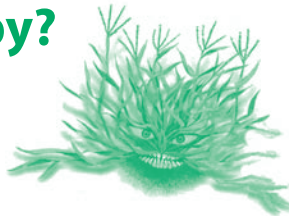
Remember Last Year's Snow Mold?

If snow mold made unsightly spots on your lawn this spring, the best way to avoid them next year is to rake, rake, rake. The most common cause of snow mold is leaves left on the grass all winter. Sometimes leaves will fall even after an early snow. When the snow melts, rake and dispose of the remaining leaves. You'll decrease the risk of snow mold significantly by taking this one preventive measure.



Crabgrass Making You Crabby?

Crabgrass is a warm season annual grass that grows best in the heat of the summer. If you see this bright green unsightly grass in your lawn, don't be alarmed. You are not alone. The high temperatures and frequent moisture of summer are exactly what crabgrass needs to germinate and grow abundantly.



What can be done to combat this pesky invader?

Prevention: The first step is a thick healthy lawn. It is the best deterrent to a crabgrass invasion. Crabgrass grows best when there is a break of some sort in the soil. Make sure that any bare or thin areas along driveways, sidewalks and landscape beds are re-seeded. Mowing at a height of two-and-one-half to three inches will also help.

Pre-Emergent: The second step is to apply a pre-emergent control. Results from these products may vary from year-to-year mainly from changing weather factors. Too much or too little rainfall may alter positive results. For those of you on the Natural Care or Natural Care Plus programs, pre-emergent crabgrass control is part of your service with us.

Post-Emergent: While the best method for controlling crabgrass is outlined above, we do have an opportunity to get limited control after germination. The post-emergent control needs to be applied to crabgrass that is young and actively growing. Unfortunately this season, crabgrass that escaped control by pre-emergent is very actively growing and is being very difficult to control with post-emergent products.

Please know that we are aware of an increase in crabgrass this season. We are working diligently to clean up these problems. Your patience is appreciated.

Mulch for Winter Protection

Fall is a great time to add mulch to your flower beds and around trees and shrubs. This is especially true for plants installed during the last six or so months. They'll need the extra protection against snow, ice and frigid temperatures, so spend a nice fall day getting your plants ready for the coming winter.



Deep Root Tree & Shrub Fertilization

Many customers have inquired about ways to bolster their trees and shrubs for the winter. One of the best ways to ensure plant health is to give them deep root fertilizations. If you haven't already scheduled an appointment, give us a call.

Honeylocust Plant Bugs Infest Trees

This year some honeylocust trees were late to leaf out. There are a couple of reasons this may have been a problem. In addition to last year's drought, there has been a large infestation of honeylocust plant bugs in our area.

The tiny, pale green bugs can defoliate a tree completely in some cases. In other instances, the leaves have small yellowish brown spots and have a distorted shape. To detect the bugs, shake a branch over a piece of white paper.

It's unlikely that any of these trees will die from the infestation, but if drought continues, make sure the trees are properly watered. Fertilization might be recommended to enhance health. Most of the trees will put out a second set of leaves and continue to thrive.

Next year, keep a close watch on the trees. If the honeylocust plant bugs reappear, be sure to give our tree and shrub department a call. We can help determine what actions, if any, are required.



One Step in the Nation's Capital



Greg Adams and his son Todd joined approximately 250 other volunteers in the "Renewal and Remembrance" project at the Arlington National and Historic Congressional Cemeteries. The program is sponsored every July by PLANET, the Professional Landcare Network. The organization's goals include encouraging its members and other green industry professionals to visit their legislators and to help refurbish the national landmark cemeteries.

Volunteers from 25 states and Canada worked in the historic cemeteries mulching, cabling trees with lightning protection, pruning, liming and aerating. The volunteers also installed an irrigation system at Arlington National Cemetery.

After working at Arlington National Cemetery with volunteers from Montana, Greg and Todd headed to Capitol Hill to meet with New York Congressional Representatives John Kuhl and Thomas Reynolds.

"We were pleased that both of the New York State Congressional Representatives made time to talk with us," said Greg. "We were able to discuss several issues that affect the green industry and small businesses."

One Step has participated in the Renewal and Remembrance project for more than 10 years.



4343 Buffalo Road
North Chili, NY 14514
(585) 594-1095



Help Wanted

If you like to work outdoors independently, then a career at One Step might be just the ticket to your success. Call us today at 594-1095 and ask about employment opportunities.

Get the Latest Online Information



For the most up-to-date information on lawns and landscapes, visit our web site at www.onesteptreeandlawncare.com

Save on Next Year's Service

When you renew early for next year's service, you'll save money. Look for the reminders we'll leave at our next visit.



30 Years and Still Growing



One Step is proud to have served our customers in Monroe County for the past 30 years. We look forward to providing outstanding tree and lawn care for at least another 30 years.

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