



# Quality News

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 2

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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Get your lawn ready for spring
- Yard 'To-Do' Checklist
- Discounts and Specials
- Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

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## 5 Tips for Getting Your Lawn Ready For Spring

*Spring is coming...is your lawn ready?*

Believe it or not spring is right around the corner and drawing closer with each day. If you have a lawn, it's time to start taking steps to get it ready for the growing season. Taking care of these tasks now will help to avoid potential lawn issues in the summertime.

**Clean Up** – A point we stress constantly in our newsletters; clean up of leaves and debris in the lawn area is key. Piles of debris such as sticks, leaves, and other miscellaneous plant matter are breeding grounds for pests, especially when moisture gets into that debris. Without a good, detailed clean up you risk complications with the lawn for the entire summer.

**Check For Compaction** – As the ground starts to thaw and lawns come out of their 'dormant' state, you may notice that certain areas may not be greening up like they should or just not growing at a decent rate. A lawn with those symptoms is usually a sign of compaction. Compaction is a natural process that occurs in all lawns over time, even more so in high traffic areas. The cure for compaction is **aeration** (see photo on page 2). This is a process where generally a small core or plug is removed in close proximity to one another to allow the lawn and its roots to spread out and become stronger, grow deeper, and stay healthier throughout the summer months.

**De-Thatching** – Thatch is a tightly intermingled organic layer of dead and living shoots, stems, and roots that accumulate just above the soil surface. The accumulation of thatch can surpass 1/4 inch which is enough to stop water from soaking into the existing lawns roots and also stop light and heat from getting to the soil where it needs to be. The cure for excessive thatch is a deep, thorough raking. This is usually accomplished with a process known as **power raking** which uses a motorized machine with many small tines that can penetrate deep down and in between grass blades to pull up thatch and bring it to the surface. Then with a combination of raking and blowing followed by mowing the lawn with a lawn mower that has a bag attachment, the thatch is removed.

**Fertilizing** – For an Albuquerque lawn, fertilizing is a must. One of the major purposes of fertilizer is to replace nutrients that the soil may lack. Most soil in our area is sand or clay and contains a very small amount of the organic matter needed to successfully support the growth and stability of a lawn. Spring fertilizing helps to 'green up' the lawn and ease its transition from cold to hot weather. This fertilizer application is not the only one your lawn will need in the course of the year. On average, Albuquerque lawns need anywhere from 4-6 fertilizer applications per year, depending on the lawn.

**Pre/Post-Emergent** – Let's face it, in New Mexico we have a weed problem, and with the early spring winds that problem only gets worse. As weed seeds start to germinate, winds carry them throughout the city and surrounding areas to their final resting place... your lawn. The best way to take care of this problem is to lay down a *pre-emergent* barrier that stops weeds before they start. Something to keep in mind before using a pre-emergent is the fact that it won't just stop weed seed from germinating, it will stop grass seed as well. If you plan to seed areas of your lawn this spring and still use a pre-emergent, be very careful to keep the two separate. If you already have a weed problem, the answer is *post-emergent*. Post-emergent will just target those weeds in the lawn area that toughed it out through the winter season. Post/pre-emergent applications should generally coincide with the fertilizer applications.

Follow these 5 steps to get your lawn ready and you can avoid having to struggle with that lawn all summer. All of these are services that Quality Lawn Care offers, so if you don't have the time or patience for these tasks, call us at 836-4000. We would be happy to take care of any and all of the needed steps to get your lawn looking great for the summer!

# February 'To-Do' List



Your lawn would love some fertilizer this month

*“Make sure the yard is clean as the weather transitions, especially the lawn and under shrubs.”*

The days are finally getting warmer which means that we are getting ready for a new growing season. Though it may be a little chilly outside still, don't let the season sneak up on you. There is plenty to do in the yard this month.

- Deciduous trees and shrubs, as well as hollies, could use some fertilizer this month. Any new “candles” on firs or pines should be snapped off to encourage a compact shape (if that is what you desire).
- Keep an eye out for any signs of pests on the trees and shrubs, especially evergreens.
- Aeration time is here...It's time to relieve that soil compaction.
- It's Power Raking time as well to get up some of that thatch.
- Also, your lawn would love some fertilizer this month.
- Now would be a good time to inventory any supplies for your lawn while supply stores have them in. You don't want to be caught needing something that is sold out because everyone else needed it too.
- Make sure if you do get any more ice, not to use melting salts near the lawn. Walk the lawn to assess damage, if any, from the winter.
- If you have had consistent issues with the lawn, you will want to consider getting a soil test done to see if there is a bigger underlying issue (contact our office for details on soil tests).
- Make sure the yard is clean as the weather transitions, especially the lawn and under shrubs. This will take away possible homes for all sorts of pests.
- Sharpen and clean garden tools.
- If you wrapped your roses this year, unwrap them slightly on warm days in order to allow them to acclimate to the warming conditions.
- If you have a fireplace that you used in the winter, spread the ashes around the garden beds to add potassium to the soil.
- As soon as the temperatures allow (the ground is unfrozen), start adding your needed amendments to the soil of vegetable and bulb gardens.

This list will help you prepare for next month, which will be quite a bit more detailed. If this seems a little stressful and time consuming for you, let us know. Call us at 836-4000 and we can take care of the list for you.

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SCAN THIS QR CODE TO FOLLOW QLC ON TWITTER AND GET GARDENING ARTICLES, LANDSCAPING AND ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS, SPECIAL DISCOUNTS AND MORE!

## Check Out Our February Plant Specials



This month we are giving 20% off some beautiful trees and shrubs this month. We are coming into the planting season so be ready. Check out our website at [www.QualityLawnCareABQ.com](http://www.QualityLawnCareABQ.com) or scan the QR code to the right. You can also call our office at 836-4000 to ask about our discounted trees and shrubs this month.



# Recovering From Winter Lawn Damage

As temperatures will begin to rise next month and you start to introduce more water to your lawn, you may notice some areas where your lawn just didn't make it through the winter. This may be stressing to you but don't fret. There are a few things that can be done to help that lawn along and become the lush green landscape that you know and love.

## How did this happen?

There are several reasons that you may be experiencing lawn damage from the winter. Simple damage can occur from merely walking on a frozen lawn and breaking the crowns of the grass blades. Also, keep in mind that we had quite a dry winter season. Lawns may have been dormant, but that doesn't mean that they didn't need water. Other reasons for a damaged lawn include soil compaction, excessive thatch, improper fertilization and general lack of maintenance. Poor lawn upkeep from the previous summer/growing season such as improper mowing and watering can take its toll out on the lawn when it gets cold, then you pay for it now when it heats back up.



## Ok...it's damaged. Now what?

There are varying degrees of winter lawn damage. Some problems may be easier to fix than others. For example, a small hand-sized patch or two of dead grass is going to be quite a bit simpler to fix than a large corner of the lawn that didn't make it.

For smaller damaged areas it may be as easy as using healthy lawn practices to get the lawn back up to par. Aeration, proper fertilizing and proper mowing techniques can allow those areas to 'fill in' as the growing season gets into full swing.

For the larger damaged areas, more drastic measures may be needed. You'll want to consider either seeding or sodding the areas. However, you *must* keep in mind that if you are planning to seed or sod, you need to evaluate your lawn practices before the process gets underway. For example, you will only want to hand weed for a while. If you are using pre-emergents to quell the weeds in the lawn before you seed or sod, you are likely to kill the new lawn because the pre-emergent will attack it.

Maintaining a healthy lawn takes work, but with proper practices you can eliminate the unnecessary work that is needed to repair problems that could have been avoided. If you have questions, or simply would like us to maintain the lawn for you, regularly or occasionally, give us a call at 836-4000 and we would be happy to help you.

*Did you know...*

Prince Charles is paid one daffodil a year as rent for his lands on the Island of Scilly, off the coast of Cornwall.

The Daisy got its name because the yellow center resembled the sun. It was commonly known as the "day's eye" and over time, was eventually called daisy.

During the 1600s, Tulips were so valuable that their bulbs were worth more than gold.



## February Specials



**\$10 OFF Lawn Fertilizing**

~With Aeration Service~

Must mention coupon for discount. Expires 2/28/2015.

Not valid with any other offers.

**Call 836-4000**

**\$10 OFF Tree and Shrub Fertilizing**

~We also check for pests or disease~

Must mention coupon for discount. Expires 2/28/2015.

Not valid with any other offers.

**Call 836-4000**



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**“Give your yard some Q.L.C.”**

Inside this issue:

- February ‘Yard To-Do’
- 5 Lawn Tips
- Winter Damage
- Discounts
- And More...

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Printed by One Stop Business Shop

Or Current Resident

Visit us on the Web  
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this QR  
Code...



## A letter to our customers

It may still be cold out there but don't get used to it. Spring weather is on its way. That means the yard is getting ready to perk up! Make sure to get your aeration, power raking and lawn fertilizing scheduled right away. Also, ask us about our non-turf weed control program to keep those weeds under control before they even have a chance. Call us today before we book up.

Thank you all so much for your business and your support!

-Your Q.L.C. Staff

## “Give Your Yard Some QLC” A full service lawn and landscape company

*Landscaping*

*Xeriscaping*

*Irrigation*

*Mowing*

*Trimming /Pruning*

*Fertilization and weed control*

*Tree and Shrub spraying*

*Power raking/Aeration*

*Seasonal Cleanup*

*Yearly maintenance contracts*

*Seeding/Sodding*

*Pond cleanouts*

*Water features*

*Flagstone*

*Paver patios and walkways*

*Garden preparation/ Rototilling*

*Stump removal*

*Design, consulting & diagnostics*



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