



A Message From The President

The winter months were spent renovating all our equipment and trucks used during the past season. Its also a time to attend trade shows, seminars, safety training programs and increase our marketing strategy for 2005. After the long winter months, it's nice to see the weather finally break. Hello sunshine! 2005 is starting out much the same as 2004, fast and furious. The beginning of this season we have scheduled a lot of tree work, due to winter storm damage and projects that previously were on hold. Also on the horizon, predictions on the price of gasoline will escalate this summer. We are already getting notices from our suppliers increasing the cost of deliveries and goods with a fuel surcharge. Steel prices are also making a big impact. Off road equipment manufacturers experienced higher steel prices, reduced steel availability and longer delivery times in 04. The median increase reported was 60%, with many reporting increases of 100% or more.

The outlook for 05 is going to be another good, productive year. The economy still seems to be moving and the buzz in the office is one that's busy with the calendar of work continuing to fill up for the spring and summer schedule.

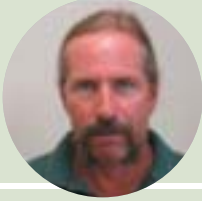
Shelly Hewson
President

Trees—Plants That Help the Planet

Water is an invaluable resource on our earth. The quality of our water is becoming more questionable. Contaminants from agricultural, industrial, and community sources make many of our waters unsuitable for swimming, drinking or for aquatic life. Water quality is an environmental issue that trees can do a lot about. By trapping contaminants and slowing runoff, trees can alleviate many of the potential problems before they enter a body of water.

Land use is one cause of water problems. Development, agriculture and forestry have permanently altered many areas of vegetation. This vegetation used to perform the function of slowing runoff and filtering out pollutants. With a loss of vegetation near watersheds, water flows more rapidly, moving along greater amounts of pollutants and contributing to stream bank erosion. When vegetation is present, the water flow is slowed and soil particles and nutrients can be contained within a plant's roots. Trees serve as the best filters, as they have a large amount of biomass to process and store pollutants.

Trees can be reincorporated into the altered environment in many ways. Windbreaks, shelterbelts and riparian buffer zones all serve to protect watersheds. By trapping airborne pollutants in foliage, windbreaks can prevent large amounts of dust and debris from ever reaching streams or lakes. Due to their location, riparian buffer zones are the final line of defense before water enters the system. The roots of trees and other vegetation absorb excess nutrients and pollutants as they also slow down incoming runoff. Along community or urban roadways and parking areas, planting islands of vegetation can do a great deal to absorb and slow down storm water runoff. Incorporating plantings of trees in any new development will increase water and air quality to help better manage the earth we inhabit.



Seasonal Tips

by Rick Hewson

NON-SELECTIVE HERBICIDE

Most commonly known as the brand name “Roundup”, this is a non-selective product for controlling growing weeds and grasses. This herbicide is applied after weeds begin to grow and does not distinguish between weeds and other plants. It will kill any and all vegetation if sprayed on a plants leaf.

How does it work? Roundup is sprayed onto a plant’s foliage, which in turn is absorbed and then moved throughout the plants’ tissues. Once inside the plant tissue, the glyphosate inhibits the production of an enzyme, which in turn prevents the plant from manufacturing certain amino acids essential for plant growth and life. By interrupting the metabolic process in plants, its effects may not be visible for 4–7 days. After application, the plant wilts and turns yellow, and with further deterioration, it turns brown. At the same time the plants underground roots and rhizomes are decomposing. Ultimately, the entire plant dies and enriches the soil as it decomposes.

Does Roundup degrade in the environment?

Glyphosate is degraded by soil microorganisms into naturally occurring elements such as carbon dioxide. Roundup is a mixture of glyphosate, water and a surfactant.

Is glyphosate active in soil? No. It has no weed killing activity once in contact with the soil. It will not move in or on the soil to effect non-target vegetation. It is only effective when it comes in contact with the green, growing parts of plants. Other tests have shown that glyphosate binds tightly to most types of soil particles until it is degraded. This also means that there is an extremely low potential to move into groundwater.

Roundup herbicide provides effective, dependable control of problem weeds and grasses with no observed adverse or unwanted effects on the environment.

Accessories Make the Outfit



A lack of ground space does not mean you have to live without color. The answer is container growing. Containers can offer a cheerful greeting into an entry way, window boxes can provide beauty from inside and out your office or home, and hanging baskets create another dimension of color with the sky as your background. You can locate color where ever you want it and take it away if you change your mind.

When planting your containers, keep in mind 3 plant forms-tall, round and cascading. These forms complement one another. Try using plants with great looking foliage as well as those with colorful flowers. Remember to choose plant material that will grow in the appropriate setting-sun or shade. Your artistically created containers will provide a sense of pleasure when passing by the landscape. A masterpiece well done!

DID YOU KNOW?

- Hewson Landscape, Inc. is a certified Woman Business Enterprise
 - Shelly Hewson was appointed to the Board of Directors of NJ Land Improvement Contractors of America
 - Hewson Landscape Inc. has been selected to be showcased as one of 11 businesses in the City of Plainfield for their new publication entitled the “Plainfield Home Arts Guide.” Home arts are services & products that enhance the quality of residential living. The guide will list all known business in Plainfield providing a theseproducts or services.
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