



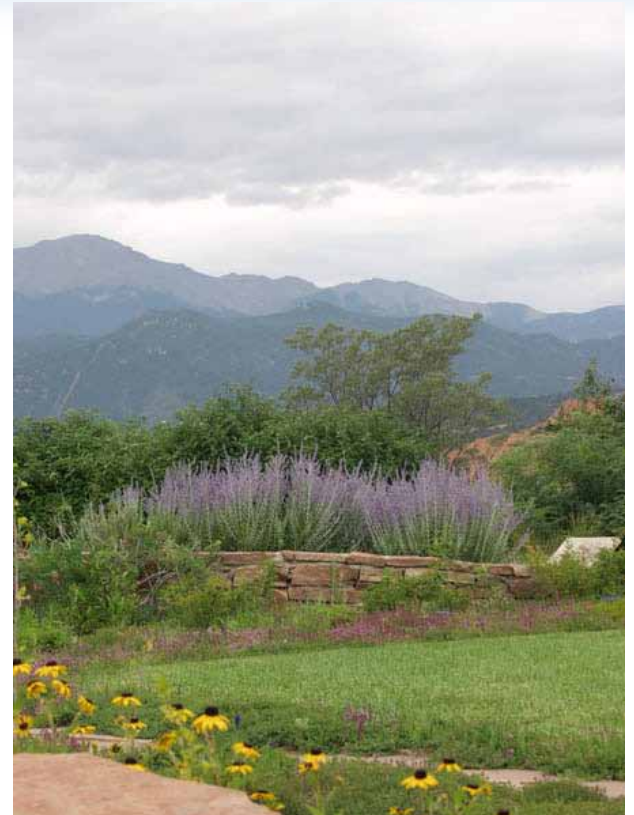
SPRING YOUR LANDSCAPE
INTO ACTION

TOPICS

≈ Irrigation System Start-Up

≈ Irrigation System Maintenance

≈ Landscape Maintenance



IRRIGATION SYSTEM START-UP



IRRIGATION SYSTEM START-UP

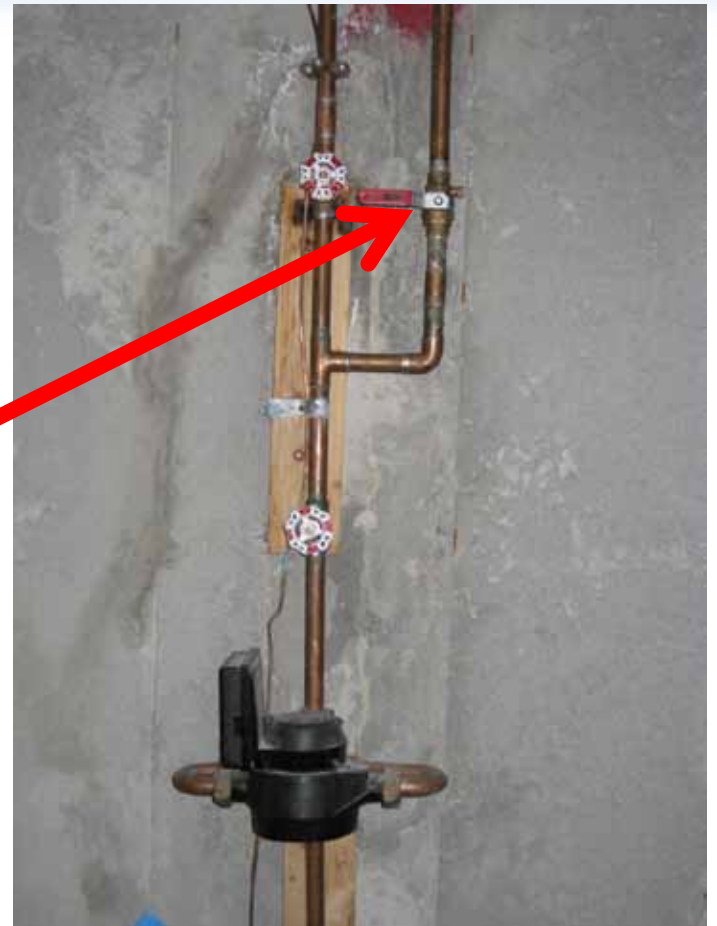
≧ Shut off all manual valves

- ⊠ Valve Boxes
- ⊠ Backflow Preventer
- ⊠ Drip Lines



IRRIGATION SYSTEM START-UP

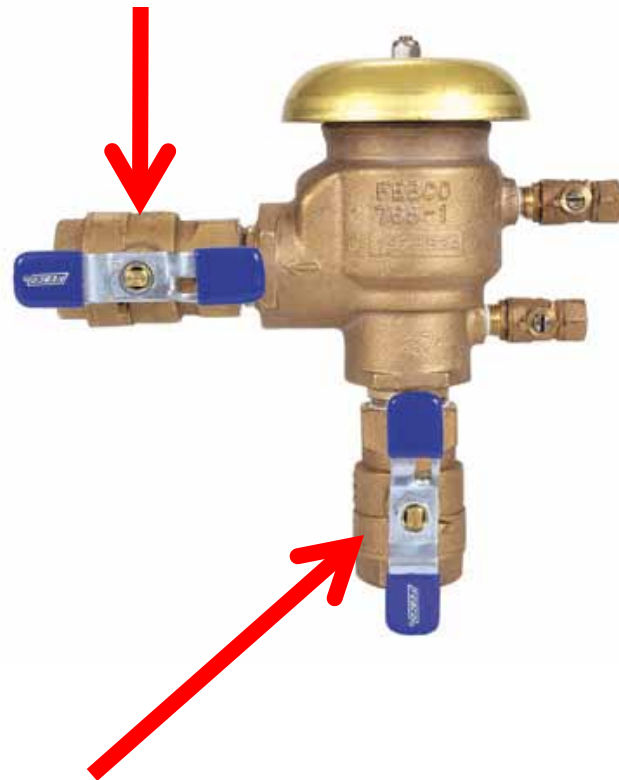
- ¥ Open valve to sprinkler system
- ☒ SLOWLY



IRRIGATION SYSTEM START-UP

≠ Backflow Preventer

- ⊠ Open 1st Valve
- ⊠ Observe for leaks
- ⊠ Open 2nd Valve



IRRIGATION SYSTEM START-UP

≠ Backflow Preventer

⊠ Common Problems

⌚ Bonnet and Poppet

⌚ Ball Valves



IRRIGATION SYSTEM MAINTENANCE



IRRIGATION SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

- ≈ Visual Inspection
 - ⊠ Sprinkler Heads
 - ⊠ Valve Boxes
 - ⊠ Drip System
- ≈ Program Controller
 - ⊠ Set date and time
 - ⊠ Set station run times
 - ⊠ Set water days
 - ⊠ Turn to Run



IRRIGATION SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

≠ Visual Inspection

⊠ Sprinkler Heads

⌚ Broken

⌚ Clogged

⌚ Misaligned



IRRIGATION SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

≠ Visual Inspection

⊠ Valve Boxes

- ⌚ Cracked Valve
- ⌚ Cracked Pipes
- ⌚ Electric Valve Stuck On

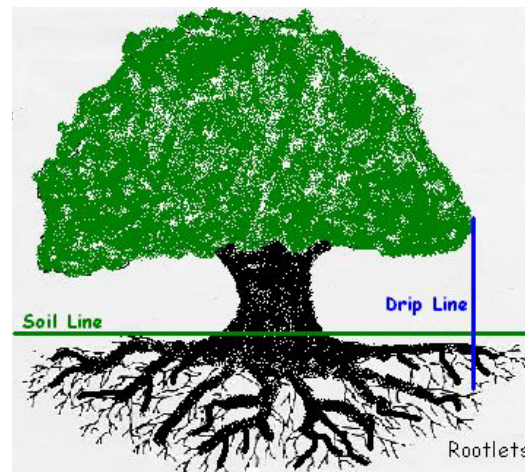


IRRIGATION SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

≠ Visual Inspection

⊠ Drip System

- ⌄ Cracked or Cut Pipe
- ⌄ Missing/Clogged Emitters
- ⌄ Pipe Location
- ⌄ Clogged Filter



IRRIGATION SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

- ✧ Program Controller
 - ✧ Set Date and Time
 - ⌚ Replace Battery
 - ✧ Set Station Run Times
 - ⌚ Head Type
 - ⌚ Precipitation Rate
 - ⌚ Soil Type
 - ✧ Set Water Days
 - ⌚ Plant Water Needs
 - ⌚ Evapotranspiration (ET)
 - ✧ And...



IRRIGATION SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

Rain Sensor

Do you have one?





IRRIGATION SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

- ¥ 2010 Pilot Program
 - ✧ Rain Sensor Rebate
 - ✧ \$25 to add a rain sensor to your irrigation system
 - ✧ Program to begin in April
 - ✧ Limited funds; first-come, first-served
 - ✧ Compare water use before and after installation

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE



LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

- ≈ Healthy Turf
 - ⊗ Uses water more efficiently
- ≈ General Landscape Maintenance Practices
 - ⊗ Mowing
 - ⊗ Thatch
 - ⊗ Fertilization



LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

¥ Mowing

¥ Two most important factors:

- ✧ Mowing Height
- ✧ Frequency

¥ Mowing height

- ✧ Minimum height is 2 inches
- ✧ Ideal height is 2.5 – 3.0 inches

¥ Mowing Frequency

- ✧ Remove no more than 1/3 of the grass height in a single mowing
- ✧ Could be every 3 – 4 days in Spring when lawn is actively growing





LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

¥ Mowing

⊗ Grass Clippings (Mulching)

- ⌘ Let grass clippings fall back onto lawn
- ⌘ Provide source of recycle nutrients and organic matter
- ⌘ Does not contribute to thatch accumulation

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

≠ Thatch

- ❏ Organic layer of both living and dead roots that accumulates above soil surface
- ❏ Limits the amount of water and fertilizers that reaches the soil
- ❏ Limits deep root growth
- ❏ Increases possibility for insect, disease and weed problems



LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

≠ Thatch

≠ Power Raking

- ⊗ OK if done properly
 - ⊕ Light (shallow)
- ⊗ Deep power raking can damage turf



LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

≠ Thatch

≠ Core Aeration

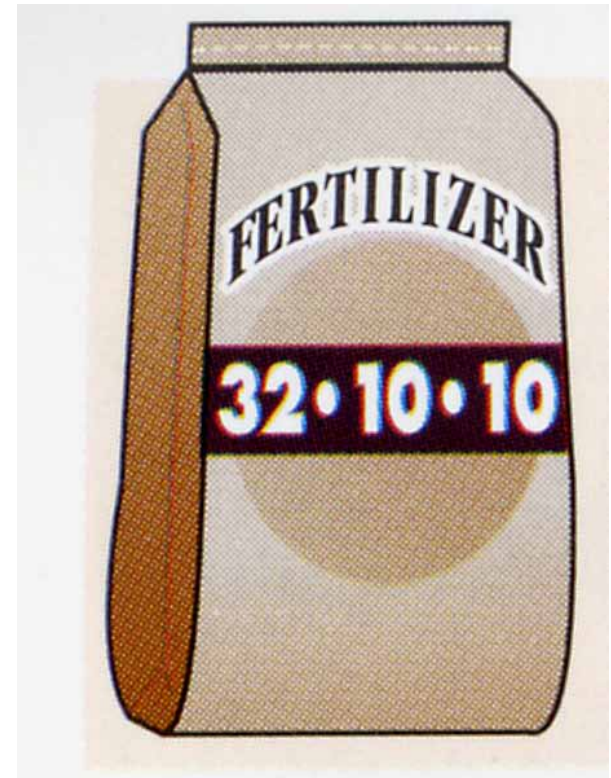
- ⊠ More beneficial than power raking
- ⊠ Reduces soil compaction
- ⊠ Allows water and nutrients to reach roots
- ⊠ 2 to 3 inch cores
(the longer, the better)



LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

≠ Fertilizer

- ⊗ Food for your lawn and plants
- ⊗ Nitrogen (N) most important nutrient for turf color and growth
- ⊗ Phosphate (P) stimulates root growth
- ⊗ Potassium or Potash (K) for over all plant health
- ⊗ N – P – K ; Up – Down – All Around



LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

¥ Fertilizer

- ✘ An effective fertilization program is year-round
- ✘ Spring only application promotes excessive top growth
 - ↳ Leaving shallow root system
 - ↳ Shallow root system = Lack of drought tolerance
- ✘ Fall fertilizer applications promote healthy root systems and hardy lawns





LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

¥ Fertilizer

- ✘ Select fertilizer based on nutrient analysis, convenience and price
- ✘ Slow release fertilizers require less applications
 - ↳ Typically more costly
- ✘ Most established Colorado lawns have adequate Phosphate (P) and Potassium (K)
- ✘ Apply a typically blended fertilizer based on Nitrogen (N) needs and you will get the P and K needed



LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

¥ Fertilizer

- ✘ Apply fertilizer based upon pounds of Nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of lawn
- ✘ Fertilizer applied above the recommended rate is wasted money
- ✘ Excess fertilizer can contribute to thatch build up and increased mowing requirements
- ✘ Excess fertilizer can be harmful to drinking water supplies

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

Fertilizer Application Schedule for Established Colorado Lawns

Turfgrass Species	Mid-March to April	May to mid-June	July to early August	Mid-August to mid-September	Early October to early November
(Nitrogen application rates are in pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of lawn)					
High Maintenance Bluegrass/Ryegrass	½-1	1	Not required	1	1-(2)
Low-Maintenance Bluegrass	½	½-1	Not required	1	(1)
Turf-Type Tall Fescue	½	½-1	Not required	1	(1)
Fine Fescue	½	½-1	Not required	½-1	Not required
Buffalograss/ Blue Grama/ Bermudagrass	Apply no N	½-1	½-1	Apply no N	Apply no N

Optional N applications shown in ()



QUESTIONS ?

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