



SINCE 1974

**"Clippings"**

*Monthly Tips to Help You Care For and Maintain Your Landscape*

Monthly Tips for



**HAPPY FOURTH of  
JULY !!**

Hot weather and lots of sun mean shading is necessary for plants and vegetables normally grown in cooler weather. Mulching will help lower soil temperatures and reduce moisture loss. If you have not mulched yet, you may want to call Green Grass Inc for a free estimate on installing mulch.

- Now is the time to plant annual flowers, including Mexican Heather, Zinnias and Begonias from seeds to bloom in the fall.
- Don't pinch back Mums or Poinsettias after the 15th of the month.
- Keep a close watch out for beetles and other foliage chewers so you can get rid of them before they cause severe damage. These pests can ruin a thriving garden or lawn in almost no time at all.
- Ignore the huge yellow and black cicada killer wasps – they are beneficial insects.
- Prune Roses (except climbing varieties) to remove summer blooms and encourage vigorous re-growth for better fall flowering.
- Keep old flower heads trimmed off Crepe Myrtles to encourage more buds.
- Plant fall tomatoes such as Celebrity, Heat Wave, Surefire and Cherry types early this month.
- Check your sprinkler system to be sure it's not skipping a station or providing inadequate coverage. If you would like us to check your system for you, give us a call. Our staff is well trained and licensed to provide any sprinkler repair or adjustment that your system may need.
- Remove lower tree limbs if turf is thinning. Remember to paint all oak tree cuts to help oak wilt infestation.



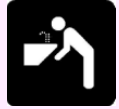
When it rains, you'll probably see raised fire ant mounds in your yard. Use baits of individual mound treatments to keep ants in check. More mounds will develop as the ants re-populate from neighboring, untreated properties.



**Plant Halloween pumpkins early in the month. Choose small or medium varieties and be sure to allow plenty of room for vines to spread.**

**Safety Tip**

**IS YOUR DRINKING WATER SAFE ?**



If you have a sprinkler system you should have a backflow prevention device. If you don't, your house water may not be safe. Green Grass has licensed Backflow Inspectors and Installers. Call us for more details!



**BEEES AND WASPS**



Minimize the threat of bees and wasps in your yard by examining eaves and old buildings for wasps and hollow trees, debris piles and old buildings for bees. If you find a new hive or nest, assess whether or not it is a threat. If the insects are not close to human or pet activity, let them live. Bees and wasps pollinate blooms and serve as predators that feed on caterpillars and spiders. Having a resident population of docile European bees helps keep out the more aggressive Africanized bees.

Nests that are threatening can be killed with the long distance wasp sprays. Bees and wasps are less alert and aggressive at dusk. It is also possible to kill a swarm or hive with soapy water in the evening. Use one cup of dish soap per five gallons of water. Call a professional pest control firm for hives inside buildings.

The large wasps that dig perfectly round holes in your lawns and sometimes buzz you, are called cicada killer wasps. They seem to enjoy teasing adults, children and pets, but rarely sting anyone. They catch cicadas and stuff them in the hole nests to feed the young wasps. Preserve them if you can.

If you are attacked by bees, go quickly to the shelter of a house where you can shut out the main population. An automobile also works. If no shelter is available, run as fast as you can away from the hive until the pursuers give up. Call 911 in life threatening situations.



**Irrigation System Check**

**Call our office to schedule an appointment with our technicians. Checking your system before running it "full power" is a good idea. I like to think of it as stretching before running, or checking the fluids in the car before a long trip.**

**An irrigation tune up just warms up your system so it does not go into shock being used heavily in the summer to keep your lawns green.**

**GIVE GREEN GRASS A CALL FOR INFORMATION AND FREE ESTIMATES**